

erosion based on 4 tables reflecting the relationship of rill to interrill erosion.

(5) *C* is the cover and management factor. Estimates the soil loss ratio at one-half month intervals throughout the year, accounting for the individual effects of prior land use, crop canopy, surface cover, surface roughness, and soil moisture.

(6) *P* is the support practice factor. Accounts for the effect of conservation support practices, such as cross-slope farming, stripcropping, buffer strips, and terraces on soil erosion.

#### **§ 610.13 Equations For Predicting Soil Loss Due To Wind Erosion.**

(a) The equation for predicting soil loss due to wind in the Wind Erosion Equation (WEQ) is  $E = f(IKCLV)$ . (For further information on WEQ see the paper by N.P. Woodruff and F.H. Siddaway, 1965. "A Wind Erosion Equation," Soil Science Society of America Proceedings, Vol. 29, No. 5, pages 602-608, which is available from the American Society of Agronomy, Madison, Wisconsin. In addition, the use of the WEQ in NRCS is explained in the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) National Agronomy Manual, 190-V-NAM, second ed., Part 502, March, 1988, which is available from the NRCS, P.O. Box 2890, Washington, DC 20013.)

(c) The factors in the WEQ equation are defined as follows:

(1) *E* is the estimation of the average annual soil loss in tons per acre.

(2) *f* indicates the equation includes functional relationships that are not straight-line mathematical calculations.

(3) *I* is the soil erodibility index. It is the potential for soil loss from a wide, level, unsheltered, isolated field with a bare, smooth, loose and uncrusted surface. Soil erodibility is based on soil surface texture, calcium carbonate content, and percent day.

(4) *K* is the ridge roughness factor. It is a measure of the effect of ridges formed by tillage and planting implements on wind erosion. The ridge roughness is based on ridge spacing, height, and erosive wind directions in relation to the ridge direction

(5) *C* is the climatic factor. It is a measure of the erosive potential of the wind speed and surface moisture at a given location compared with the same factors at Garden City, Kansas. The annual climatic factor at Garden City is arbitrarily set at 100. All climatic factor values are expressed as a percentage of that at Garden City.

(6) *L* is the unsheltered distance. It is the unsheltered distance across an erodible field, measured along the prevailing wind erosion direction. This

distance is measured beginning at a stable border on the upwind side and continuing downward to the nonerodible or stable area, or to the downwind edge of the area being evaluated.

(7) *V* is the vegetative cover factor. It accounts for the kind, amount, and orientation of growing plants or plant residue on the soil surface.

#### **§ 610.14 Use of USLE, RUSLE, and WEQ.**

(a) All Highly Erodible Land (HEL) determinations are based on the formulas set forth in 7 CFR § 12.21 using some of the factors from the USLE and WEQ and the factor values that were contained in the local Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) as of January 1, 1990. In addition, this includes the soil loss tolerance values used in those formulas for determining HEL. The soil loss tolerance value is used as one of the criteria for planning soil conservation systems. These values are available in the FOTG in the local field office of the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

(b) RUSLE will be used to:

(1)(i) Evaluate the soil loss estimates of conservation systems contained in the FOTG.

(ii) Evaluate the soil loss estimates of systems actually applied, where those systems were applied differently than specified in the conservation plan adopted by the producer or where a conservation plan was not developed, in determining whether a producer has complied with the HEL conservation provisions of the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended, 16 U.S.C. § 3801 *et seq.*, set forth in 7 CFR Part 12; and

(2) Develop new or revised conservation plans.

Dated: May 30, 1996.

Paul W. Johnson,  
Chief, Natural Resources Conservation Service.

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### **Agricultural Marketing Service**

#### **7 CFR Part 928**

[Docket No. FV96-928-1-IFR]

#### **Papayas Grown in Hawaii; Assessment Rate**

**AGENCY:** Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Interim final rule with request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** This interim final rule establishes an assessment rate for the Papaya Administrative Committee (Committee) under Marketing Order No.

928 for the 1996-97 and subsequent fiscal periods. The Committee is responsible for local administration of the marketing order which regulates the handling of papayas grown in Hawaii. Authorization to assess papaya handlers enables the Committee to incur expenses that are reasonable and necessary to administer the program.

