

Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA

§ 953.34

the Secretary may request. The report of such audit shall show the receipt and expenditure of funds collected pursuant to this part; a copy of each such report shall be furnished to the Secretary and a copy of each such report shall be made available at the principal office of the committee for inspection by producers and handlers;

(h) To appoint such employees, agents, and representatives as it may deem necessary and to determine the salaries and define the duties of each such person; and

(i) To consult, cooperate and exchange information with other potato marketing committees and other individuals or agencies in connection with all proper committee activities and objectives under this subpart.

§ 953.28 Obligations.

Upon the removal or expiration of the term of office of any member of the committee, such member shall account for all receipts and disbursements and deliver all property and funds, together with all books and records, in his possession, to his successor in office or to a trustee designated by the Secretary and shall execute such assignments and other instruments as may be necessary or appropriate to vest in such successor or trustee full title to all the property, funds, and claims vested in such member pursuant to this section: *Provided*, That the provisions of this subpart shall apply to alternate members in possession of funds, property, books or records, or participate in the receipt or disbursement of funds.

§ 953.29 District committees.

Potato producers and handlers in each district, as defined in §953.11, may establish and organize a District Committee of potato producers and handlers within each such district for the purpose of assisting in an advisory capacity the members of the Southeastern Potato Committee from their district. The size and composition of each such District Committee shall be determined by producers and handlers within each district. Reports on the size and composition of each District Committee shall be made available upon request to the Southeastern Potato Committee. The members of such

District Committees shall not receive compensation from any funds dispersed by the Southeastern Potato Committee. Members of District Committees may be selected at meetings sponsored by the Southeastern Potato Committee. The terms of office of members of District Committees shall coincide with the terms of office of members of the Southeastern Potato Committee.

EXPENSES AND ASSESSMENTS

§ 953.33 Expenses.

The committee is authorized to incur such expenses as the Secretary finds may be necessary to carry out the functions of the committee pursuant to the provisions of this subpart during each fiscal year. The funds to cover such expenses shall be acquired by levying assessments as provided in §953.34.

§ 953.34 Assessments.

(a) Each handler who first handles potatoes shall, with respect to the potatoes so handled by him, pay to the committee such handler's pro rata share of the expenses which the Secretary finds will be necessarily incurred by the committee for its maintenance and functioning during each fiscal year. Such handler's pro rata share of such expenses shall be equal to the ratio between the total quantity of potatoes handled by him as the first handler thereof, during the applicable fiscal year, and the total quantity of potatoes handled by all handlers as the first handlers thereof, during the same fiscal year. The Secretary shall fix the rate of assessment to be paid by such handlers: *Provided*, That the rate of assessment during each fiscal year shall not exceed 1 cent per hundred-weight.

(b) At any time during or after a fiscal year, the Secretary may increase the rate of assessment in order to secure sufficient funds to cover any later finding by the Secretary relative to the expenses of the committee. Such increase shall be applicable to all potatoes handled during the given fiscal year. In order to provide funds to carry out the functions of the committee, handlers may make advance payment of assessments.