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Sweet Onions to be packed during the season.

(b) Each handler shall furnish to the Committee a *Handler's Statement of Walla Walla Sweet Onion Shipments* containing the information in paragraphs (a)(1), (a)(2), and (a)(3) of this section, except that gift box and roadside stand sales shall be exempt from paragraph (a)(2) of this section: *Provided*, That for Walla Walla Sweet Onions handled prior to September 1, such report shall be furnished to the Committee by September 30, and that for Walla Walla Sweet Onions handled during the period September 1 through May 31, such report shall be furnished to the Committee no later than thirty (30) days after the end of the month in which such onions were handled:

(1) The number of 50 lb. equivalents of Walla Walla Sweet Onions shipped by each handler during each week of the shipping season and the total for the season;

(2) The geographical regions as defined by the Committee to which each shipment is made;

(3) The name, address, and signature of each handler; and

(4) The name of each producer and the number of 50 lb. equivalents of Walla Walla Sweet Onions that were handled on behalf of or acquired from that producer.

[69 FR 22382, Apr. 26, 2004, as amended at 75 FR 34347, June 17, 2010]

§ 956.202 Assessment rate.

On and after January 1, 2008, an assessment rate of \$0.22 per 50-pound bag or equivalent is established for Walla Walla sweet onions.

[73 FR 35888, June 25, 2008]

PART 958—ONIONS GROWN IN CERTAIN DESIGNATED COUNTIES IN IDAHO, AND MALHEUR COUNTY, OREGON

Subpart—Order Regulating Handling

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- 958.328 Handling regulation.

AUTHORITY: 7 U.S.C. 601-674.

SOURCE: 22 FR 26, Jan. 3, 1957, unless otherwise noted. Redesignated at 26 FR 12751, Dec. 30, 1961.

Subpart—Order Regulating Handling

DEFINITIONS

§ 958.1 Secretary.

Secretary means the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States or any officer or employee of the United States Department of Agriculture to whom authority has heretofore been delegated, or to whom authority may hereafter be delegated, to act in his stead.

§ 958.2 Act.

Act means Public Act No. 10, 73d Congress, as amended and as reenacted and amended by the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, as amended (48 Stat. 31, as amended; 7 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*; 68 Stat. 906, 1047).

§ 958.3 Person.

Person means an individual, partnership, corporation, association, or any other business unit.

§ 958.4 Production area.

Production area means all territory included within the boundaries of the County of Malheur in Oregon, and all counties south and southeast of the southern boundary of Idaho County in the State of Idaho.

§ 958.5 Onions.

Onions means all varieties of *Allium cepa*, commonly known as onions, grown, or which may be grown in the production area.

[41 FR 36196, Aug. 27, 1976]

§ 958.6 Handler.

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

§ 958.7 Handle.

Handle is synonymous with *ship* and means to sell or transport onions, or cause onions to be sold or transported, within the production area or between the production area and any point outside thereof. Except as otherwise provided in §§ 958.56 and 958.65, this definition of “handle” shall not be applicable to onions that are transported within the production area for grading or storing therein, or to onions that are transported or sold to commercial dehydrators for processing by such dehydrators into dehydrated onion products.

§ 958.8 Grading.

Grading is synonymous with *prepare for market* and means the sorting or separation of onions into grades and sizes for market purposes.

§ 958.9 Grade and size.

Grade means any of the officially established grades of onions, and *size* means any of the officially established sizes of onions, as set forth in:

(a) The United States Standards for grades of onions (other than Bermuda-Granex and Creole Types) (§§ 51.2830 to 51.2850 of this title), or amendments thereto, or modifications thereof, or variations based thereon; and

(b) Any other United States Standards, or State of Idaho or Oregon Standards for onions, or amendments thereto, or modifications thereof, or variations based thereon.

The term *size* also includes any of the sizes recognized by the onion trade in the production area.

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§ 958.10 Producer.

Producer means any person engaged in the production of onions for market.

§ 958.11 Committee.

Committee means the Idaho-Eastern Oregon Onion Committee established pursuant to § 958.20.

§ 958.12 Fiscal period.

Fiscal period means the period beginning and ending on the dates approved by the Secretary pursuant to recommendations by the committee.

§ 958.13 Variety or varieties.

Variety or *varieties* means and includes all classifications of onions according to those definitive characteristics now or hereafter recognized by the United States Department of Agriculture.

§ 958.14 Export.

Export means shipment of onions beyond the boundaries of continental United States.

§ 958.15 District.

District means each of the geographical divisions of the production area initially established or as reestablished pursuant to § 958.27.

§ 958.16 Pack.

Pack means a quantity of onions in any type of container and which falls within specific weight limits or within specific grade or size limits, or both, as may be recommended by the committee and approved by the Secretary.

§ 958.17 Container.

Container means a sack, box, bag, crate, hamper, basket, carton, package, or any other type of receptacle used in the packaging, transportation, sale, shipment or other handling of onions.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

§ 958.20 Establishment and membership.

(a) The Idaho-Eastern Oregon Onion Committee, consisting of six producer members, four handler members, and one public member is hereby established. Each shall have an alternate

who shall have the same qualifications as the member.

(b) An alternate member of the committee shall act in the place and stead of the member for whom he is an alternate, during such member's absence or inability to act, and shall perform other duties as assigned. In the event of the death, removal, resignation or disqualification of a member, his alternate shall act for him until a successor for such member is selected and has qualified.

