

Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA

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§ 946.24 Procedure.

(a) Nine members of the committee shall be necessary to constitute a quorum and nine concurring votes will be required to pass any motion or approve any committee action.

(b) The committee may provide for meetings by telephone, telegraph, or other means of communication and any vote cast at such a meeting shall be confirmed promptly in writing: *Provided*, That if any assembled meeting is held, all votes shall be cast in person.

§ 946.25 Selection.

(a) Persons selected as committee members or alternates to represent producers shall be individuals who are producers in the respective district for which selected, or officers or employees of a corporate producer in such district.

(b) Persons selected as committee members or alternates to represent handlers shall be individuals who are handlers in the State of Washington, or officers or employees of a corporate handler in the aforesaid State, and such persons shall be residents of the State of Washington.

(c) The Secretary shall select committee membership so that, during each fiscal period, each district, as designated in § 946.31, will be represented by two producer members and one handler member, with their respective alternates. *Provided*, That one producer member of the committee from District No. 5, with his respective alternate, shall be a certified seed producer.

[17 FR 2912, Apr. 4, 1952. Redesignated at 26 FR 12751, Dec. 30, 1961, and amended at 37 FR 10916, June 1, 1972; 52 FR 13070, Apr. 21, 1987]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 52 FR 13070, Apr. 21, 1987, § 946.25, paragraph (c) was amended by changing the colon to a period and suspending indefinitely the proviso which reads: "*Provided*, That one producer member of the committee from District No. 5, with his respective alternate, shall be a certified seed producer."

§ 946.26 Acceptance.

Any person selected by the Secretary as a committee member or as an alternate shall qualify by filing a written acceptance with the Secretary within ten days after being notified of such selection.

§ 946.27 Term of office.

(a) The term of office of committee members and alternates shall be for 3 years beginning on the 1st day of July and continuing until their successors are selected and have qualified: *Provided, however*, That the terms of office of the initial committee under the amended order shall be determined by the Secretary so that the terms of office of one-third of the initial members and alternates shall be for 1 year, one-third for 2 years, and one-third for 3 years.

(b) Committee members and alternates shall serve during the term of office for which they are selected and have qualified, or during that portion thereof beginning on the date on which they qualify during the term of office and continuing until the end thereof, and until their successors are selected and have qualified.

[17 FR 2912, Apr. 4, 1952. Redesignated at 26 FR 12751, Dec. 30, 1961, and amended at 37 FR 10916, June 1, 1972]

§ 946.28 Powers.

The committee shall have the following powers:

(a) To administer the provisions of this subpart in accordance with its terms;

(b) To make rules and regulations to effectuate the terms and provisions of this subpart;

(c) To receive, investigate, and report to the Secretary complaints of violation of the provisions of this subpart; and

(d) To recommend to the Secretary amendments to this subpart.

§ 946.29 Duties.

It shall be the duty of the committee:

(a) At the beginning of each fiscal year, to meet and organize, to select a chairman and such other officers as may be necessary, to select subcommittees of committee members, and to adopt such rules and regulations for the conduct of its business as it may deem advisable;

(b) To act as intermediary between the Secretary and any producer or handler;

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(c) To furnish to the Secretary such available information as he may request;

(d) 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;

(e) To investigate, from time to time, and to assemble data on the growing, harvesting, shipping, and marketing conditions with respect to potatoes, and to engage in such research and service activities which relate to the handling or marketing of potatoes as may be approved by the Secretary;

(f) To keep minutes, books, and records which clearly reflect all of the acts and transactions of the committee and such minutes, books, and records shall be subject to examination at any time by the Secretary or his authorized agent or representative;

(g) To make available to producers and handlers the committee voting record on recommended regulations and on other matters of policy;

(h) At the beginning of each fiscal year, to submit to the Secretary a budget of its expenses for such fiscal year, together with a report thereon;

(i) To cause the books of the committee to be audited by a competent accountant at least once each fiscal year, and at such other time as the committee may deem necessary or as the Secretary may request. The report of such audit shall show the receipt and expenditure of funds collected pursuant to this subpart; 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; and

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

§ 946.30 Expenses and compensation.

Committee members and their respective alternates when acting on committee business shall be reimbursed for reasonable expenses necessarily incurred by them in the per-

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formance of their duties and in the exercise of their powers under this subpart. In addition, they may receive reasonable compensation at a rate recommended by the committee and approved by the Secretary.

[37 FR 10916, June 1, 1972]

§ 946.31 Districts.

(a) For the purpose of determining the basis for selecting committee members, the following districts of the production area are hereby initially established:

District No. 1. The counties of Chelan, Okanogan, Grant, Douglas, Ferry, Stevens, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Lincoln, and Adams;

District No. 2. Kittitas County;

District No. 3. The counties of Yakima and Klickitat;

District No. 4. The counties of Benton, Franklin, Walla Walla, Columbia, Garfield, Asotin, and Whitman; and

District No. 5. All of the remaining counties in the State of Washington, not included in Districts 1, 2, 3, and 4 of this paragraph.

(b) The Secretary, upon the recommendation of the committee, may reestablish districts within the production area and may reapportion committee membership among the various districts: *Provided*, That in recommending any such changes in districts or representation, the committee shall give consideration to: (1) The relative importance of new areas of production; (2) changes in the relative position, with respect to production of existing districts; (3) the geographic location of production areas as it would affect the efficiency of administering the marketing agreement and order; and (4) other relevant factors: *Provided further*, That there shall be no change in the total number of committee members or in the total number of districts.

§ 946.32 Nomination.

The Secretary may select the members of the State of Washington Potato Committee and their respective alternates from nominations which may be made in the following manner, or from among such other qualified persons:

(a) A meeting or meetings of producers and handlers shall be held by the committee in each district for which nominees are to be selected not