**DATES:** Effective on July 1, 1996.

Comments received by July 5, 1996, will be considered prior to issuance of a final rule.

**ADDRESSES:** Interested persons are invited to submit written comments concerning this rule. Comments must be sent in triplicate to the Docket Clerk, Fruit and Vegetable Division, AMS, USDA, P.O. Box 96456, room 2523-S, Washington, DC 20090-6456, FAX (202) 720-5698. Comments should reference the docket number and the date and page number of this issue of the Federal Register and will be available for public inspection in the Office of the Docket Clerk during regular business hours.

#### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Mary Kate Nelson, Marketing Assistant, California Marketing Field Office, Fruit and Vegetable Division, AMS, USDA, 2202 Monterey Street, suite 102B, Fresno, California 93721, telephone (209) 487-5901, FAX (209) 487-5901, or Charles L. Rush, Marketing Specialist, Marketing Order Administration Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Division, AMS, USDA, P.O. Box 96456, room 2523-S, Washington, DC 20090-6456, telephone (202) 720-5127, FAX (202) 720-5698.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This rule is issued under Marketing Agreement No. 928 and Order No. 928, both as amended (7 CFR part 928), regulating the handling of papayas grown in Hawaii, hereinafter referred to as the "order." The marketing agreement and order are 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 (Department) is issuing this rule in conformance with Executive Order 12866.

This rule has been reviewed under Executive Order 12778, Civil Justice Reform. Under the marketing order now in effect, handlers of papayas grown in Hawaii are subject to assessments. Funds to administer the order are derived from such assessments. It is intended that the assessment rate as issued herein will be applicable to all assessable papayas beginning July 1, 1996, and continuing until amended, suspended, or terminated. This rule will not preempt any State or local laws,

regulations, or policies, unless they present an irreconcilable conflict with this rule.

The Act provides that administrative proceedings must be exhausted before parties may file suit in court. Under section 608c(15)(A) of the Act, any handler subject to an order may file with the Secretary a petition stating that the order, any provision of the order, or any obligation imposed in connection with the order is not in accordance with law and request a modification of the order or to be exempted therefrom. Such handler is afforded the opportunity for a hearing on the petition. After the hearing the Secretary would rule on the petition. The Act provides that the district court of the United States in any district in which the handler is an inhabitant, or has his or her principal place of business, has jurisdiction to review the Secretary's ruling on the petition, provided an action is filed not later than 20 days after the date of the entry of the ruling.

Pursuant to requirements set forth in the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA), the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) has considered the economic impact of this rule on small entities.

The purpose of the RFA is to fit regulatory actions to the scale of business 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. Thus, both statutes have small entity orientation and compatibility.

There are approximately 400 producers of papayas in the production area and approximately 60 handlers subject to regulation under the marketing order. Small agricultural producers have been defined by the Small Business Administration (13 CFR 121.601) as those having annual receipts less than \$500,000, and small agricultural service firms are defined as those whose annual receipts are less than \$5,000,000. The majority of papaya producers and handlers may be classified as small entities.

The papaya marketing order provides authority for the Committee, with the approval of the Department, to formulate an annual budget of expenses and collect assessments from handlers to administer the program. The members of the Committee are producers and handlers of papayas grown in Hawaii. They are familiar with the Committee's needs and with the costs for goods and services in their local area and are thus in a position to

formulate an appropriate budget and assessment rate. The assessment rate is formulated and discussed in a public meeting. Thus, all directly affected persons have an opportunity to participate and provide input.

The Committee met on April 26, 1996, and unanimously recommended 1996-97 expenditures of \$485,300 and an assessment rate of \$0.0059 per pound of papayas. In comparison, last year's budgeted expenditures were \$435,800.

The assessment rate of \$0.0059 is the same as last year's established rate. Major expenditures recommended by the Committee for the 1996-97 year include \$160,000 for the marketing and promotion program, \$130,000 for research and development, and \$67,000 for salaries. Budgeted expenses for these items in 1995-96 were \$165,500, \$115,000, and \$67,000 respectively.