[22 FR 26, Jan. 3, 1957. Redesignated at 26 FR 12751, Dec. 30, 1961, as amended at 47 FR 8000, Feb. 24, 1982]

§ 958.21 Procedure.

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

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

§ 958.22 Selection.

The Secretary shall select committee members and alternates from the nominee lists submitted pursuant to this part or from among other eligible persons.

(a) Each person selected as a committee member or alternate to represent producers shall be an individual who is a producer, or an officer or employee of a producer, in the district for which selected.

(b) Each person selected as a committee member or alternate to represent handlers shall be an individual who is a handler, or an officer or employee of a handler in the portion of the production area for which selected.

(c) The Secretary shall select one producer member of the committee, and alternate, from each of the districts established, or reestablished, pursuant to § 958.27. The Secretary shall also select one handler member of the committee, and his alternate, from the Idaho portion of the production area and one member and his alternate from Malheur County, Oregon, and two

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handler members, and their respective alternates, from the production area-at-large.

(d) Each person selected by the Secretary as a committee member or alternate shall qualify by filing a written acceptance promptly with the Secretary.

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

[22 FR 26, Jan. 3, 1957. Redesignated at 26 FR 12751, Dec. 30, 1961, as amended at 47 FR 8000, Feb. 24, 1982]

§ 958.23 Term of office.

(a) The term of office of committee members and alternates shall be for two years beginning on the first day of June and continuing through May 31. The terms of office of members and alternates shall be so determined that one-half of the total committee membership shall terminate each May 31.

(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 current term of office and continuing until the end thereof, and until their successors are selected and have qualified.

§ 958.24 Powers.

The committee shall have the following powers:

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

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

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

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

§ 958.25 Duties.

It shall be the duty of the committee:

(a) At the beginning of each fiscal period, or as soon thereafter as practicable, to meet and organize, to select a chairman and such other officers as may be necessary, to select sub-

committees 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;

(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 onions and to engage in such research and service activity which relate to the production, handling or marketing of onions 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) Prior to each fiscal period, to submit to the Secretary a budget of its proposed expenses for such fiscal period, 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 period, and at such other time as the committee may deem necessary or as the Secretary may request; and 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; and

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

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(k) To recommend nominees for the public member and alternate.

[22 FR 26, Jan. 3, 1957. Redesignated at 26 FR 12751, Dec. 30, 1961, as amended at 41 FR 36196, Aug. 27, 1976; 47 FR 8000, Feb. 24, 1982]

§ 958.26 Expenses.

Committee members and alternates when acting on committee business shall be reimbursed for reasonable expenses necessarily incurred by them in the performance of their duties and in the exercise of their powers under this part. However, at its discretion the committee may request the attendance of alternates at any or all meetings notwithstanding the expected or actual presence of the respective members.

[41 FR 36196, Aug. 27, 1976]

§ 958.27 Districts.

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

District No. 1 (Emmett, Payette, Weiser Area): All territory within the boundaries of Washington, Payette and Gem Counties, in Idaho.

District No. 2 (Oregon Slope): All territory within a boundary following the Snake River northwesterly from its junction with the Malheur River, to the west line of Range 46E; thence south along said west line to the south line of Township 17S, and thence east along said south line to its junction with the Malheur River, and thence northeasterly along the Malheur River to the junction with the Snake River, the point of beginning.

District No. 3 (Ontario, Vale, Jamieson, Brogan): All territory within a boundary starting at the junction of the Malheur River with the Snake River and extending southwestward along the Malheur River to its junction with the south line of Township 17S, E. W. M.; thence westward along this line to its junction with the west line of Range 46E; thence north along this line to its junction with the Snake River; thence northwest along the Snake River to its junction with the north boundary of Malheur County; thence west along the north boundary of Malheur County to the west boundary of the county; thence south along the west boundary of Malheur County to its intersection with the south line of Township 20S; thence east along this line to its junction with the Hyline Canal and Siphon; thence northeast along the Hyline Canal to its intersection with Highway 20; thence east along Highway 20 to Cairo

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Junction; thence south 1/8 mile to the junction of Highway 20 to Oregon Avenue; thence east along Oregon Avenue to its termination at the Snake River; thence north along the Snake River to its junction with the Malheur River, the point of beginning.

District No. 4 (Nyssa-Adrian): All the area of Malheur County, Oregon, south of District No. 3.

District No. 5 (Parma, Wilder, Nampa, and Notus Area): Canyon County, Idaho.

District No. 6 (Homedale, Marsing, Meredian, Melba, Mountain Home, Glens Ferry and Twin Falls Area): All counties in the Idaho portion of the production area not included within Districts Nos. 1 and 5.

(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 producing sections; (2) changes in the relative position of existing districts with respect to onion production; (3) the geographic location of areas of production as they would affect the efficiency of administering this part; (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.

§ 958.28 Nominations.

