

announced immediately if, for any consecutive 10-week period, the Friday through Thursday average price quotation for the lowest-priced U.S. growth, as quoted for Middling $1\frac{3}{32}$ inch cotton, C.I.F. northern Europe (U.S. Northern Europe price), adjusted for the value of any cotton user marketing certificates issued, exceeds the Northern Europe price by more than 1.25 cents per pound. This condition was met during the consecutive 10-week period that ended November 28, 1996. Therefore, a quota referenced as the Secretary of Agriculture's Special Cotton Import Quota Announcement Number 24, effective December 4, 1996, is hereby established.

Previously there were only 20 subheadings available for designating upland cotton special import quotas in subchapter III of chapter 99 of the HTS. Therefore, at most, only 20 such quotas could be in effect at one time and any additional quota which had been triggered could not become effective until the earliest of the 20 quotas ended. However, Presidential Proclamation 6948 dated October 29, 1996, added six new HTS subheadings for quotas—21 through 26. A maximum of 26 quotas may now be in effect at one time.

To be effective as soon as possible, Quota 24 is established as of December 4, 1996, and applies to upland cotton purchased not later than March 3, 1997, and entered into the United States not later than June 1, 1997. The quota amount, 44,522,887 kilograms (98,156,244 pounds), is equal to 1 week's consumption of upland cotton by domestic mills at the seasonally-adjusted average rate of the most recent 3 months for which data are available—August 1996 through October 1996. The special import quota identifies a quantity of imports that is not subject to the over-quota tariff rate of a tariff-rate quota. The quota is not divided by staple length or by country of origin. The quota does not affect existing tariff rates or phytosanitary regulations. The quota does not apply to Extra Long Staple cotton.

Authority: Sec. 136, P.L. 104-127 and U.S. Note 6(a), Subchapter III, Chapter 99 of the HTS.

Signed at Washington, D.C., on January 22, 1997.

Dan Glickman,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-2132 Filed 1-28-97; 8:45 am]

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Secretary of Agriculture's Special Cotton Import Quota Announcement Number 25

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: A special import quota for upland cotton equal to 44,522,887 kilograms (98,156,244 pounds) is established in accordance with section 136(b) of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (the 1996 Act) under Presidential Proclamation 6301 of June 7, 1991, and Presidential Proclamation 6948 of October 29, 1996. The quota is referenced as the Secretary of Agriculture's Special Cotton Import Quota Announcement Number 25, effective December 11, 1996, and is set forth in subheading 9903.52.25, subchapter III, chapter 99 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS).

DATES: The quota is effective as of December 11, 1996, and applies to upland cotton purchased not later than March 10, 1997 (90 days from the date the quota is established), and entered into the United States not later than June 8, 1997 (180 days from the date the quota is established).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Janise Zygmunt, Farm Service Agency, United States Department of Agriculture, Stop 0515, P.O. Box 2415, Washington, DC 20013-2415 or call (202) 720-8841.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The 1996 Act requires that a special import quota for upland cotton be determined and announced immediately if, for any consecutive 10-week period, the Friday through Thursday average price quotation for the lowest-priced U.S. growth, as quoted for Middling $1\frac{3}{32}$ inch cotton, C.I.F. northern Europe (U.S. Northern Europe price), adjusted for the value of any cotton user marketing certificates issued, exceeds the Northern Europe price by more than 1.25 cents per pound. This condition was met during the consecutive 10-week period that ended December 5, 1996. Therefore, a quota referenced as the Secretary of Agriculture's Special Cotton Import Quota Announcement Number 25, effective December 11, 1996, is hereby established.

Previously there were only 20 subheadings available for designating upland cotton special import quotas in subchapter III of chapter 99 of the HTS. Therefore, at most, only 20 such quotas could be in effect at one time and any additional quota which had been triggered could not become effective

until the earliest of the 20 quotas ended. However, Presidential Proclamation 6948 dated October 29, 1996, added six new HTS subheadings for quotas—21 through 26. A maximum of 26 quotas may now be in effect at one time.

To be effective as soon as possible, Quota 25 is established as of December 11, 1996, and applies to upland cotton purchased not later than March 10, 1997, and entered into the United States not later than June 8, 1997. The quota amount, 44,522,887 kilograms (98,156,244 pounds), is equal to 1 week's consumption of upland cotton by domestic mills at the seasonally-adjusted average rate of the most recent 3 months for which data are available—August 1996 through October 1996. The special import quota identifies a quantity of imports that is not subject to the over-quota tariff rate of a tariff-rate quota. The quota is not divided by staple length or by country of origin. The quota does not affect existing tariff rates or phytosanitary regulations. The quota does not apply to Extra Long Staple cotton.

Authority: Sec. 136, P.L. 104-127 and U.S. Note 6(a), Subchapter III, Chapter 99 of the HTS.

Signed at Washington, D.C., on January 22, 1997.

Dan Glickman,
Secretary.

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Secretary of Agriculture's Special Cotton Import Quota Announcement Number 26

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: A special import quota for upland cotton equal to 44,522,887 kilograms (98,156,244 pounds) is established in accordance with section 136(b) of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (the 1996 Act) under Presidential Proclamation 6301 of June 7, 1991, and Presidential Proclamation 6948 of October 29, 1996. The quota is referenced as the Secretary of Agriculture's Special Cotton Import Quota Announcement Number 26, effective December 18, 1996, and is set forth in subheading 9903.52.26, subchapter III, chapter 99 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS).