The assessment rate recommended by the Committee was derived by dividing anticipated expenses by expected shipments of papayas grown in Hawaii. Papaya shipments for the year are estimated at 30 million pounds which should provide \$177,000 in assessment income. Income derived from handler assessments, the Hawaii Department of Agriculture, the USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service, the County of Hawaii, and the Japanese Inspection program, along with interest income and funds from the Committee's authorized reserve, will be adequate to cover budgeted expenses. Funds in the reserve will be kept within the maximum permitted by the order.

While this rule will impose some costs on handlers, the costs are in the form of uniform assessments on all handlers. Some of the costs may be passed on to producers.

However, these costs should be offset by the benefits derived by the operation of the marketing order.

Based on available information, the Agricultural Marketing Service has determined that this rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.

The assessment rate established in this rule will continue in effect indefinitely unless modified, suspended, or terminated by the Secretary upon recommendation and information submitted by the Committee or other available information.

Although this assessment rate is effective for an indefinite period, the Committee will continue to meet prior to or during each fiscal period to recommend a budget of expenses and consider recommendations for modification of the assessment rate. The dates and times of Committee meetings

are available from the Committee or the Department. Committee meetings are open to the public and interested persons may express their views at these meetings. The Department will evaluate Committee recommendations and other available information to determine whether modification of the assessment rate is needed. Further rulemaking will be undertaken as necessary. The Committee's 1996-97 budget and those for subsequent fiscal periods will be reviewed and, as appropriate, approved by the Department.

After consideration of all relevant material presented, including the information and recommendation submitted by the Committee and other available information, it is hereby found that this rule, as hereinafter set forth, will tend to effectuate the declared policy of the Act.

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553, it is also found and determined upon good cause that it is impracticable, unnecessary, and contrary to the public interest to give preliminary notice prior to putting this rule into effect, because: (1) The Committee needs to have sufficient funds to pay its expenses which are incurred on a continuous basis; (2) the 1996-97 fiscal period begins on July 1, 1996, and the marketing order requires that the rate of assessment for each fiscal period apply to all assessable papayas handled during such fiscal period; (3) handlers are aware of this action which was unanimously recommended by the Committee at a public meeting and is similar to other assessment rate actions issued in past years; and (4) this interim final rule provides a 30-day comment period, and all comments timely received will be considered prior to finalization of this rule.

#### List of Subjects in 7 CFR Part 928

Marketing agreements, Papayas, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

For the reasons set forth in the preamble, 7 CFR part 928 is amended as follows:

#### **PART 928—PAPAYAS GROWN IN HAWAII**

1. The authority citation for 7 CFR part 928 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 601-674.

2. Section 928.226 is added to read as follows:

Note: This section will appear in the Code of Federal Regulations.

#### **§ 928.226 Assessment rate.**

On and after July 1, 1996, an assessment rate of \$0.0059 per pound is

established for papayas grown in Hawaii.

Dated: May 29, 1996.

Robert C. Keeney,

*Director, Fruit and Vegetable Division.*

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## 7 CFR Part 1230

[No. LS-96-001]

### **Pork Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Order—Increase in Importer Assessments**

**AGENCY:** Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to the Pork Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Act (Act) of 1985 and the Order issued thereunder, this final rule increases the amount of the assessment per pound due on imported pork and pork products to reflect an increase in the 1995 five-market average price for domestic barrows and gilts. This action brings the equivalent market value of the live animals from which such imported pork and pork products were derived in line with the market values of domestic porcine animals. These changes will facilitate the continued collection of assessments on imported porcine animals, pork, and pork products.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** July 5, 1996.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Ralph L. Tapp, Chief, Marketing Programs Branch, 202/720-1115.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Department of Agriculture (Department) is issuing this final rule in conformance with Executive Order 12866.

This final rule has been reviewed under Executive Order 12778, Civil Justice Reform. This is not intended to have a retroactive effect. The Act states that the statute is intended to occupy the field of promotion and consumer education involving pork and pork products and of obtaining funds thereof from pork producers and that the regulation of such activity (other than a regulation or requirement relating to a matter of public health or the provision of State or local funds for such activity) that is in addition to or different from the Act may not be imposed by a State.