Nominations from which the Secretary may select the members of the Idaho-Eastern Oregon Onion Committee and their respective alternates may be made in the following manner:

(a) The committee shall hold or cause to be held prior to April 1 of each year, after the effective date of this subpart, one or more meetings of producers and of handlers in each of the districts, or portions of the production area, in which the then current terms of office will expire the following May 31;

(b) In arranging for such meetings the committee may, if it deems desirable, cooperate with existing organizations and agencies and may combine its meetings with others;

(c) Nominations for committee members and alternate members shall be

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supplied to the Secretary, in such manner and form as he may prescribe, not later than 30 days prior to the end of each fiscal period;

(d) Only producers may participate in designating nominees for producer committee members and their alternates and only handlers may participate in designating nominees for handler committee members and their alternates;

(e) Each person who is both a handler and a producer may vote either as a handler or as a producer and may select the group in which he will vote;

(f) Regardless of the number of districts in which a person produces or handles onions, each such person is entitled to cast only one vote on behalf of himself, his partners, agents, subsidiaries, affiliates and representatives, in designating nominees for committee members and alternates. In the event a person is a producer engaged in producing onions in more than one district, such person shall select the district within which he may participate as aforesaid in designating nominees. Similarly, a person who is a handler both in Malheur County, Oregon, and in the Idaho portion of the production area, may select either Malheur County or the Idaho portion of the production area in which to cast his vote for the applicable committee handler member and alternate. Each such handler shall also be entitled to cast his vote for the committee member and alternate to represent the production area-at-large. An eligible voter's privilege of casting only one vote, as aforesaid, shall be construed to permit such voter to cast one vote for each member and alternate position to be filled in the respective district or portion of the production area, as the case may be, in which he elects to vote; and

(g) The producer and handler members of the committee shall nominate the public member and alternate. The committee shall prescribe such additional qualifications, administrative rules and procedures for selection and voting for each candidate as it deems necessary and as the Secretary approves.

[22 FR 26, Jan. 3, 1957. Redesignated at 26 FR 12751, Dec. 30, 1961, as amended at 47 FR 8000, Feb. 24, 1982]

§ 958.29 Failure to nominate.

If nominations are not made within the time and in the manner specified by the Secretary pursuant to § 958.28, the Secretary may, without regard to nominations, select the committee members and alternates on the basis of the representation provided for in this subpart.

§ 958.30 Vacancies.

To fill any vacancy occasioned by the failure of any person, selected as a committee member or alternate, to qualify, or in the event of the death, removal, resignation, or disqualification of any qualified member or alternate, a successor for his unexpired term may be selected by the Secretary from nominations made in the manner specified in § 958.28, or the Secretary may select such committee member or alternate from previously unselected nominees on the current nominee list from the district or portion of the production area, as the case may be, that is involved, or from other eligible persons. If the names of nominees to fill any such vacancy are not made available to the Secretary within 30 days after such vacancy occurs, the Secretary may fill such vacancy without regard to nominations, which selection shall be made on the basis of the representation provided for in this subpart.

EXPENSES AND ASSESSMENTS

§ 958.40 Expenses.

The committee is authorized to incur such expenses as the Secretary may find are reasonable and likely to be incurred by it during each fiscal period for its maintenance and functioning, and for such purposes as the Secretary, pursuant to this subpart, determines to be appropriate. Handlers shall share expenses upon the basis of a fiscal period. Each handler's share of such expenses shall be proportionate to the ratio between the total quantity of such handler's onion shipments inspected pursuant to this part that are handled by him as the first handler thereof during a fiscal period, and the total quantity of such onions handled by all handlers as first handlers thereof during the same period.

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§ 958.41 Budget.

Prior to each fiscal period, and as may be necessary thereafter the committee shall prepare a budget of estimated income and expenditures necessary for the administration of this part. The committee shall recommend to the Secretary a rate of assessment calculated to provide adequate funds to defray its proposed expenditures. The committee shall present such budget promptly to the Secretary with an accompanying report thereon showing the basis for its calculations and recommended rate.

[22 FR 26, Jan. 3, 1957. Redesignated at 26 FR 12751, Dec. 30, 1961, as amended at 41 FR 36196, Aug. 27, 1976]

§ 958.42 Assessments.

(a) The funds to cover the committee's expenses pursuant to § 958.40 shall be acquired by the levying of assessments upon handlers as provided in this subpart. Each handler who handles onions as the first handler thereof which are inspected pursuant to this part shall pay assessments to the committee upon demand, which assessments shall be in payment of such handler's pro rata share of such expenses.

(b) Assessments shall be levied upon handlers at rates established by the Secretary. Such rates may be established upon the basis of the committee's recommendations or other available information.

(c) At any time during or subsequent to a given fiscal period, the committee may recommend the approval of an amended budget and an increase in the rate of assessment. Upon the basis of such recommendation, or other available information, the Secretary may approve an amended budget and increase the rate of assessment. Such increase shall be applicable to all onion shipments inspected pursuant to this part during such fiscal period.

§ 958.43 Accounting.

(a) All funds received by the committee pursuant to the provisions of this part shall be used solely for the purposes specified in this part.

(b) The Secretary may at any time require the committee, its members and alternates, employees, agents, and

all other persons to account for all receipts and disbursements, funds, property, or records for which they are responsible. Whenever any person ceases to be a member or alternate of the committee, he shall account for all receipts, disbursements, funds, and property (including, but not being limited to, books and other records) pertaining to the committee's activities for which he is responsible, and deliver all such property and funds in his hands to such successor, agency, or person as may be designated by the Secretary, and shall execute such assignments and other instruments as may be necessary or appropriate to vest in each such successor, agency, or person as may be designated by the Secretary the right to all of such property and funds and all claims vested in such person.

