

Notices

Federal Register

Vol. 68, No. 31

Friday, February 14, 2003

This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Commodity Credit Corporation

Domestic Sugar Program—Increase of 2002-Crop Overall Allotment Quantity

AGENCY: Commodity Credit Corporation, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) has increased the 2002-crop overall allotment quantity (OAQ) of domestic sugar by 500,000 short tons, raw value (STRV). The beet sugar sector allotment increased to 4.457 million STRV, and the cane sugar sector increased to 3.743 million STRV, for a total OAQ of 8.200 million STRV. CCC has also revised the State cane allotments and processor allocations of the beet and cane sugar marketing allotments to be consistent with the increased OAQ and updated cane State and cane processor 2002-crop production forecasts. CCC is also suspending the proportionate share requirement on Louisiana sugarcane producers for the 2002 crop.

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SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 1403 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Pub. L. 107-171) amended section 359c of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 (7 U.S.C. 1359c) to authorize the Secretary to adjust marketing allotments and allocations quarterly to reflect changes in estimated sugar consumption, stocks, production, or imports. When USDA announced a 7.700 million ton OAQ in August 2002, it noted the existence of considerable sugar market uncertainties and that the OAQ could be adjusted if warranted. After closely monitoring the market, and because market prices for both refined and raw sugar have been well above loan forfeiture levels, CCC increased the OAQ, thereby increasing the supply of sugar available to the domestic market.

At this time, CCC does not expect the beet sector to fully use its allotment and will reassign the estimated unused allotment (deficit), 182,000 tons, to the CCC inventory to be sold. The estimated unused allotment is calculated as the beet sector's FY 2003 allotment, 4.457 million tons, less beet processors' estimated available supply, 4.275 million tons (0.360 million tons beginning stocks plus 4.215 million tons production, less an assumed 0.300 million tons in estimated minimum ending stocks). While the beet sector ending inventory averaged 560,000 tons over the past decade, reaching a low of 360,000 tons at the end of FY 2002, the level to which the beet sector reduces its FY 2003 ending stocks is uncertain. Due to production and marketing unknowns,

CCC estimates that an ending stocks level of 300,000 tons may be attainable.

CCC will conduct a thorough survey of beet and cane sugar production and stocks-to-use prior to May 1, 2003, and make allocation reassignments, as necessary. At that time, CCC may reduce the amount reassigned to CCC for inventory sales if survey results indicate CCC misjudged the beet sector's ability to supply the market. This can occur even if CCC has sold the reassigned sugar because CCC's ability to sell sugar is not limited to availability of reassigned sugar marketing allotments.

Pursuant to section 359f of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938, as amended, (7 U.S.C. 1359ff), CCC announced the suspension of the proportionate share requirement on Louisiana sugarcane producers for the 2002 crop after it determined that the amount of sugar estimated to be produced from the 2002-crop sugarcane in Louisiana (1.340 million tons, raw value) will not be sufficient to enable Louisiana sugar cane processors to meet the state's cane sugar allotment (1.331 million tons, raw value) and provide for a normal carryover.

USDA will continue to closely monitor market performance and critical program variables throughout the year to ensure meeting program objectives and maintaining market balance. Further OAQ adjustments and alteration of the sugar Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ) import quantity will be considered as market conditions warrant.

These actions apply to all domestic sugar marketed for human consumption in the United States from October 1, 2002, through September 30, 2003. The 2002-crop sugar marketing allotments and allocations (in short tons, raw value) are listed in the following table:

2002-CROP SUGAR MARKETING ALLOTMENTS AND ALLOCATIONS

[Revised January 2003]

	Previous allotment/allocation	Change ¹	Revised allotment/allocation
Overall Beet/Cane Allotments			
Beet Sugar	4,184,950	271,750	4,456,700
Cane Sugar (includes Puerto Rico)	3,515,050	228,250	3,743,300
Total (Overall Allotment Quantity)	7,700,000	500,000	8,200,000
State Cane Sugar Allotments			
Florida	1,715,471	214,045	1,929,516

2002-CROP SUGAR MARKETING ALLOTMENTS AND ALLOCATIONS—Continued

[Revised January 2003]

	Previous allotment/allocation	Change ¹	Revised allotment/allocation
Louisiana	1,329,764	1,148	1,330,912
Texas	144,815	13,057	157,872
Hawaii	318,829	0	318,829
Puerto Rico	6,171	0	6,171
Total Cane Sugar	3,515,050	228,250	3,743,300
Beet Processors' Marketing Allocations			
Amalgamated Sugar Co	918,627	56,618	975,245
American Crystal Sugar Co	1,496,229	97,491	1,593,720
Holly Sugar Corp	280,786	18,233	299,019
Michigan Sugar Co	281,689	17,361	299,050
Minn-Dak Farmers Co-op	275,076	16,953	292,029
Monitor Sugar Co	161,414	9,948	171,362
Pacific Northwest Sugar Co	15,000	7,314	22,314
So. Minn. Beet Sugar Co-op	283,250	17,458	300,708
Western Sugar Co	417,051	26,748	443,799
Wyoming Sugar Co	55,828	3,626	59,454
Total Beet Sugar	4,184,950	271,750	4,456,700
Cane Processors' Marketing Allocations			
Florida	1,715,471	214,045	1,929,516
Atlantic Sugar Assoc	146,856	-1,987	144,869
Growers Co-op. of Florida	311,681	39,165	350,846
Okeelanta Corp	322,318	66,984	389,302
Osceola Farms Co	194,060	33,255	227,315
Talisman Sugar Corp	54,066	5,594	59,660
U.S. Sugar Corp	686,490	71,034	757,524
Louisiana	1,329,764	1,148	1,330,912
Alma Plantation	74,299	3,519	77,818
Caire & Graugnard	5,344	253	5,597
Cajun Sugar Co-op	92,119	5,526	97,645
Cora-Texas Mfg. Co	117,083	-553	116,530
Evan Hall Factory	2,670	127	2,797
Harry Laws & Co	56,709	1,472	58,181
Iberia Sugar Co-op	65,460	-2,662	62,798
Jeanerette Sugar Co	60,904	2,401	63,305
Lafourche Sugars Corp	69,216	3,278	72,494
Louisiana Sugarcane Co-op	83,052	-271	82,781
Lula Westfield, LLC	148,265	-5,120	143,145
M.A. Patout & Sons	174,963	-1,026	173,937
Raceland Sugars	81,195	-3,113	78,082
St. Mary Sugar Co-op	88,675	4,200	92,875
So. Louisiana Sugars Co-op	119,930	-4,832	115,098
Sterling Sugars	89,881	-2,051	87,830
Texas	144,815	13,057	157,872
Hawaii	318,829	0	318,829
Gay & Robinson, Inc	62,163	0	62,163
Hawaiian Commercial	256,666	0	256,666
Puerto Rico	6,171	0	6,171
Agraso	3,984	0	3,984
Roig	2,187	0	2,187

¹ Includes changes due to the 500,000-ton increase in the overall allotment quantity and, for cane states and sugarcane processors, changes due to updated 2002-crop production forecasts.

Signed in Washington, DC on January 31, 2003.

James R. Little,

Executive Vice President, Commodity Credit Corporation.

[FR Doc. 03-3633 Filed 2-13-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-05-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Foreign Agricultural Service

Refined Sugar Re-Export Program

AGENCY: Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) will conduct a public meeting to review program operations for granting re-export credits to licensed refiners for shipments of sugar to Mexico. The meeting is open to the public.