The Act provides that administrative proceedings must be exhausted before parties may file suit in court. Under § 1625 of the Act, a person subject to an order may file a petition with the Secretary stating that such order, a provision of such order or an obligation

imposed in connection with such order is not in accordance with law; and requesting a modification of the order or an exemption from the order. Such person is afforded the opportunity for a hearing on the petition. After the hearing, the Secretary would rule on the petition. The Act provides that the district court of the United States in the district in which such person resides or does business has jurisdiction to review the Secretary's determination, if a complaint is filed not later than 20 days after the date such person receives notice of such determination.

Pursuant to requirements set forth in the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA) (5 United States Code (U.S.C.) 601 et seq.), the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) has considered the economic impact of this final action on small entities. The effect of the Order upon small entities was discussed in the September 5, 1986, issue of the Federal Register (51 FR 31898), and it was determined that the Order would not have a significant effect upon a substantial number of small entities. Many of the estimated 200 importers may be classified as small entities. This final rule increases the amount of assessments on imported pork and pork products subject to assessment by two-hundredths of a cent per pound, or as expressed in cents per kilogram, four-hundredths of a cent per kilogram. Adjusting the assessments on imported pork and pork products would result in an estimated increase in assessments of \$104,000 over a 12-month period. Accordingly, the Administrator of AMS has determined that this action will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.

The Act (7 U.S.C. 4801-4819) approved December 23, 1985, authorized the establishment of a national pork promotion, research, and consumer information program. The program was funded by an initial assessment rate of 0.25 percent of the market value of all porcine animals marketed in the United States and an equivalent amount of assessment on imported porcine animals, pork, and pork products. However, that rate was increased to 0.35 percent in 1991 (56 FR 51635) and to 0.45 percent effective September 3, 1995 (60 FR 29963). The final Order establishing a pork promotion, research, and consumer information program was published in the September 5, 1986, issue of the Federal Register (51 FR 31898; as corrected, at 51 FR 36383 and amended at 53 FR 1909, 53 FR 30243, 56 FR 4, 56 FR 51635, and 60 FR 29963) and assessments began on November 1, 1986.

The Order requires importers of porcine animals to pay the U.S. Customs Service (USCS), upon importation, the assessment of 0.45 percent of the animal's declared value and importers of pork and pork products to pay USCS, upon importation, the assessment of 0.45 percent of the market value of the live porcine animals from which such pork and pork products were produced. This final rule increases the assessments on all of the imported pork and pork products subject to assessment as published in the Federal Register as a final rule June 7, 1995, and effective September 3, 1995; (60 FR 29965). This increase is consistent with the increase in the annual average price of domestic barrows and gilts for calendar year 1995 as reported by USDA, AMS, Livestock and Grain Market News (LGMN) Branch. This increase in assessments will make the equivalent market value of the live porcine animal from which the imported pork and pork products were derived reflect the recent increase in the market value of domestic porcine animals, thereby promoting comparability between importer and domestic assessments. This final rule will not change the current assessment rate of 0.45 percent of the market value.

The methodology for determining the per pound amounts for imported pork and pork products was described in the Supplementary Information accompanying the Order and published in the September 5, 1986, Federal Register at 51 FR 31901. The weight of imported pork and pork products is converted to a carcass weight equivalent by utilizing carcass conversion factors which are published in the Department's Statistical Bulletin No. 697 "Conversion Factors and Weights and Measures." These conversion factors take into account the removal of bone, weight lost in cooking or other processing, and the nonpork components of pork products. Secondly, the carcass weight equivalent is converted to a live animal equivalent weight by dividing the carcass weight equivalent by 70 percent, which is the average dressing percentage of porcine animals in the United States. Thirdly, the equivalent value of the live porcine animal is determined by multiplying the live animal equivalent weight by an annual average market price for barrows and gilts as reported by USDA, AMS, LGMN Branch. This average price is published on a yearly basis during the month of January in LGMN Branch's publication "Livestock, Meat, and Wool Weekly Summary and Statistics." Finally, the equivalent value is multiplied by the applicable assessment rate of 0.45 percent due on imported