

Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA

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meetings shall be subject to the establishment of telephone communication between all such groups and the availability of loud speaker receivers for each group so that each member may participate in the discussions and other actions the same as if the committee were assembled in one place.

(c) For any recommendation of the committee pursuant to §911.53 as to the total quantity of limes deemed advisable to be handled during any week immediately following two or more continuous weeks of regulation pursuant to §911.54 nine members of the committee, including alternates acting for members, shall constitute a quorum and nine concurring votes shall be required. The quorum and voting requirements specified in this paragraph shall not apply to recommendations pursuant to §911.53 to increase the quantity that may be handled during the applicable week or pursuant to §911.54 to terminate or suspend a regulation.

(d) For any recommendation of the committee for an assessment rate exceeding \$0.20 per bushel to be applied pursuant to §911.41, the quorum requirement shall be eight members or alternates acting for members and eight concurring votes shall be required.

[22 FR 2527, Apr. 13, 1957. Redesignated at 26 FR 12751, Dec. 30, 1961, and amended at 37 FR 10498, May 24, 1972; 43 FR 39320, Sept. 5, 1978]

§911.31 Expenses.

The members of the committee and their respective alternates when performing duties at the direction of the committee, shall be reimbursed for expenses necessarily incurred by them in the performance of their duties under this part.

[43 FR 39320, Sept. 5, 1978]

§911.32 Annual report.

The committee shall, as soon as practicable after the close of each fiscal year, prepare and mail an annual report to the Secretary and to each handler and grower who requests a copy of the report. This annual report shall contain at least: (a) A complete review of the regulatory operations during the fiscal year; (b) an appraisal of the effect of such regulatory operations upon

the lime industry; and (c) any recommendations for changes in the program.

[20 FR 4179, June 15, 1955, as amended at 22 FR 2527, Apr. 13, 1957. Redesignated at 26 FR 12751, Dec. 30, 1961]

EXPENSES AND ASSESSMENTS

§911.40 Expenses.

The committee is authorized to incur such expenses as the Secretary finds are reasonable and likely to be incurred to enable the committee to exercise its powers and perform its duties in accordance with the provisions of this part during each fiscal year. The funds to cover such expenses shall be acquired by the levying of assessments as provided for in §911.41.

[20 FR 4179, June 15, 1955. Redesignated at 26 FR 12751, Dec. 30, 1961, and amended at 35 FR 16626, Oct. 27, 1970]

§911.41 Assessments.

(a) Each person who first handles limes shall, with respect to limes so handled by him, pay to the committee upon demand such person's pro rata share of the expenses which the Secretary finds are reasonable and likely to be incurred by the committee during each fiscal year. Each such person's share of such expenses shall be equal to the ratio between the total quantity of limes handled by him as the first handler thereof during the applicable fiscal year and the total quantity of limes so handled by all persons during the same fiscal year. The payment of assessments for the maintenance and functioning of the committee may be required under this part throughout the period it is in effect irrespective of whether particular provisions thereof are suspended or become inoperative. If a handler does not pay his assessment within the time prescribed by the committee, the unpaid assessment may be subject to an interest charge at rates prescribed by the committee with the approval of the Secretary.

(b) The Secretary shall fix the rate of assessment per 55-pounds of fruit or equivalent in any container or in bulk, to be paid by each such handler. At any time during or after a fiscal year, the Secretary may increase the rate of assessment in order to secure sufficient

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funds to cover any later finding by the Secretary relative to the expenses which may be incurred. Such increase shall be applied to all fruit handled during the applicable fiscal year. In order to provide funds for the administration of the provisions of this part, the committee may accept the payment of assessments in advance.

[20 FR 4179, June 15, 1955. Redesignated at 26 FR 12751, Dec. 30, 1961, and amended at 35 FR 16626, Oct. 27, 1970; 40 FR 52604, Nov. 11, 1975; 43 FR 39320, Sept. 5, 1978]

§ 911.42 Accounting.

(a) If, at the end of a fiscal year, the assessments collected are in excess of expenses incurred, such excess shall be accounted for as follows:

(1) Except as provided in paragraph (a)(2) of this section, each person entitled to a proportionate refund of the excess assessment shall be credited with such refund against the operation of the following fiscal year unless such person demands repayment thereof, in which event it shall be paid to him: *Provided*, That any sum paid by a person in excess of his pro rata share of the expenses during any fiscal year may be applied by the committee at the end of such fiscal year to any outstanding obligations due the committee from such person.

(2) The Secretary, upon recommendation of the committee, may determine that it is appropriate for the maintenance and functioning of the committee that the funds remaining at the end of a fiscal year which are in excess of the expenses necessary for committee operations during such year may be carried over into following years as a reserve. Such reserve may be established at an amount not to exceed approximately 3 fiscal years' operational expenses. Funds in the reserve may also be used to cover the necessary expenses of liquidation, in the event of termination of this part to cover the expenses incurred for the maintenance and functioning of the committee during any fiscal year when there is a crop failure, or during any period of suspension of any or all the provisions of this part. Such reserve may also be used by the committee to finance its operations during any fiscal year prior to the time that assessment income is

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sufficient to cover such expenses and to cover deficits incurred during any fiscal year when income is less than expenses. Upon termination of this part, any funds not required to defray the necessary expenses of liquidation shall be disposed of in such manner as the Secretary may determine to be appropriate: *Provided*, That to the extent practical, such funds shall be returned pro rata to the persons from whom such funds were collected.

(b) All funds received by the committee pursuant to the provisions of this part shall be used solely for the purposes specified in this part, and shall be accounted for in the manner provided in this part. The Secretary may, at any time, require the committee and its members to account for all receipts and disbursements.

[20 FR 4179, June 15, 1955, as amended at 22 FR 2527, Apr. 13, 1957. Redesignated at 26 FR 12751, Dec. 30, 1961, and amended at 35 FR 16626, Oct. 27, 1970; 43 FR 39320, Sept. 5, 1978]

RESEARCH

§ 911.45 Production research, marketing research and development.

The committee may, with the approval of the Secretary, establish or provide for the establishment of production research, marketing research and development projects designed to assist, improve, or promote the marketing, distribution, and consumption or efficient production of limes. Such projects may provide for any form of marketing promotion, including paid advertising. The expenses of such projects shall be paid from funds collected pursuant to the applicable provisions of § 911.41.

[40 FR 52604, Nov. 11, 1975]

REGULATIONS

§ 911.46 Marketing policy.

Each fiscal year prior to making any recommendation pursuant to § 911.47 or § 911.53, the committee shall submit to the Secretary a report setting forth its marketing policy for such fiscal year. Such marketing policy report shall contain information relative to (a) the estimated total production of limes within the production area; (b) the expected general quality and size of limes