

§ 1580.202

7 CFR Ch. XV (1–1–12 Edition)

previous 3 marketing years, and identify the source of the data. In such cases the Administrator (FAS) shall determine if the alternative data is acceptable.

(ii) If the petition is filed on behalf of producers in a specifically identified impacted area, the petitioners shall provide the national average prices or county prices if applicable, or quantity of production or value of production, or cash receipts for the petitioned commodity in the impacted area for the marketing year under review and for the previous 3 marketing years, and identification of the data source.

(iii) The Administrator (FAS) may request petitioners to provide records to support their data.

(d) Once the petition is received, the Administrator (FAS) shall determine if it meets the requirements of §1580.201(c) of this part, and if so, publish notice in the FEDERAL REGISTER that a petition has been filed and that an investigation is being initiated. The notice shall identify the agricultural commodity, including any like or directly competitive commodities, the marketing year being investigated, the data being used, and the production area covered by the petition. The notice may also announce the scheduling of a public hearing, if requested by the petitioner. If the petition does not meet the requirements of §1580.201(c) of this part, the Administrator (FAS) shall notify as soon as practicable the contact person or the authorized representative for the group of the deficiencies.

§ 1580.202 Hearings, petition reviews, and amendments.

(a) If the petitioner, or any other person found by the Administrator (FAS) to have a substantial interest in the proceedings, submits not later than 10 days after the date of publication of notice in the FEDERAL REGISTER under §1580.201(d) of this part, a request in writing for a hearing, the Administrator (FAS) shall provide for a public hearing and afford such interested person an opportunity to be present, to produce evidence, and to be heard.

(b) If the petitioner or any other person having an interest in the proceedings takes issue with any of the in-

formation published in the FEDERAL REGISTER concerning the petition, such person may submit to the Administrator (FAS) their comments in writing or electronically for consideration by the Administrator (FAS) not later than 10 days after the date of publication of notice in the FEDERAL REGISTER under §1580.201(d) of this part.

(c) A producer or group of producers that resides outside of the State or region identified in the petition filed under paragraph (a) of this section, may file a request to become a party to that petition not later than 15 days after the date that the notice is published in the FEDERAL REGISTER under §1580.201(d) of this part. The Administrator (FAS) may amend the original petition to expand the impacted area and include the additional filer, or consider it a separate filing.

(d) The Administrator (FAS) shall publish in the FEDERAL REGISTER as soon as practicable any changes to the original notice resulting from any actions taken under this section.

§ 1580.203 Determination of eligibility and certification by the Administrator (FAS).

(a) As soon as practicable after the petition has been filed, but in any event not later than 40 days after that date, the Administrator (FAS) shall certify a group of producers as eligible to apply for adjustment assistance under this chapter if the Administrator (FAS) determines:

(1) At least one of the following:

(i) The national average price of the agricultural commodity produced by the group during the most recent marketing year for which data are available is less than 85 percent of the average of the national average price for the commodity in the 3 marketing years preceding such marketing year; or

(ii) The quantity of production of the agricultural commodity produced by the group during such marketing year is less than 85 percent of the average of the quantity of production of the commodity produced by the group in the 3 marketing years preceding such marketing year; or

(iii) The value of production of the agricultural commodity produced by