

Notices

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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.

ADMINISTRATIVE CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED STATES

Notice of Availability of Model Rules of Representative Conduct

AGENCY: Administrative Conference of the United States.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Office of the Chair of the Administrative Conference of the United States (ACUS), through its Working Group on Model Rules of Representative Conduct, has completed and published its *Model Rules of Representative Conduct*. The rules are intended to help federal agencies amend or develop their rules governing representatives in adjudicative proceedings.

The final revised *Model Rules of Representative Conduct* are available at <https://www.acus.gov/research-projects/working-group-model-rules-representative-conduct>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Matthew Gluth, Deputy Research Director, Administrative Conference of the United States, 1120 20th Street NW, Suite 706 South, Washington, DC 20036; Telephone 202-480-2080; email mgluth@acus.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Administrative Conference Act, 5 U.S.C. 591-596, established ACUS. The Conference studies the efficiency, adequacy, and fairness of the administrative procedures used by Federal agencies and makes recommendations for improvements to agencies, the President, Congress, and the Judicial Conference of the United States. The Chair of the Conference oversees a full-time staff within the Office of the Chair. The Office of the Chair supports the activities of the Assembly and undertakes many other activities to carry out the mission and functions of ACUS.

In 2019, ACUS adopted Recommendation 2021-9, *Regulation of*

Representatives in Agency Adjudicative Proceedings, 87 FR 1721 (Jan. 12, 2022), which offers best practices for agencies to consider when developing rules governing the participation and conduct of attorneys and non-attorneys who represent parties in adjudicative proceedings. Recommendation 2021-9 also recommended that the Office of the Chair “consider promulgating model rules of conduct” consistent with the Recommendation and, in doing so, “seek the input of a diverse array of agency officials and members of the public, including representatives who appear before agencies, and the American Bar Association.” In 2023, the Chair convened a Working Group of public- and private-sector representatives to develop Model Rules of Representative Conduct that, as contemplated by Recommendation 2021-9, “account for variation in agency practice and afford agencies the flexibility to determine which rules apply to their adjudicative proceedings.”

The Working Group was composed of distinguished experts in the field of administrative adjudication, ranging from adjudicators and agency officials to private practitioners and academics. It first convened in February 2023 and met regularly throughout the following year to consider and ultimately approve a final draft of these Model Rules. The resulting Model Rules—which create a transparent, easily accessible set of guidelines that facilitate a wide range of representation in a broad array of agency proceedings—are intended to help federal agencies amend or develop their rules governing representatives in adjudicative proceedings consistent with the best practices identified in Recommendation 2021-9.

Additional information about ACUS’s Model Rules of Representative Conduct project—including drafts, a listing of the Working Group members, and other related information—can be found on ACUS’s website at <https://www.acus.gov/research-projects/working-group-model-rules-representative-conduct>.

Dated: September 25, 2024.

Shawne McGibbon,

General Counsel.

[FR Doc. 2024-22374 Filed 9-27-24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6110-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Commodity Credit Corporation

Domestic Sugar Program—FY 2024 Reassignment and FY25 Overall Sugar Marketing Allotment, Cane Sugar and Beet Sugar Marketing Allotments and Company Allocations

AGENCY: Commodity Credit Corporation, Department of Agriculture.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is issuing this notice to: revise fiscal year (FY) 2024 (crop year 2023) State cane sugar allotments and allocations to sugarcane processors; reassign FY 2024 cane sugar marketing allocations to raw cane sugar imports already anticipated; and announce the FY 2025 (crop year 2024) overall sugar marketing allotment quantity (OAQ), State cane sugar allotments, and sugar beet and sugarcane processor allocations. The first two actions apply to all domestic cane sugar marketed for human consumption in the United States from October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024, and third action applies to all domestic beet and cane sugar marketed for human consumption in the United States from October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2025.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Carlann Unger, telephone, (773) 573-5163; or email, carlann.unger@usda.gov. Individuals who require alternative means for communication should contact the U.S. Target Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and text telephone (TTY)) or dial 711 for Telecommunications Relay service (both voice and text telephone users can initiate this call from any telephone).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Revisions and Reassignments of FY 2024 Sugar Cane Allotments and Allocations

On October 13, 2023, USDA announced the initial FY 2024 OAQ, which was established at 10,667,500 short tons, raw value, (STRV) equal to 85 percent of the estimated quantity of sugar for domestic human consumption for the fiscal year of 12,550,000 STRV as forecast in the September 2023 World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates report (WASDE). The Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938

(Pub. L. 75-430, 7 U.S.C. chapter 35) requires that 54.35 percent of the OAQ be distributed among beet processors and 45.65 percent be distributed among the sugarcane States and cane processors. The beet and cane sector allotments were distributed to individual processors according to statutory formulas.

On August 2, 2024, USDA announced revisions to the FY 2024 (crop year 2023) State cane sugar allotments and allocations to sugarcane processors, revisions to the company allocations to sugar beet processors, and the reassignment of deficits to raw cane sugar imports already anticipated, as reflected in the second column of the

Table 1 in the published notice (89 FR 63157-63159).