(c) The committee may make recommendations to the Secretary for one or more of the members thereof, or any other person, to act as a trustee for holding records, funds, and any other committee property during periods of suspension of this part, or during any periods when regulations are not in effect; and, if the Secretary determines such action appropriate, he may direct that such person or persons shall so act as trustee or trustees.

§ 958.44 Reserve fund.

At the end of each fiscal period, funds in excess of the committee's expenses may be placed in an operating reserve not to exceed approximately 1 fiscal year's operational expenses or such lower limits as the committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may establish. Also, the committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may include in its budget an item for such reserve. Funds in the reserve shall be available for use by the committee for expenses authorized pursuant to § 958.40. Funds in excess of those placed in the operating reserve shall be refunded to handlers. Each handler's share of such excess shall be the amount he paid in excess of his pro rata share of the expenses of the committee.

[32 FR 11261, Aug. 3, 1967]

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§ 958.45 Accounting of funds upon termination of the order.

Any funds collected as assessments pursuant to this subpart and remaining unexpended in the possession of the committee after termination of this part shall be distributed in such manner as the Secretary may direct: *Provided*, That to the extent practical, such funds shall be returned pro rata to the persons from whom such funds were collected.

[32 FR 11262, Aug. 3, 1967]

§ 958.46 Contributions.

The committee may accept voluntary contributions but these shall only be used to pay expenses incurred pursuant to § 958.47. Furthermore, such contributions shall be free from any encumbrances by the donor and the committee shall retain complete control of their use.

[41 FR 36196, Aug. 27, 1976]

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

§ 958.47 Research and development.

(a) The committee with the approval of the Secretary, may establish or provide for the establishment of projects involving production research, marketing research and development projects, and marketing promotion including paid advertising, designed to assist, improve, or promote the marketing, distribution, consumption or efficient production of onions. Any such project for the promotion and advertising of onions may utilize an identifying mark which shall be made available for use by all handlers in accordance with such terms and conditions as the committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may prescribe. The expenses of such projects shall be paid from funds collected pursuant to § 958.42 or § 958.46.

(b) In recommending projects pursuant to this section the committee shall give consideration to the following:

- (1) The expected supply of onions in relation to market requirements;
- (2) The supply situation among competing areas and commodities;
- (3) The anticipated benefits from such projects in relation to their costs;

(4) The need for marketing research with respect to any market development activity; and

(5) The need for a coordinated effort with USDA's Food Marketing Alert or other similar programs.

(c) If the committee should conclude that a program of research or development should be undertaken, or continued, in any crop year, it shall submit the following for the approval of the Secretary:

(1) Its recommendations as to the funds to be obtained pursuant to § 958.42 or § 958.46;

(2) Its recommendation as to any research projects; and

(3) Its recommendation as to promotion activity and paid advertising.

(d) Upon conclusion of each activity, but at least annually, the committee shall summarize and report the results of such activity to its members and to the Secretary.

[41 FR 36196, Aug. 27, 1976]

REGULATION

§ 958.50 Marketing policy.

(a) *Preparation.* Prior to each marketing season the committee shall consider and prepare a proposed policy for the marketing of onions. In developing its marketing policy the committee shall investigate relevant supply and demand conditions for onions. In such investigations the committee shall give appropriate consideration to the following:

(1) Market prices for onions, including prices by variety, grade, size, and quality, and by different packs;

(2) Supply of onions by grade, size, quality, and variety in the production area and in other onion producing sections;

(3) The trend and level of consumer income;

(4) Establishing and maintaining orderly marketing conditions for onions;

(5) Orderly marketing of onions as will be in the public interest; and

(6) Other relevant factors.

(b) *Reports.* (1) The committee shall submit a report to the Secretary setting forth the aforesaid marketing policy; and the committee shall notify producers and handlers of the contents of such report.

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(2) In the event it becomes advisable to shift from such marketing policy because of changed supply and demand conditions, the committee shall prepare an amended or revised marketing policy in accordance with the manner previously outlined. The committee shall submit a report thereon to the Secretary and notify producers and handlers of the contents of such report on the revised or amended marketing policy.

§ 958.51 Recommendations for regulations.

The committee shall recommend regulations to the Secretary whenever it finds that such regulations as provided in § 958.52 will tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act. The committee also may recommend modification, suspension, or termination of any regulation, or amendments thereto, in order to facilitate the handling of onions for the purposes authorized in § 958.53. The committee may also recommend amendment, modification, termination, or suspension of any regulation issued under this part.

§ 958.52 Issuance of regulations.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this part, the Secretary shall limit the shipment of onions by any one or more of the methods hereinafter set forth whenever he finds from the recommendations and information submitted by the committee, or from other available information, that such regulation would tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act. Such limitation may:

(1) Regulate in any or all portions of the production area, the handling of particular grades, sizes, or qualities of any or all varieties of onions, or combinations thereof, during any period or periods;

(2) Regulate the handling of particular grades, sizes, or qualities, of onions differently, for different varieties, for different portions of the production area, for different packs, or for any combination of the foregoing, during any period or periods;

(3) Provide a method, through rules and regulations issued pursuant to this part, for fixing the size, capacity, weight, dimensions, or pack of the con-

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tainer, or containers, which may be used in the packaging or handling of onions, including appropriate container markings to identify the contents thereof;

(4) Regulate the handling of onions by establishing, in terms of grades, sizes, or both, minimum standards of quality and maturity; or

(5) Limit the shipment of the total quantity of onions by prohibiting the handling thereof during a specified period or periods. No regulation issued pursuant to this subparagraph shall be effective for more than 96 consecutive hours: *Provided*, That not less than 72 consecutive hours shall elapse between the termination of any such period of prohibition and the beginning of the next such period.

