

Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA

§ 924.51

maintain during one or more fiscal years an operating monetary reserve in an amount not to exceed approximately one fiscal year's operational expenses. Funds in such reserve shall be available for use by the committee for all expenses authorized pursuant to § 924.40.

(3) 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.

(c) 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 in his possession to his successor in office, and shall execute such assignments and other instruments as may be necessary or appropriate to vest in such successor full title to all of the property, funds, and claims vested in such member pursuant to this part.

RESEARCH

§ 924.45 Research and development.

The committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may establish or provide for the establishment of production research, and marketing research and development projects designed to assist, improve, or promote the marketing, distribution, and consumption or efficient production of fresh prunes. The expense of such projects shall be paid from funds collected pursuant to § 924.41.

[39 FR 33306, Sept. 17, 1974]

REGULATIONS

§ 924.50 Marketing policy.

(a) Each season prior to making any recommendations pursuant to § 924.51, the committee shall submit to the Secretary a report setting forth its marketing policy for the ensuing season. Such marketing policy report shall contain information relative to:

(1) The estimated total production of prunes within the production area;

(2) The expected general quality and size of prunes in the production area and in other areas;

(3) The expected demand conditions for prunes in different market outlets;

(4) The expected shipments of prunes produced in the production area and in areas outside the production area;

(5) Supplies of competing commodities;

(6) Trend and level of consumer income;

(7) Other factors having a bearing on the marketing of prunes; and

(8) The type of regulations expected to be recommended during the season.

(b) In the event it becomes advisable, because of changes in the supply and demand situation for prunes, to modify substantially such marketing policy, the committee shall submit to the Secretary a revised marketing policy report setting forth the information prescribed in this section. The committee shall publicly announce the contents of each marketing policy report, including each revised marketing policy report, and copies thereof shall be maintained in the office of the committee where they shall be available for examination by growers and handlers.

§ 924.51 Recommendations for regulation.

(a) Whenever the committee deems it advisable to regulate the handling of any variety or varieties of prunes in the manner provided in § 924.52, it shall so recommend to the Secretary.

(b) In arriving at its recommendations for regulation pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section, the committee shall give consideration to current information with respect to the factors affecting the supply and demand for prunes during the period or periods when it is proposed that such

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regulation should be made effective. With each such recommendation for regulation, the committee shall submit to the Secretary the data and information on which such recommendation is predicated and such other available information as the Secretary may request.

§ 924.52 Issuance of regulations.

(a) The Secretary shall regulate, in the manner specified in this section, the handling of prunes whenever he finds, from the recommendations and information submitted by the committee, or from other available information, that such regulations will tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act. Such regulations may:

(1) Limit, during any period or periods, the shipment of any particular grade, size, quality, maturity, or pack or any combination thereof, of any variety or varieties of prunes grown in any district or districts: *Provided*, That whenever any regulation under this paragraph prescribes a specific maturity requirement applicable to the handling of any variety of prunes, such maturity requirement shall apply uniformly to all prunes of such variety grown in both districts;

(2) Limit the shipment of prunes by establishing, in terms of grades, sizes, or both, minimum standards of quality and maturity during any period when season average prices are expected to exceed the parity level;

(3) Fix the size, capacity, weight, dimensions, markings, or pack of the container, or containers, which may be used in the packaging or handling of prunes;

(4) Prescribe requirements, as provided in this paragraph, applicable to exports of any variety of prunes which are different from those applicable to the handling of the same variety to other destinations.

(b) The committee shall be informed immediately of any such regulation issued by the Secretary, and the committee shall promptly give notice thereof to growers and handlers.

§ 924.53 Modification, suspension, or termination of regulations.

(a) In the event the committee at any time finds that, by reason of changed

conditions, any regulations issued pursuant to § 924.52 should be modified, suspended, or terminated, it shall so recommend to the Secretary.

(b) Whenever the Secretary finds, from the recommendations and information submitted by the committee or from other available information, that a regulation should be modified, suspended, or terminated with respect to any or all shipments of prunes in order to effectuate the declared policy of the act, he shall modify, suspend, or terminate such regulation. On the same basis and in like manner the Secretary may terminate any such modification or suspension. If the Secretary finds that a regulation obstructs or does not tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act, he shall suspend or terminate such regulation. On the same basis and in like manner the Secretary may terminate any such suspension.

§ 924.54 Special purpose shipments.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, any person may, without regard to the provisions of §§ 924.41, 924.52, 924.53, and 924.55, and the regulations issued thereunder, handle prunes (1) for consumption by charitable institutions; (2) for distribution by relief agencies; or (3) for commercial processing into products.

(b) Upon the basis of recommendations and information submitted by the committee, or from other available information, the Secretary may relieve from any or all requirements, under or established pursuant to § 924.41, § 924.52, § 924.53, or § 924.55, the handling of prunes in such minimum quantities, or types of shipments, or for such specified purposes (including shipments to facilitate the conduct of marketing research and development projects established pursuant to § 924.45) as the committee, with approval of the Secretary, may prescribe.

(c) The committee shall, with the approval of the Secretary, prescribe such rules, regulations, and safeguards as it may deem necessary to prevent prunes handled under the provisions of this section from entering the channels of trade for other than the specific purposes authorized by this section. Such rules, regulations, and safeguards may include the requirements that handlers