In accordance with section 359e of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 (7 U.S.C. 1359ee), after evaluating each sugarcane processor's ability to market its full allocation, USDA now is transferring FY 2024 allocations from sugarcane processors with surplus allocation to those with deficit allocation as shown in the Table 1 below. USDA has also determined that domestic cane sugar supplies are inadequate to fill the FY 2024 cane sugar marketing allotment.

In accordance with 7 U.S.C. 1359ee(b)(2), USDA is reassigning 40,000 STRV of the deficit to raw cane

sugar imports already anticipated, given the absence of any Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) stocks of sugar. In the table below, each sugar cane processor's allocation resulting from these changes are shown in the column labeled as "Revised Allocations & Allotments" and the amount of change in each cane processor's allocation in the column labeled as "Reassignments."

USDA is not reassigning any FY 2024 beet allocations to raw cane sugar imports at this time given the uncertainty about how much beet sugar will be produced from new crop sugar beets in the final 2 months (August-September) of FY 2024.

TABLE 1—FY 2024 REVISED BEET AND CANE ALLOTMENTS AND ALLOCATIONS
[Short tons, raw value]

Distribution	Initial FY24 allotments & allocations	FY24 revisions 8/2/2024	Reassignments	Revised allotments & allocations
Beet Sugar	5,797,786	5,547,786	0	5,547,786
Cane Sugar	4,869,714	4,269,714	- 40,000	4,229,714
Imports		850,000	40,000	890,000
Total OAQ	10,667,500	10,667,500	0	10,667,500
Beet Processors' Marketing Allocations				
Amalgamated Sugar Co	1,241,350	1,233,233	0	1,233,233
American Crystal Sugar Co	2,132,371	1,967,011	0	1,967,011
Michigan Sugar Co	598,769	686,251	0	686,251
Minn-Dak Farmers Co-op	402,650	373,315	0	373,315
So. Minn Beet Sugar Co-op	782,517	723,206	0	723,206
Western Sugar Co	591,583	514,739	0	514,739
Wyoming Sugar Company, LLC	48,546	50,031	0	50,031
Total Beet Sugar	5,797,786	5,547,786	0	5,547,786
State Cane Sugar Allotments				
Florida	2,617,360	2,147,104	- 38,826	2,108,278
Louisiana	2,024,823	2,059,420	18,244	2,077,664
Texas	227,531	63,190	- 19,418	43,772
Total Cane Sugar	4,869,714	4,269,714	- 40,000	4,229,714
Cane Processors' Marketing Allocations				
Florida:				
Florida Crystals	1,077,635	725,204	- 42,031	683,174
Growers Co-op. of FL	470,825	474,161	22,988	497,149
U.S. Sugar Corp	1,068,900	947,739	- 19,784	927,955
Total Florida	2,617,360	2,147,104	- 38,826	2,108,278
Louisiana:				
Sugar Growers and Refiners	1,405,697	1,425,961	18,244	1,444,205
M.A. Patout & Sons	619,126	633,459	0	633,459
Total Louisiana	2,024,823	2,059,420	18,244	2,077,664
Texas:				
Rio Grande Valley	227,531	63,190	- 19,418	43,772

* Values may not sum to column total due to rounding.

FY 2025 Overall Sugar Marketing Allotment, Cane Sugar and Beet Sugar Marketing Allotments, and Company Allocations

The Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938, as amended, requires USDA to establish the OAQ at a quantity not less than 85 percent of the estimated quantity of sugar for domestic human consumption for the crop year. USDA is establishing the initial FY 2025 (crop year 2024) OAQ at 10,455,000 STRV, equal to 85 percent of 12,300,000 STRV, the estimated quantity of sugar for domestic human consumption for FY 2025 as forecast in the September 2024 WASDE. Per the Agricultural

Adjustment Act of 1938, as amended, 54.35 percent of the OAQ is distributed among beet processors and 45.65 percent is distributed among the sugarcane States and cane processors, with the beet and cane sector allotments distributed to individual processors according to formulas set out in law.¹ Although the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938, as amended, directs USDA to assign 325,000 STRV of the cane sector allotment to “offshore States,” CCC has determined that while sugarcane was formerly produced in Puerto Rico and Hawaii, both have permanently exited sugarcane production. As a result, CCC has

allocated the 325,000 STRV of the cane sector allotment previously reserved for offshore States to the mainland sugarcane producing States. Additionally, because no sugarcane crop is estimated to be produced in Texas during FY 2025 (crop year 2024), CCC is immediately reassigning the Texas portion of the mainland sugarcane allotment, 222,999 STRV, to the other mainland sugarcane producing states on a proportional basis as follows: 125,732 STRV to Florida and 97,267 STRV to Louisiana. The initial FY 2025 sugar marketing State allotments and processor allocations, are listed in the table below.