(6) Regulate the handling of onions by establishing, in terms of total weight or total number of layers of containers of onions, the maximum load in railcars, taking into account types of containers and sizes of railcars used, potential resulting damage, and other relevant factors.

(b) In the event the handling of onions is regulated pursuant to paragraph (a)(5) of this section, no handler shall handle any onions which were prepared for market or loaded during the effective period of such regulation. However, during any such period, no such regulation shall be deemed to limit the right of any person to sell or contract to sell onions for future shipment or delivery.

(c) The Secretary may amend any regulation issued under this part whenever he finds that such amendment would tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act. The Secretary may also terminate or suspend any regulation or amendment thereof whenever he finds that such regulation or amendment obstructs or no longer tends to effectuate the declared policy of the act.

[22 FR 26, Jan. 3, 1957. Redesignated at 26 FR 12751, Dec. 30, 1961, as amended at 32 FR 11262, Aug. 3, 1967; 47 FR 8000, Feb. 24, 1982]

§ 958.53 Handling for specified purposes.

Upon the basis of recommendations and information submitted by the committee, or other available information,

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the Secretary shall issue special regulations, or modify, suspend, or terminate requirements in effect pursuant to §§ 958.42, 958.52, 958.60, or any combination thereof, in order to facilitate the handling of onions for the following purposes whenever he finds that to do so will tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act:

- (a) Shipments of onions for export;
- (b) Shipments of onions for relief or to charitable institutions;
- (c) Shipments of onions for livestock feed;
- (d) Shipments of onions for planting; and
- (e) Shipments of onions for other purposes which may be specified.

§ 958.54 Minimum quantities.

The committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may establish minimum quantities below which onion shipments will be free from the requirements in, or pursuant to, §§ 958.42, 958.52, 958.53, 958.60, or any combination thereof.

§ 958.55 Notification of regulations.

The Secretary shall notify the committee of each regulation issued, and of each amendment, modification, suspension, or termination thereof. The committee shall give reasonable notice thereof to handlers.

§ 958.56 Safeguards.

(a) The committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may prescribe adequate safeguards to prevent onions shipped,

(1) Pursuant to § 958.53 or § 958.54; or

(2) To commercial dehydrators for processing by such dehydrators into dehydrated onion products,

from entering channels of trade for other than the purpose authorized therefor.

(b) The committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may also prescribe rules and regulations governing the issuance, and the contents, of Certificates of Privilege if such certificates are prescribed as safeguards by the committee. Such safeguards may include requirements that:

(1) Handlers shall first file applications with the committee to ship such onions;

(2) Handlers shall obtain inspection provided by § 958.60, or pay the pro rata share of expenses provided by § 958.42, or both, in connection with such onions; and

(3) Handlers shall obtain Certificates of Privilege from the committee prior to effecting the particular onion shipment.

(c) The committee may rescind any Certificate of Privilege, or refuse to issue any Certificate of Privilege to any handler if proof is obtained that onions shipped by him for the purposes stated in the Certificate of Privilege were handled contrary to the provisions of this part.

(d) The Secretary shall have the right to modify, change, alter, or rescind any safeguards prescribed and any certificates issued by the committee pursuant to the provisions of this section.

(e) The committee shall make reports to the Secretary, as requested, showing the number of applications for such certificates, the quantity of onions covered by such applications, the number of such applications denied and certificates granted, the quantity of onions handled under duly issued certificates, and such other information as may be requested.

INSPECTION

§ 958.60 Inspection and certification.

(a) During any period in which shipments of onions are regulated pursuant to this subpart, no handler shall handle onions unless such onions are inspected by an authorized representative of the Federal-State Inspection Service, or such other inspection service as the Secretary shall designate and are covered by a valid inspection certificate, except when relieved from such requirements pursuant to § 958.53, § 958.54, or both.

(b) Regarding, resorting, or repacking any lot of onions shall invalidate prior inspection certificates insofar as the requirements of this section are concerned. No handler shall ship onions after they have been regarded, resorted, repacked or in any other way further prepared for market, unless such onions are inspected by an authorized representative of the Federal-

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State Inspection Service, or such other inspection service as the Secretary shall designate.

(c) Upon recommendation of the committee, and approval of the Secretary, all onions that are required to be inspected and certified in accordance with this section, shall be identified by appropriate seals, stamps, tags, or other identification to be furnished by the committee and affixed to the containers by the handler under the direction and supervision of the Federal-State, or Federal inspector, or the committee. Master containers may bear the identification instead of the individual containers within said master container.

(d) Insofar as the requirements of this section are concerned, the length of time for which an inspection certificate is valid may be established by the committee with the approval of the Secretary.