DATES: The quota is effective as of December 18, 1996, and applies to upland cotton purchased not later than March 17, 1997 (90 days from the date the quota is established), and entered

into the United States not later than June 15, 1997 (180 days from the date the quota is established).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Janise Zygmunt, Farm Service Agency, United States Department of Agriculture, Stop 0515, P.O. Box 2415, Washington, DC 20013-2415 or call (202) 720-8841.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The 1996 Act requires that a special import quota for upland cotton be determined and announced immediately if, for any consecutive 10-week period, the Friday through Thursday average price quotation for the lowest-priced U.S. growth, as quoted for Middling 1-³/₃₂ inch cotton, C.I.F. northern Europe (U.S. Northern Europe price), adjusted for the value of any cotton user marketing certificates issued, exceeds the Northern Europe price by more than 1.25 cents per pound. This condition was met during the consecutive 10-week period that ended December 12, 1996. Therefore, a quota referenced as the Secretary of Agriculture's Special Cotton Import Quota Announcement Number 26, effective December 18, 1996, is hereby established.

Previously there were only 20 subheadings available for designating upland cotton special import quotas in subchapter III of chapter 99 of the HTS. Therefore, at most, only 20 such quotas could be in effect at one time and any additional quota which had been triggered could not become effective until the earliest of the 20 quotas ended. However, Presidential Proclamation 6948 dated October 29, 1996, added six new HTS subheadings for quotas—21 through 26. A maximum of 26 quotas may now be in effect at one time.

To be effective as soon as possible, Quota 26 is established as of December 18, 1996, and applies to upland cotton purchased not later than March 17, 1997, and entered into the United States not later than June 15, 1997. The quota amount, 44,522,887 kilograms (98,156,244 pounds), is equal to 1 week's consumption of upland cotton by domestic mills at the seasonally-adjusted average rate of the most recent 3 months for which data are available—August 1996 through October 1996. The special import quota identifies a quantity of imports that is not subject to the over-quota tariff rate of a tariff-rate quota. The quota is not divided by staple length or by country of origin. The quota does not affect existing tariff rates or phytosanitary regulations. The quota does not apply to Extra Long Staple cotton.

Authority: Sec. 136, P.L. 104-127 and U.S. Note 6(a), Subchapter III, Chapter 99 of the HTS.

Signed at Washington, D.C., on January 22, 1997.

Dan Glickman,

Secretary.

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Agricultural Marketing Service

[No. LS-97-004]

Beef Promotion and Research: Certification and Nomination for the Cattlemen's Beef Promotion and Research Board

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is accepting applications from State cattle producer and general farm organizations as well as beef importers who desire to be certified to nominate producers or importers for appointment to vacant positions on the Cattlemen's Beef Promotion and Research Board (Board). Organizations which have not previously been certified that are interested in submitting nominations must complete and submit an official application form to AMS. Previously certified organizations do not need to reapply. Notice is also given that vacancies will occur on the Board and that during a period to be established, nominations will be accepted from eligible organizations and individual importers.

DATES: Applications for certification must be received by close of business February 28, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Certification forms as well as copies of the certification and nomination procedures may be requested from Ralph L. Tapp, Chief, Marketing Programs Branch—STOP 0251; Livestock and Seed Division; AMS, USDA; Room 2606-S; P.O. Box 96456; Washington, D.C. 20090-6456.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ralph L. Tapp, Chief, Marketing Programs Branch on 202/720-1115.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

The Beef Promotion and Research Act of 1985 (Act) (7 U.S.C. 2901 et seq.), enacted December 23, 1985, authorizes the implementation of a Beef Promotion and Research Order (Order). The Order, as published in the July 18, 1986, Federal Register (51 FR 26132),

provides for the establishment of a Board. The current Board consists of 104 cattle producers and 7 importers appointed by the Secretary. The duties and responsibilities of the Board are specified in the Order.

The Act and the Order provide that the Secretary shall either certify or otherwise determine the eligibility of State or importer organizations or associations to nominate members to the Board to ensure that nominees represent the interests of cattle producers and importers. Nominations for importer representatives may also be made by individuals who import cattle, beef, or beef products. Individual importers do not need to be certified as eligible to submit nominations. When individual importers submit nominations, they must establish to the satisfaction of the Secretary that they are in fact importers of cattle, beef, or beef products, pursuant to § 1260.143(b)(2) of the Order [7 CFR 1260.143(b)(2)]. Individual importers are encouraged to contact AMS at the above address to obtain further information concerning the nomination process including the beginning and ending dates of the established nomination period and required nomination forms and background information sheets. Certification and nomination procedures were promulgated in the final rule, published in the April 4, 1986, Federal Register (51 FR 11557) and currently appear at 7 CFR § 1260.500 through § 1260.640. Organizations which have previously been certified to nominate members to the Board do not need to reapply for certification to nominate producers and importers for the existing vacancies.

The Act and the Order provide that the members of the Board shall serve for terms of 3 years. The Order also requires USDA to announce when a Board vacancy does or will exist. The following States have one or more members whose terms will expire in early 1998:

State or unit	Number of vacancies
Arizona	1
California	2
Colorado	1
Iowa	2
Kansas	2
Louisiana	1
Michigan	1
Minnesota	1
Mississippi	1
Missouri	1
Nebraska	2
New Mexico	1
North Carolina	1
Oklahoma	1
South Carolina	1