

Rules and Regulations

Federal Register

Vol. 81, No. 51

Wednesday, March 16, 2016

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

7 CFR Part 906

[Doc. No. AMS-FV-15-0035; FV15-906-1 FIR]

Oranges and Grapefruit Grown in Lower Rio Grande Valley in Texas; Decreased Assessment Rate

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Affirmation of interim rule as final rule.

SUMMARY: The Department of Agriculture (USDA) is adopting, as a final rule, without change, an interim rule that implemented a recommendation from the Texas Valley Citrus Committee (Committee) to decrease the assessment rate established for the 2015–16 and subsequent fiscal periods from \$0.11 to \$0.08 per 7/10-bushel carton or equivalent of oranges and grapefruit handled under the marketing order (order). The Committee locally administers the order and is comprised of producers and handlers of oranges and grapefruit operating within the area of production. The interim rule decreased the assessment rate to more closely align assessment income to the lower budgeted expenses.

DATES: Effective March 17, 2016.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Abigail Campos, Marketing Specialist, or Christian D. Nissen, Regional Director, Southeast Marketing Field Office, Marketing Order and Agreement Division, Specialty Crops Program, AMS, USDA; Telephone: (863) 324-3375, Fax: (863) 291-8614, or Email: Abigail.Campos@ams.usda.gov or Christian.Nissen@ams.usda.gov.

Small businesses may obtain information on complying with this and other marketing order regulations by viewing a guide at the following Web

site: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/rules-regulations/moa/small-businesses>; or by contacting Antoinette Carter, Marketing Order and Agreement Division, Specialty Crops Program, AMS, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., STOP 0237, Washington, DC 20250-0237; Telephone: (202) 720-2491, Fax: (202) 720-8938, or Email: Antoinette.Carter@ams.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This rule is issued under Marketing Agreement and Order No. 906, as amended (7 CFR part 906), regulating the handling of oranges and grapefruit grown in the Lower Rio Grande Valley in Texas, hereinafter referred to as the “order.” The order is effective under the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, as amended (7 U.S.C. 601–674), hereinafter referred to as the “Act.”

The Department of Agriculture (USDA) is issuing this rule in conformance with Executive Orders 12866, 13563, and 13175.

Under the order, orange and grapefruit handlers are subject to assessments, which provide funds to administer the order. Assessment rates issued under the order are intended to be applicable to all assessable oranges and grapefruit for the entire fiscal period, and continue indefinitely until amended, suspended, or terminated. The Committee’s fiscal period begins on August 1, and ends on July 31.

In an interim rule published in the **Federal Register** on November 16, 2015, and effective on November 17, 2015, (80 FR 70669, Doc. No. AMS-FV-15-0035; FV15-906-1 IR), § 906.235 was amended by decreasing the assessment rate established for Texas citrus for the 2015–2016 and subsequent fiscal periods from \$0.11 to \$0.08 per 7/10-bushel carton or equivalent handled. The decrease in the assessment rate more closely aligns assessment income to the lower budget.

Final Regulatory Flexibility Analysis

Pursuant to requirements set forth in the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA) (5 U.S.C. 601–612), the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) has considered the economic impact of this rule on small entities. Accordingly, AMS has prepared this final regulatory flexibility analysis.

The purpose of the RFA is to fit regulatory actions to the scale of businesses subject to such actions in

order that small businesses will not be unduly or disproportionately burdened. Marketing orders issued pursuant to the Act, and the rules issued thereunder, are unique in that they are brought about through group action of essentially small entities acting on their own behalf.

There are approximately 170 producers of oranges and grapefruit in the production area and 13 handlers subject to regulation under the marketing order. The Small Business Administration defines small agricultural producers as those having annual receipts of less than \$750,000, and small agricultural service firms are defined as those whose annual receipts are less than \$7,500,000 (13 CFR 121.201).

According to Committee data and information from the National Agricultural Statistics Service, the weighted average grower price for Texas citrus during the 2013–14 season was around \$13.89 per box and total shipments were near 7.4 million boxes. Using the weighted average price and shipment information, and assuming a normal distribution, the majority of growers would have annual receipts of less than \$750,000. In addition, based on available information, the majority of handlers have annual receipts of less than \$7,500,000 and could be considered small businesses under SBA’s definition. Thus, the majority of Texas citrus producers and handlers may be classified as small entities.

This rule continues in effect the action that decreased the assessment rate established for the Committee and collected from handlers for the 2015–16 and subsequent fiscal periods from \$0.11 to \$0.08 per 7/10-bushel carton or equivalent of Texas citrus. The Committee unanimously recommended 2015–16 expenditures of \$701,148 and an assessment rate of \$0.08 per 7/10-bushel carton or equivalent handled. The assessment rate of \$0.08 is \$0.03 lower than the previous rate. The quantity of assessable oranges and grapefruit for the 2015–16 fiscal period is estimated at 8 million 7/10-bushel cartons or equivalent. Thus, the \$0.08 rate should provide \$640,000 in assessment income. Income derived from handler assessments along with interest income and funds from Committee’s authorized reserve, will be adequate to cover budgeted expenses.

