

## Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA

## § 948.78

by him as the first handler thereof during a fiscal period and the total quantity of potatoes handled by all handlers as first handlers thereof during such fiscal period.

### § 948.76 Budget.

As soon as practicable after the beginning of each fiscal period and as may be necessary thereafter, each area committee shall prepare an estimated budget of income and expenditures necessary for its administration of this part. Each area committee may recommend a rate of assessment calculated to provide adequate funds to defray its proposed expenditures. Each area committee shall present such budget to the Secretary with an accompanying report showing the basis for its calculations.

### § 948.77 Assessments.

(a) The funds to cover each area committee's expenses shall be acquired by the levying of assessments upon handlers as provided in this subpart. Each handler who first handles potatoes under this part, shall pay assessments to his respective area committee upon demand, which assessments shall be in payment of such handler's pro rata share of the area committee's expenses.

(b) Assessments shall be levied upon handlers at rates established by the Secretary. Such rates may be established upon the basis of each area committee's budget, recommendations, and other available information. Such rates may be applied to specified containers used in the production area.

(c) At any time during, or subsequent to, a given fiscal period each area committee may recommend the approval of an amended budget and an increase in the rate of assessment. Upon the basis of such recommendations, or other available information, the Secretary may approve an amended budget and increase the rate of assessment. Such increase shall be applicable to all potatoes grown within the particular area where an area committee recommends such increase and which were handled by the first handler thereof during such fiscal period.

(d) The payment of assessments for the maintenance and functioning of each area committee may be required

under this part throughout the period it is in effect irrespective to whether particular provisions thereof are suspended or become inoperative.

(e) In order to provide funds to enable each area committee to perform its functions under this part, handlers may make advance payment of assessments.

### § 948.78 Accounting.

(a) If, at the end of a fiscal period, the assessments collected are in excess of expenses incurred, such excess shall be accounted for in accordance with one of the following:

(1) If such excess is not retained in a reserve, as provided in paragraph (a)(2) of this section, it shall be refunded proportionately to the persons from whom it was collected.

(2) An area committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may carry over such excess into subsequent fiscal periods as a reserve: *Provided*, That funds already in the reserve are less than approximately two fiscal period's expenses. Such reserve funds may be used (i) to defray expenses, during any fiscal period, prior to the time assessment income is sufficient to cover such expenses; (ii) to cover deficits incurred during any fiscal period when assessment income is less than expenses; (iii) to defray expenses incurred during any period when any or all provisions of this subpart are suspended or are inoperative; (iv) to cover necessary expenses of liquidation in the event of termination of this subpart. Upon such termination, 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. 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 an area committee pursuant to the provisions of this part shall be used solely for the purposes specified herein. The Secretary may at any time require an area 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 an