(e) When onions are inspected in accordance with the requirements of this section, a copy of each inspection certificate issued shall be made available to the committee by the inspection service.

REPORTS

§ 958.65 Reports.

Upon request of the committee, made with the approval of the Secretary, each handler shall furnish to the committee, in such manner and at such time as it may prescribe, such reports and other information as may be necessary for the committee to perform its duties under this part.

(a) Such reports may include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following:

(1) The quantities of onions received by a handler;

(2) The quantities disposed of by him, segregated as to the respective quantities subject to regulation and not subject to regulation;

(3) The date of each such disposition and the identification of the carrier transporting such onions; and

(4) identification of the inspection certificates relating to the onions which were handled pursuant to §§ 958.53 and 958.54.

(b) All such reports shall be held under appropriate protective classification and custody by the committee, or duly appointed employees thereof, so that the information contained therein which may adversely affect the competitive position of any handler in relation to other handlers will not be disclosed. Compilations of general reports from data submitted by handlers is authorized, subject to the prohibition of disclosure of individual handler's identities or operations.

(c) Each handler shall maintain for at least two succeeding years such records of the onions received, and of onions disposed of, by such handler as may be necessary to verify the reports he submits to the committee pursuant to this section.

EFFECTIVE TIME AND TERMINATION

§ 958.70 Effective time.

The provisions of this subpart, or any amendment thereto, shall become effective at such time as the Secretary may declare and shall continue in force until terminated in one of the ways specified in this subpart.

§ 958.71 Termination.

(a) The Secretary may at any time terminate the provisions of this subpart by giving at least one day's notice by means of a press release or in any other manner which he may determine.

(b) The Secretary may terminate or suspend the operations of any or all of the provisions of this subpart whenever he finds that such provisions do not tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act.

(c) The Secretary shall terminate the provisions of this subpart at the end of any fiscal period whenever he finds that such termination is favored by a majority of producers who, during a representative period, have been engaged in the production for market of onions: *Provided*, That such majority has, during such representative period, produced for market more than fifty percent of the volume of such onions produced for market, but such termination shall be effective only if announced on or before May 31 of the then current fiscal period.

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(d) The provisions of this subpart shall, in any event, terminate whenever the provisions of the act authorizing them cease to be in effect.

§ 958.72 Proceeding after termination.

(a) Upon the termination of the provisions of this subpart, the then functioning members of the committee shall continue as joint trustees, for the purpose of liquidating the affairs of the committee, of all the funds and property then in the possession, or under control, of the committee, including claims for any funds unpaid and property not delivered at the time of such termination. Action by said trusteeship shall require the concurrence of a majority of the said trustees.

(b) The said trustees shall continue in such capacity until discharged by the Secretary; shall, from time to time, account for all receipts and disbursements and deliver all property on hand, together with all books and records of the committee and of the trustees, to such person as the Secretary may direct; and shall, upon request of the Secretary, execute such assignments or other instruments necessary or appropriate to vest in such person full title and right to all of the funds, property, and claims vested in the committee or the trustees pursuant to this subpart.

(c) Any person to whom funds, property, or claims have been transferred or delivered by the committee or its members pursuant to this section, shall be subject to the same obligations imposed upon the members of the committee and upon the said trustees.

§ 958.73 Effect of termination or amendment.

Unless otherwise expressly provided by the Secretary, the termination of this subpart or of any regulation issued pursuant to this subpart, or the issuance of any amendment to either thereof, shall not (a) affect or waive any right, duty, obligation, or liability which shall have arisen or which may thereafter arise in connection with any provision of this subpart or of any regulation issued under this subpart; (b) release or extinguish any violation of this subpart or of any regulations issued under this subpart; or (c) affect

or impair any rights or remedies of the Secretary or of any other person with respect to any such violations.

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

§ 958.81 Compliance.

No handler shall handle onions the handling of which has been prohibited or otherwise limited by the Secretary in accordance with provisions of this part; and no handler shall handle onions except in conformity to the provisions of this part.

§ 958.82 Right of the Secretary.

The members of the committee (including successors and alternates) and any agent or employee appointed or employed by the committee shall be subject to removal or suspension by the Secretary at any time. Each and every order, regulation, decision, determination, or other act of the committee shall be subject to the continuing right of the Secretary to disapprove of the same at any time. Upon such disapproval, the disapproved action of the said committee shall be deemed null and void except as to acts done in reliance thereon or in compliance therewith prior to such disapproval by the Secretary.

§ 958.83 Duration of immunities.

The benefits, privileges, and immunities conferred upon any person by virtue of this subpart shall cease upon the termination of this subpart, except with respect to acts done under and during the existence of this subpart.

§ 958.84 Agents.

The Secretary may, by designation in writing, name any person, including any officer or employee of the Government, or name any agency in the United States Department of Agriculture, to act as his agent or representative in connection with any of the provisions of this part.

§ 958.85 Derogation.

Nothing contained in this subpart is, or shall be construed to be, in derogation or in modification of the rights of the Secretary or of the United States to exercise any powers granted by the act or otherwise, or, in accordance

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with such powers, to act in the premises whenever such action is deemed advisable.

§ 958.86 Personal liability.

No member or alternate of the committee nor any employee or agent thereof, shall be held personally responsible, either individually or jointly with others, in any way whatsoever, to any handler or to any person for errors in judgment, mistakes, or other acts, either of commission or omission, as such member, alternate, employee, or agent, except for acts of dishonesty, wilful misconduct, or gross negligence.

§ 958.87 Separability.

If any provision of this subpart is declared invalid, or the applicability thereof to any person, circumstance, or thing is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of this subpart, or the applicability thereof to any other person, circumstance, or thing, shall not be affected thereby.

§ 958.88 Amendments.

Amendments to this subpart may be proposed, from time to time, by the committee or by the Secretary.

§ 958.89 Counterparts.

This agreement may be executed in multiple counterparts and when one counterpart is signed by the Secretary, all such counterparts shall constitute, when taken together, one and the same instrument as if all signatures were contained in one original.

[41 FR 29135, July 15, 1976]

§ 958.90 Additional parties.

After the effective date hereof, any handler may become a party to this agreement if a counterpart is executed by him and delivered to the Secretary. This agreement shall take effect as to such new contracting party at the time such counterpart is delivered to the Secretary, and the benefits, privileges, and immunities conferred by this agreement shall then be effective as to such new contracting party.

[41 FR 29135, July 15, 1976]

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§ 958.91 Order with marketing agreement.

Each signatory handler requests the Secretary to issue, pursuant to the act, an order providing for regulating the handling of onions in the same manner as is provided for in this agreement.

The undersigned hereby authorizes the Director, or Acting Director, Fruit and Vegetable Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, United States Department of Agriculture, to correct any typographical errors which may have been made in this marketing agreement.

In witness whereof, the contracting parties, acting under the provisions of the act, for the purpose and subject to the limitations therein contained, and not otherwise, have hereto set their respective signatures and seals.

(Firm name)
By: _____
(Signature)¹
(Mailing address)
(Title)
(Corporate Seal; if none, so state)
(Date of execution)

[41 FR 29136, July 15, 1976]

Subpart—Rules and Regulations

§ 958.112 Fiscal period.

The fiscal period shall begin July 1 of each year and end June 30 of the following year, both dates inclusive.

[68 FR 48531, Aug. 14, 2003]

§ 958.160 Reestablishment of Districts.

(a) Pursuant to § 958.27(b) the following districts are reestablished:

(1) District No. 5 (Parma-Wilder area): That portion of Canyon County lying west and north of a line commencing at the junction of the north boundary of Canyon County and Range 4, Township 12 east, thence south along this line to Soeck Road, thence west along Soeck Road one-fourth mile to Notus Road, thence south along Notus Road to Highway 19, thence west one

¹If one of the contracting parties to this agreement is a corporation my signature constitutes certification that I have the power granted to me by the Board of Directors to bind this corporation to the marketing agreement.

mile along Highway 19 to Friends Road, thence south along Friends Road to Boundary Road, thence east one-half mile along Boundary Road to Plum Road, thence south along Plum Road to Homedale Road, thence west along Homedale Road to the western boundary of Canyon County.

(2) District No. 6 (Caldwell-Nampa-Homedale and southern Idaho area): That portion of Canyon County not included in District No. 5 plus all of the counties in the Idaho portion of the production area not included within District No. 1.

(b) Terms used in this section have the same meaning as when used in said marketing agreement and this part.

[39 FR 1601, Jan. 11, 1974]

§ 958.240 Assessment rate.

On and after July 1, 2005, an assessment rate of \$0.10 per hundredweight is established for Idaho-Eastern Oregon onions.

[70 FR 32483, June 6, 2005]

§ 958.250 Assessment Credit Report.

Each handler may receive a credit for assessments on onions that have been levied in accordance with §§ 958.42 and 958.240 and are subsequently regraded, resorted, or repacked within the production area, or shipped in accordance with § 958.328(e) by furnishing the "Assessment Credit Report" and such other information as required to the committee.

[71 FR 65040, Nov. 7, 2006]

Subpart—Handling Regulations

§ 958.328 Handling regulation.

No person shall handle any lot of onions, except braided red onions, unless such onions are at least "moderately cured," as defined in paragraph (h) of this section, and meet the requirements of paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) of this section, or unless such onions are handled in accordance with paragraphs (d), (e) and (f) or (g) of this section.

(a) *Grade and size requirements—(1) White varieties (except cipolline (Borettana) varieties).* Shall be either:

(i) U.S. No. 1, 1 inch minimum to 2 inches maximum diameter; or

(ii) U.S. No. 1, at least 1½ inches minimum diameter. However, neither of these two categories of onions may be commingled in the same bag or other container.

(2) *Cipolline (Borettana) varieties and red varieties.* U.S. No. 2 or better grade, at least 1½ inches minimum diameter.

(3) *All other varieties.* Shall be either:

(i) U.S. No. 2 or U.S. Commercial grade, at least 3 inches minimum diameter, but not more than 30 percent of the lot shall be comprised of onions of U.S. No. 1 quality when packed in containers weighing less than 60 pounds; or

(ii) U.S. No. 1, 1¾ inches minimum to 2¾ inches maximum diameter; or

(iii) U.S. No. 1, at least 2¼ inches minimum diameter.

However, none of these three categories of onions may be commingled in the same bag or other container.

(b) *Pack.* Onions packed as U.S. Commercial grade in containers weighing less than 60 pounds shall have the grade marked permanently and conspicuously on the container.

(c) *Inspection.* No handler may handle any onions regulated hereunder unless such onions are inspected by the Federal-State Inspection Service and are covered by a valid applicable inspection certificate, except when relieved of such requirement pursuant to paragraph (d), (e) or (g) of this section.

(d) *Onions for peeling, chopping, or slicing.* Onions that have been inspected and certified as meeting the requirements of paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section and that are subsequently peeled, chopped, or sliced for fresh market within the production area may be handled without reinspection: *Provided the following:*

(1) Each handler making shipments of onions for alteration or performing alteration by peeling, chopping, or slicing must furnish the committee the following information on the "Fresh Cut Report" and such other documents as required:

(i) Business name, address, telephone number, signature, and the date the form was signed;

(ii) The date of peeling, chopping, or slicing;

(iii) Inspection certificate number;

(iv) The quantity of onions; and

(v) Such other information as may be required by the committee.

(2) Handlers who peel, chop, or slice onions produced outside the production area must provide the committee with documentation showing that the onions so prepared were produced outside the production area.

(e) *Special purpose shipments.* (1) The minimum grade, size, maturity, pack, assessment, and inspection requirements of this section shall not be applicable to shipments of onions for any of the following purposes:

- (i) Planting,
- (ii) Livestock feed,
- (iii) Charity,
- (iv) Dehydration,
- (v) Canning,
- (vi) Freezing,
- (vii) Extraction,
- (viii) Pickling, and
- (ix) Disposal.

(2) Shipments of onions for the purpose of experimentation, as approved by the Committee, may be made without regard to the minimum grade, size, maturity, pack, and inspection requirements of this section. Assessment requirements shall be applicable to such shipments.

(3) The minimum grade, size, and maturity requirements set forth in paragraph (a) of this section shall not be applicable to shipments of pearl onions, but the maximum size requirement in paragraph (h) of this section and the assessment and inspection requirements shall be applicable to shipments of pearl onions.

(f) *Safeguards.* Each handler making shipments of onions outside the production area for dehydration, canning, freezing, extraction, pickling, or experimentation pursuant to paragraph (e) of this section shall:

(1) Furnish “Application to Make Special Purpose Shipments—Certificate of Privilege” and such other information to the committee as required. The committee will review and verify each “Application to Make Special Purpose Shipments—Certificate of Privilege” and notify the handler of approval or disapproval. The committee may contact the receiver or receiver’s agent of the special purpose shipment for verification and request the receiver or receiver’s agent to complete a

“Special Purpose Shipment Receiver Certification”

(2) Bill or consign each shipment directly to the applicable receiver or receiver’s agent of the special purpose shipment;

(3) Furnish “Onion Diversion Report” and such other information to the committee as required. Failure of the handler to furnish such report and information as required to the committee may be cause for cancellation of such handlers’ Certificate of Privilege. Upon cancellation of any such Certificate of Privilege the handler may appeal to the committee for reconsideration. The committee may audit a receiver or receiver’s agent of the special purpose shipment to verify reports and information submitted by handlers. Failure of a receiver or receiver’s agent of a special purpose shipment to comply with the committee may be cause for cancellation of the receiver’s or receiver agent’s eligibility to receive further special purpose shipments from the production area. Upon cancellation of any such Certificate of Privilege the receiver or the receiver’s agent may appeal to the committee for reconsideration.

(g) *Minimum quantity exemption.* Each handler may ship up to, but not to exceed, one ton of onions each day without regard to the inspection and assessment requirements of this part, if such onions meet minimum grade, size and maturity requirements of this section. This exception shall not apply to any portion of a shipment that exceeds one ton of onions.

(h) *Definitions.* The terms “U.S. No. 1”, “U.S. Commercial,” and “U.S. No. 2” have the same meaning as defined in the United States Standards for Grades of Onions (Other than Bermuda Granex-Grano and Creole Types), as amended (7 CFR 51.2830 through 51.2854), or the United States Standards for Grades of Bermuda-Granex-Grano Type Onions (7 CFR 51.3195 through 51.3209), as amended, whichever is applicable to the particular variety, or variations thereof specified in this section. The term “braided red onions” means onions of red varieties with tops braided (interlaced). “Pearl onions” means onions produced using specific cultural practices that limit growth to

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the same general size as boilers and picklers (defined in the United States Standards specified in this paragraph), and that have been inspected and certified as measuring 2 inches in diameter or less. The term “moderately cured” means the onions are mature and are more nearly well cured than fairly well cured. Other terms used in this section have the same meaning as when used in Marketing Agreement No. 130 and this part.

[47 FR 32913, July 30, 1982, as amended at 49 FR 31257, Aug. 6, 1984; 50 FR 50157, Dec. 9, 1985; 53 FR 32597, Aug. 26, 1988; 55 FR 31036, July 31, 1990; 55 FR 36601, Sept. 6, 1990; 58 FR 60369, Nov. 16, 1993; 61 FR 35593, July 8, 1996; 61 FR 39841, July 31, 1996; 63 FR 55783, Oct. 19, 1998; 69 FR 56671, Sept. 22, 2004; 71 FR 65040, Nov. 7, 2006; 76 FR 67319, Nov. 1, 2011; 76 FR 67319, Nov. 1, 2011]

PART 959—ONIONS GROWN IN SOUTH TEXAS

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