The Committee considered its expenses and recommended decreasing the assessment rate to more closely align assessment income to the lower budget.

This rule continues in effect the action that decreased the assessment obligation imposed on handlers. Assessments are applied uniformly on all handlers and decreasing the assessment rate reduces the burden on handlers.

In addition, the Committee's meeting was widely publicized throughout the Texas citrus industry and all interested persons were invited to attend the meeting and participate in Committee deliberations on all issues. Like all Committee meetings, the June 24, 2015, meeting was a public meeting and all entities, both large and small, were able to express views on this issue.

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), the order's information collection requirements have been previously approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and assigned OMB No. 0581-0189 "Generic Fruit Crops." No changes in those requirements as a result of this action are necessary. Should any changes become necessary, they would be submitted to OMB for approval.

This action imposes no additional reporting or recordkeeping requirements on either small or large Texas orange and grapefruit handlers. As with all Federal marketing order programs, reports and forms are periodically reviewed to reduce information requirements and duplication by industry and public sector agencies.

USDA has not identified any relevant Federal rules that duplicate, overlap, or conflict with this rule.

Comments on the interim rule were required to be received on or before January 15, 2016. No comments were received. Therefore, for reasons given in the interim rule, we are adopting the interim rule as a final rule, without change.

To view the interim rule, go to: <http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=AMS-FV-15-0035-0001>.

This action also affirms information contained in the interim rule concerning Executive Orders 12866, 12988, 13175, and 13563; the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35); and the E-Gov Act (44 U.S.C. 101).

After consideration of all relevant material presented, it is found that finalizing the interim rule, without change, as published in the **Federal Register** (80 FR 70669, November 16, 2015) will tend to effectuate the declared policy of the Act.

List of Subjects in 7 CFR Part 906

Grapefruit, Marketing agreements, Oranges, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

PART 906—ORANGES AND GRAPEFRUIT GROWN IN LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY IN TEXAS

■ Accordingly, the interim rule amending 7 CFR part 906, which was published at 80 FR 70669 on November 16, 2015, is adopted as a final rule, without change.

Dated: March 10, 2016.

Elanor Starmer,

Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 2016-05841 Filed 3-15-16; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 11

[Docket No. FAA-2011-1136; Amdt. No. 11-59]

RIN 2120-AJ33

Air Carrier Contract Maintenance Requirements

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Final rule; technical amendment.

SUMMARY: On March 4, 2015, the FAA published a final rule entitled "Air Carrier Contract Maintenance Requirements" which will result in new information collection requirements. This technical amendment updates the FAA's list of OMB control numbers to display the control number associated with the approved information collection activities in the "Air Carrier Contract Maintenance Requirements" final rule.

DATES: Effective March 16, 2016.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For technical questions concerning this action, contact Wende T. DiMuro, AFS-330, Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20591; telephone (202) 267-1685; email wende.t.dimuro@faa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On March 4, 2015, the FAA published a final rule entitled "Air Carrier Contract Maintenance Requirements" (80 FR 11537). This final rule amends

the maintenance regulations for domestic, flag, and supplemental operations, and for commuter and on-demand operations for aircraft type certificated with a passenger seating configuration of 10 seats or more (excluding any pilot seat). The new rules require affected air carriers and operators to develop policies, procedures, methods, and instructions for performing contract maintenance that are acceptable to the FAA, and include them in their maintenance manuals. This rule also requires the air carriers and operators to provide a list to the FAA of all persons with whom they contract their maintenance. These changes are needed because contract maintenance has increased to over 70 percent of all air carrier maintenance, and numerous investigations have shown deficiencies in maintenance performed by contract maintenance providers.

This final rule will result in new information collection requirements. As required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3507(d)), the FAA submitted these information collection amendments to OMB for its review.

On February 25, 2016, OMB approved the information collection request. The OMB control number is 2120-0766.

Technical Amendment

The FAA lists OMB control numbers assigned to its information collection activities in 14 CFR 11.201(b). Accordingly, this technical amendment updates 14 CFR 11.201(b) to display OMB control number 2120-0766 associated with the information collection activities in the final rule, Air Carrier Contract Maintenance Requirements. See 80 FR 11537.

Because this amendment is technical in nature and results in no substantive change, the FAA finds that the notice and public procedures under 5 U.S.C. 553(b) are unnecessary. For the same reason, the FAA finds good cause exists under 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3) to make the amendment effective in less than 30 days.

List of Subjects in 14 CFR Part 11

Administrative practice and procedure, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

The Amendment

In consideration of the foregoing the Federal Aviation Administration amends 14 CFR Chapter I as follows: