

Proposed Rules

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains notices to the public of the proposed issuance of rules and regulations. The purpose of these notices is to give interested persons an opportunity to participate in the rule making prior to the adoption of the final rules.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

7 CFR Part 906

[Doc. No. AMS-FV-11-0057; FV11-906-1 PR]

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

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: This rule would increase the assessment rate established for the Texas Valley Citrus Committee (Committee) for the 2011-12 and subsequent fiscal periods from \$0.12 to \$0.14 per 7/10-bushel carton or equivalent of oranges and grapefruit handled. The Committee locally administers the marketing order which regulates the handling of oranges and grapefruit grown in the Lower Rio Grande Valley in Texas. Assessments upon orange and grapefruit handlers are used by the Committee to fund reasonable and necessary expenses of the program. The fiscal period begins August 1 and ends July 31. The assessment rate would remain in effect indefinitely unless modified, suspended, or terminated.

DATES: Comments must be received by August 22, 2011.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments concerning this rule. Comments must be sent to the Docket Clerk, Marketing Order Administration Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, AMS, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., STOP 0237, Washington, DC 20250-0237; Fax: (202) 720-8938; or Internet: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Comments should reference the document 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, or can be viewed at:

<http://www.regulations.gov>. All comments submitted in response to this rule will be included in the record and will be made available to the public. Please be advised that the identity of the individuals or entities submitting the comments will be made public on the Internet at the address provided above.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Belinda G. Garza, Regional Manager, Texas Marketing Field Office, Marketing Order Administration Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, AMS, USDA; Telephone: (956) 632-5330, Fax: (956) 632-5358, or E-mail: Belinda.Garza@ams.usda.gov.

Small businesses may request information on complying with this regulation by contacting Laurel May, Marketing Order Administration Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, AMS, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., STOP 0237, Washington, DC 20250-0237; Telephone: (202) 720-2491, Fax: (202) 720-8938, or E-mail: Laurel.May@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 Order 12866.

This rule has been reviewed under Executive Order 12988, Civil Justice Reform. Under the marketing order now in effect, orange and grapefruit handlers in the Lower Rio Grande Valley are subject to assessments. Funds to administer the order are derived from such assessments. It is intended that the assessment rate as proposed herein would be applicable to all assessable oranges and grapefruit beginning on August 1, 2011, and continue until amended, suspended, or terminated.

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 USDA 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, USDA 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 USDA's ruling on the petition, provided an action is filed not later than 20 days after the date of the entry of the ruling.

This rule would increase the assessment rate established for the Committee for the 2011-12 and subsequent fiscal periods from \$0.12 to \$0.14 per 7/10-bushel carton or equivalent of oranges and grapefruit handled.

The Texas orange and grapefruit marketing order provides authority for the Committee, with the approval of USDA, 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 Texas oranges and grapefruit. 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.

For the 2004-05 and subsequent fiscal periods, the Committee recommended, and USDA approved, an assessment rate that would continue in effect from fiscal period to fiscal period unless modified, suspended, or terminated by USDA upon recommendation and information submitted by the Committee or other information available to USDA.

The Committee met on June 9, 2011, and unanimously recommended 2011-12 expenditures of \$1,224,037 and an assessment rate of \$0.14 per 7/10-bushel carton or equivalent of oranges and grapefruit handled. In comparison, last year's budgeted expenditures were \$1,109,037. The proposed assessment rate of \$0.14 is \$0.02 higher than the rate currently in effect. The Committee recommended a higher assessment rate due to an expected smaller crop and an

increase in budgeted expenses. Budgeted expenses were increased to provide additional funding for the Committee's Mexican fruit fly program, and also to fund a Federal Agriculture Improvement Reform (FAIR) review analysis to be conducted next fiscal period. In 1996, Congress mandated that every five years commodity boards established under the oversight of the Secretary of Agriculture pursuant to a commodity promotion law should fund an independent evaluation of the effectiveness of their generic promotion program, which is now commonly known as a FAIR review.

The Committee projected a reduced crop of 8,750,000 7/10-bushel carton equivalents, which would be 289,137 7/10-bushel carton equivalents less than the 9,039,137 7/10-bushel carton equivalents handled during the 2010–11 fiscal period. Furthermore, due to severe cuts in the State of Texas' budget, the Texas Department of Agriculture requested the citrus industry's assistance in funding a Mexican fruit fly trapping program, which is essential to the industry's well-being. Based on a decreased crop estimate and anticipated expenditure increases, the Committee unanimously recommended that the assessment rate of \$0.12 currently in effect be increased by \$0.02. Income derived from handler assessments and interest would be adequate to cover budgeted expenses.

The major expenditures recommended by the Committee for the 2011–12 fiscal period include \$479,000 for the Mexican fruit fly support, trapping, and bait spray programs; \$425,000 for promotion; and \$250,737 for management, administration, and compliance oversight. In comparison, major expenditures for these items in 2010–11 (current fiscal period) were \$229,000, \$600,000, and \$246,737, respectively.

The assessment rate recommended by the Committee was derived by dividing anticipated expenditures by estimated shipments of Texas oranges and grapefruit. As mentioned earlier, orange and grapefruit shipments for the 2011–12 fiscal period are estimated at 8.75 million 7/10-bushel carton equivalents, which should provide \$1,225,000 in assessment income. Income generated through the \$0.14 assessment rate and interest would be more than sufficient to meet anticipated expenses (\$1,224,037). Reserve funds at the end of 2011–12 are projected at \$283,774, well below one fiscal period's expenses, which would be within the maximum reserve amount permitted under the order (§ 906.35).

The proposed assessment rate would continue in effect indefinitely unless modified, suspended, or terminated by USDA upon recommendation and information submitted by the Committee or other available information.

Although this assessment rate would be in effect for an indefinite period, the Committee would 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 USDA. Committee meetings are open to the public and interested persons may express their views at these meetings. USDA would evaluate Committee recommendations and other available information to determine whether modification of the assessment rate is needed. Further rulemaking would be undertaken as necessary. The Committee's 2011–12 budget and those for subsequent fiscal periods would be reviewed and, as appropriate, approved by USDA.

Initial 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 initial regulatory flexibility analysis.

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.

There are approximately 177 producers of oranges and grapefruit in the production area and approximately 12 handlers subject to regulation under the marketing order. Small agricultural producers are defined by the Small Business Administration (SBA) (13 CFR 121.201) as those having annual receipts less than \$750,000, and small agricultural service firms are defined as those whose annual receipts are less than \$7,000,000.

An updated Texas citrus industry profile shows that 6 of the 12 handlers (50 percent) would be considered large businesses under SBA's definition, and the remaining 6 handlers (50 percent) would be considered small businesses. Of the approximately 177 producers

within the production area, few have sufficient acreage to generate sales in excess of \$750,000. Thus, half of the handlers and the majority of producers of Texas oranges and grapefruit may be classified as small entities.

This rule would increase the assessment rate established for the Committee and collected from handlers for the 2011–12 and subsequent fiscal periods from \$0.12 to \$0.14 per 7/10-bushel carton or equivalent of oranges and grapefruit. The Committee unanimously recommended 2011–12 expenditures of \$1,224,037 and an assessment rate of \$0.14 per 7/10-bushel carton or equivalent handled. The quantity of assessable oranges and grapefruit for the 2011–12 fiscal period is estimated at 8.75 million 7/10-bushel carton equivalents. Thus, the \$0.14 assessment rate should provide \$1,225,000 in assessment income which would be sufficient to meet anticipated expenses.

The major expenditures recommended by the Committee for the 2011–12 fiscal period include \$479,000 for the Mexican Fruit Fly support, trapping, and bait spray programs; \$425,000 for promotion; and \$250,737 for management, administration, and compliance oversight. Major expenditures for these items in 2010–11 (current fiscal period) were \$229,000, \$600,000, and \$246,737, respectively.

The increased assessment rate recommended by the Committee was due to a reduced crop estimate (8.75 million 7/10-bushel carton equivalents of oranges and grapefruit), and an increase in budgeted expenditures to provide additional funding for the Mexican fruit fly program and a FAIR analysis. With anticipated assessment income of \$1,225,000, and anticipated expenditures of \$1,224,037, funds in the reserve would be kept within the maximum of one fiscal period's expenses permitted by the order (§ 906.35).

In arriving at its recommended budget, the Committee considered alternative expenditure levels based upon the relative need of the Mexican fruit fly trapping and promotion programs to the Texas citrus industry. The assessment rate of \$0.14 per 7/10-bushel carton equivalent was then determined by dividing the total recommended budget by the quantity of assessable oranges and grapefruit, estimated at 8.75 million 7/10-bushel carton equivalents for the 2011–12 fiscal period. Considering assessment revenue and interest, total revenue would be approximately \$2,463 above the anticipated expenses, which the Committee determined to be acceptable.

A review of historical information from recent seasons (2008–2010) and preliminary information pertaining to the upcoming fiscal period indicates that the season average packinghouse door price for the 2011–12 fiscal period could likely range from \$6.24 to \$8.23 per 7/10-bushel carton equivalent of Texas oranges, and from \$10.90 to \$15.55 for Texas grapefruit. Therefore, the estimated assessment revenue for the 2011–12 fiscal period as a percentage of total grower (packinghouse door) revenue could range between 1.7 and 2.2 percent for oranges and between 0.9 and 1.3 percent for grapefruit.

This action would increase the assessment obligation imposed on handlers. While assessments impose some additional costs on handlers, the costs are minimal and uniform on all handlers. Some of the additional costs may be passed on to producers. However, these costs would be offset by the benefits derived by the operation of the order. In addition, the Committee's meeting was widely publicized throughout the Texas orange and grapefruit 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 9, 2011, meeting was a public meeting and all entities, both large and small, were able to express views on this issue. Finally, interested persons are invited to submit comments on this proposed rule, including the regulatory and informational impacts of this action on small businesses.

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—Mandatory). 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 proposed rule would impose 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.

AMS is committed to complying with the E-Government Act, to promote the use of the Internet and other information technologies to provide increased opportunities for citizen

access to Government information and services, and for other purposes.

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

A small business guide on complying with fruit, vegetable, and specialty crop marketing agreements and orders may be viewed at: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/MarketingOrdersSmallBusinessGuide>. Any questions about the compliance guide should be sent to Laurel May at the previously-mentioned address in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section.

A 10-day comment period is provided to allow interested persons to respond to this proposed rule. Ten days is deemed appropriate because: (1) The 2011–12 fiscal period begins on August 1, 2011, and the marketing order requires that the rate of assessment for each fiscal period apply to all assessable oranges and grapefruit handled during such fiscal period; (2) the Committee needs to have sufficient funds to pay its expenses, which are incurred on a continuous basis; and (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.

List of Subjects in 7 CFR Part 906

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

For the reasons set forth in the preamble, 7 CFR part 906 is proposed to be amended as follows:

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

1. The authority citation for 7 CFR part 906 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 601–674.

2. Section 906.235 is revised to read as follows:

§ 906.235 Assessment rate.

On and after August 1, 2011, an assessment rate of \$0.14 per 7/10-bushel carton or equivalent is established for oranges and grapefruit grown in the Lower Rio Grande Valley in Texas.

Dated: August 3, 2011.

David R. Shipman,

Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 2011–20120 Filed 8–9–11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–02–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 71

[Docket No. FAA–2011–0625; Airspace Docket No. 11–AEA–16]

Proposed Amendment of Class D and E Airspace; North Philadelphia, PA

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM).

SUMMARY: This action proposes to amend Class D and Class E airspace at Northeast Philadelphia Airport, North Philadelphia, PA, due to the closing of Willow Grove Naval Air Station and Warminster NAWC. This action would enhance the safety and airspace management of Instrument Flight Rules (IFR) operations in the North Philadelphia, PA airspace area.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before September 26, 2011. The Director of the Federal Register approves this incorporation by reference action under title 1, Code of Federal Regulations, part 51, subject to the annual revision of FAA, Order 7400.9 and publication of conforming amendments.

ADDRESSES: Send comments on this rule to: U. S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12–140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., Washington, DC 20590–0001; *Telephone:* 1–800–647–5527; *Fax:* 202–493–2251. You must identify the Docket Number FAA–2011–0625; Airspace Docket No. 11–AEA–16, at the beginning of your comments. You may also submit and review received comments through the Internet at <http://www.regulations.gov>.

You may review the public docket containing the rule, any comments received, and any final disposition in person in the Dockets Office (see **ADDRESSES** section for address and phone number) between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays.

An informal docket may also be examined during normal business hours at the office of the Eastern Service Center, Federal Aviation Administration, Room 210, 1701 Columbia Avenue, College Park, Georgia 30337.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Fornito, Airspace Specialist, Operations Support Group, Eastern Service Center, Air Traffic Organization, Federal