TABLE 2—FY 2025 INITIAL STATE ALLOTMENTS AND BEET AND CANE PROCESSOR ALLOCATIONS
[Short tons, raw value]

Distribution	Initial FY25 allotments & allocations
Beet Sugar	5,682,293
Cane Sugar	4,772,708
Total OAQ	10,455,000
Beet Processors Marketing Allocations	
Amalgamated Sugar Co	1,216,622
American Crystal Sugar Co	2,089,791
Michigan Sugar Co	586,842
Minn-Dak Farmers Co-op	394,629
So. Minn Beet Sugar Co-op	766,929
Western Sugar Co	579,901
Wyoming Sugar Company, LLC	47,579
Total Beet Sugar	5,682,293
State Cane Sugar Allotments	
Florida	2,690,953
Louisiana	2,081,755
Texas	0
Total Cane Sugar	4,772,708
Cane Processors’ Marketing Allocations	
Florida:	
Florida Crystals	1,107,936
Growers Co-op. of FL	484,063
U.S. Sugar Corp	1,098,954
Total Florida	2,690,953
Louisiana:	
Sugar Growers and Refiners	1,445,222
M.A. Patout & Sons	636,533
Total Louisiana	2,081,755
Texas:	
Rio Grande Valley	0

* Values may not sum to column total due to rounding.

¹ See 7 U.S.C. 1359aa–1359ll, and 7 CFR part 1435.

USDA will closely monitor stocks, consumption, imports and all sugar market and program variables on an ongoing basis and may make program adjustments during FY 2025 if needed.

USDA Non-Discrimination Policy

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and USDA civil rights regulations and policies, USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family or parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Individuals who require alternative means of communication for program information (for example, braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and text telephone (TTY) or dial 711 for Telecommunication Relay Service (both voice and text telephone users can initiate this call from any telephone. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at <https://www.usda.gov/oascr/how-to-file-a-program-discrimination-complaint> and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail to: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410; (2) Fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Steven Peterson,

Executive Vice President, Commodity Credit Corporation.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Farm Service Agency

[Docket ID FSA-2023-0005]

Application Fast Track Pilot Program—Extension

AGENCY: Farm Service Agency, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Farm Service Agency (FSA) is announcing the extension of the Application Fast Track (AFT) pilot program that was launched August 7, 2023, which continues the expedited processing of qualified direct Operating Loans (OL) and Farm Ownership Loans (FO) to family farmers and ranchers. AFT has been available to all customers nationwide since January 1, 2024. AFT is being extended through December 31, 2025, to allow time for FSA to continue to evaluate the administrative effectiveness of AFT. The initial results of AFT reflect a significant improvement in processing times for all customers, and FSA is continuing to monitor loan performance, and overall satisfaction with the AFT pilot program from both customers and staff.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Houston Bruck; telephone: (202) 650-7874; or by email: houston.bruck@usda.gov. Individuals who require alternative means for communication should contact the USDA TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and text telephone (TTY)) or dial 711 for Telecommunications Relay service (both voice and text telephone users can initiate this call from any telephone).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

FSA is extending the “Application Fast Track” that was launched August 7, 2023 (88 FR 51260-51265), which continues the expedited processing of qualified direct OLs and FOs to family farmers and ranchers. AFT provides an alternative underwriting process for applicants that meet certain financial benchmarks. AFT has been available to all customers nationwide since January 1, 2024. The AFT pilot provisions are unchanged in this notice from what was announced in the August 7, 2023, notice.

Authority

The authority to conduct AFT is provided in section 333D of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (CONACT, 7 U.S.C. 1983d), which authorizes pilot projects of limited scope and duration to evaluate processes and techniques to

improve program efficiency and effectiveness.

AFT Initial Results

The initial results of AFT reflect a significant improvement in processing times for all customers, and FSA is continuing to monitor loan performance, overall satisfaction with the AFT pilot program from both customers and staff, and the administrative effectiveness of AFT. The initial results of the AFT pilot program have resulted in approximately 22 percent of customers qualifying for AFT, with significant reduction in processing time for those applications by approximately 8 calendar days. Customers not qualifying for AFT are also realizing an improvement in processing times of approximately 1 calendar day.

Comments Received

FSA received three public comments to the initial publication announcing the AFT pilot program. Two of the comments were critical of the Federal government’s involvement in farm lending and are outside the scope of the AFT pilot program. One of the comments expressed concern over the potential for overpayments and that the initial AFT pilot offices were not available in all locations.

The lending program does not provide payments to farmers. Also, after the initial roll-out period of August 2023 through December 2023, the AFT pilot program was expanded to all locations nationwide in January 2024.

Contact Information

Questions on AFT may be directed to the Farm Loan Programs staff in the local FSA county office. The local FSA county office may be found at <http://www.farmers.gov/working-with-us/USDA-service-centers>.

Paperwork Reduction Act Requirements

In accordance with the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. chapter 35), there are no changes the information collection approved by OMB under control numbers 0560-0236 and 0560-0237.

Environmental Review

The environmental impacts have been considered in a manner consistent with the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA, 42 U.S.C. 4321-4347), the regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality (40 CFR parts 1500-1508), and the FSA regulations for compliance with NEPA (7 CFR part 799).