

§ 955.6

committee and approved by the Secretary, that are grown in the production area.

§ 955.6 Handler.

Handler is synonymous with *shipper* and means any person (except a common or contract carrier of Vidalia onions owned by another person) who handles Vidalia onions, or causes Vidalia onions to be handled.

§ 955.7 Handle.

Handle or *ship* means to package, load, sell, transport, or in any other way to place Vidalia onions, or cause Vidalia onions to be placed, in the current of commerce within the production area or between the production area and any point outside thereof. Such term shall not include the transportation, sale, or delivery of field-run Vidalia onions to a person within the production area for the purpose of having such Vidalia onions prepared for market.

§ 955.9 Producer.

Producer is synonymous with *grower* and means any person engaged in a proprietary capacity in the production of Vidalia onions for market.

§ 955.10 Producer-handler.

Producer-Handler means a producer who handles Vidalia onions.

§ 955.12 Committee.

Committee means the Vidalia Onion Committee, established pursuant to § 955.20.

§ 955.13 Fiscal period.

Fiscal period means the 12-month period beginning on September 16 and ending on September 15 of the next year or such other period that may be recommended by the committee and approved by the Secretary.

COMMITTEE

§ 955.20 Establishment and membership.

(a) There is hereby established a Vidalia Onion Committee, consisting of nine members, to administer the terms and provisions of this part. Eight members shall be producers, and one shall

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be a public member. At least four of the producer members shall be producer-handlers. Each member shall have an alternate who shall have the same qualifications as the member.

(b) Each member, other than the public member, shall be an individual who is, prior to selection and during such member's term of office, a resident of the production area and a grower or an officer or employee of a grower.

(c) The public member shall be a resident of the production area and shall have no direct financial interest in the commercial production, financing, buying, packing or marketing of Vidalia onions, except as a consumer, nor shall such person be a director, officer or employee of any firm so engaged.

§ 955.21 Term of office.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (b) of this section, the term of office of committee members and their respective alternates shall be for two years and shall begin as of September 16 or for such other period as the committee may recommend and the Secretary approve. The terms shall be determined so that approximately one-half of the total committee membership shall terminate each year. Members and alternates shall serve in such capacity during the term of office or portion thereof for which they are selected and until their respective successors are selected.

(b) The term of office of the initial members and alternates shall begin as soon as possible after effective date of this part. As determined by lot drawn at the initial nomination meeting, one-fourth of the initial grower members and alternates shall serve for a one-year term, one-fourth shall serve for a two-year term, one-fourth shall serve for a three-year term, and one-fourth shall serve for a four-year term. The term of office for the initial public member and alternate shall be for two years.

(c) The consecutive terms of office of members shall be limited to three 2-year terms.

§ 955.22 Nominations.

(a) *Initial members.* For nominations to the initial committee, a meeting of