

Notices

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Commodity Credit Corporation

Domestic Sugar Program: Overall Allotment Quantity and Marketing Allotments

AGENCY: Commodity Credit Corporation and Farm Service Agency, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Farm Service Agency (FSA) on behalf of the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) is issuing this notice to publish the sugar Overall Allotment Quantity (OAQ), beet and cane sugar marketing allotments, and

processor allocations for fiscal year (FY) 2016 (October 1, 2015–September 30, 2016), as well as a summary of the OAQ's, sugar marketing allotments, and allocations for FY 2015 and FY 2014. Although the actions in this notice have already been announced through United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) news releases, each determination establishing, adjusting, or suspending sugar marketing allotments issued by the Secretary is required by the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938, as amended, to be published in the **Federal Register**.

DATES: Effective: December 24, 2015.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Barb Fecso, telephone: (202) 720–4146. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication should contact the USDA Target Center at (202) 720–2600 (voice).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Initial FY 2016 OAQ, State Allotments, and Processor Allocations

Section 359c of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 (Pub. L. 75–

430), as amended, (7 U.S.C. 1359cc) requires that the OAQ be established at not less than 85 percent of the estimated quantity of sugar for domestic human consumption for the crop year, and that fixed percentages of the OAQ be assigned to the beet sector and cane sector, and further allocated to the States in the cane sector. In a September 29, 2015 news release, CCC established the FY 2016 (2015-crop year) OAQ at the minimum quantity of 10,093,750 short tons, raw value (STRV). CCC distributed the FY 2016 beet sugar allotment of 5,485,953 STRV (54.35 percent of the OAQ) to the beet sugar processors and the cane sugar allotment of 4,607,797 STRV (45.65 percent of the OAQ) to the sugarcane states and processors.

The FY 2016 (2015-crop year) beet sugar and cane sugar marketing allotments and allocations to date are listed in the following table:

FY 2016 OVERALL BEET/CANE ALLOTMENTS AND ALLOCATIONS

Distribution	Initial FY16 allocations
Date of Announcement	September 29, 2016
Beet Sugar	5,485,953
Cane Sugar	4,607,797
TOTAL OAQ	10,093,750
BEET PROCESSORS' MARKETING ALLOCATIONS:	
Amalgamated Sugar Co.	1,174,584
American Crystal Sugar Co.	2,017,406
Michigan Sugar Co.	566,565
Minn-Dak Farmers Co-op	380,994
So. Minn Beet Sugar Co-op	740,429
Western Sugar Co.	560,041
Wyoming Sugar Growers, LLC	45,935
TOTAL BEET SUGAR	5,485,953
STATE CANE SUGAR ALLOTMENTS:	
Florida	2,344,636
Louisiana	1,813,839
Texas	203,823
Hawaii	245,499
TOTAL CANE SUGAR	4,607,797
CANE PROCESSORS' MARKETING ALLOCATIONS:	
Florida:	
Florida Crystals	965,348
Growers Co-op of FL	421,765
U.S. Sugar Corp.	957,522
TOTAL	2,344,636
Louisiana:	
Louisiana Sugar Cane Products, Inc.	1,259,225

FY 2016 OVERALL BEET/CANE ALLOTMENTS AND ALLOCATIONS—Continued

Distribution	Initial FY16 allocations
Date of Announcement	September 29, 2016
M.A. Patout & Sons	554,615
TOTAL	1,813,839
Texas:	
Rio Grande Valley	203,823
Hawaii:	
Hawaiian Commercial & Sugar Company	245,499

FY 2015 OAQ, State Allotments, and Processor Allocations

On September 26, 2014, CCC announced the initial FY 2015 OAQ of 9,987,500 STRV, the distribution of the FY 2015 beet sugar allotment of 5,428,206 STRV (54.35 percent of the OAQ) to sugar beet processors, and the distribution of the 4,559,294 STRV cane sugar allotment (45.65 percent of the OAQ) to sugarcane states and processors.

In mid-year, CCC reviewed current inventories, estimated production, expected marketings, and other factors affecting each sugar beet or sugarcane processor's ability to market its full allocation. On May 4, 2015 CCC announced an increase in the FY 2015 OAQ to 10,080,150 STRV, which was 85 percent of the estimate for domestic human consumption published in the April 2015 World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates Report (WASDE). CCC also announced the reassignment of projected surplus beet sugar and cane sugar marketing

allotments and allocations under the FY 2015 Sugar Marketing Allotment Program. The reassignment, which transferred allocations from processors with surplus allocation to processors with deficit allocation, was expected to increase the available supply of domestically-produced refined beet sugar.

As part of the domestic Sugar Program, CCC is required to reassign allocation to raw cane sugar imports if it is determined that processors will be unable to market their allocations and there is no CCC inventory. Data supplied by the processors in April 2015 indicated that the beet sugar sector would be unable to market 400,000 STRV of its current sugar marketing allotment, while the raw cane sugar sector would be unable to market 600,000 STRV of its sugar marketing allotment. Therefore, the allotments were reduced to 5,078,562 STRV for beet sugar and 4,001,588 STRV for cane sugar, while 1,000,000 STRV was reassigned to raw cane sugar imports already displayed in the WASDE report.

This reassignment to imports was merely an accounting effort to comply with Sugar Program requirements as specified in 7 U.S.C. 1359ee and was not an increase in the raw sugar tariff-rate quota.

On August 28, 2015, CCC announced a second reassignment of projected FY 2015 surplus beet sugar marketing allocation among beet processors and a reassignment of projected surplus cane sugar marketing allocation among cane processors. CCC transferred beet sugar marketing allocations from beet sugar processors with surplus allocation to another beet processor requiring more allocation to market its record high crop. Similarly, CCC transferred cane sugar marketing allocation from two sugar processors in Florida with surplus allocation to another processor requiring more allocation to market its larger-than-expected crop.

The FY 2015 (2014-crop) beet sugar and cane sugar marketing allotments and allocations are listed in the following table:

FY 2015 OVERALL BEET/CANE ALLOTMENTS AND ALLOCATIONS

Distribution	Initial FY15 allocations	Change in OAQ due to change in food use	Reassignment among processors	Reassignment to imports	Adjusted allocations	Reassignment within states	Reassignment among processors	Adjusted allocations
Date of Announcement	September 26, 2014	May 4, 2015			August 28, 2015;			
Beet Sugar	5,428,206	50,355	0	(400,000)	5,078,562	—	—	5,078,562
Cane Sugar	4,559,294	42,295	0	(600,000)	4,001,588	—	—	4,001,588
Reassignment to Raw Cane Sugar Imports	0	0	0	1,000,000	1,000,000	—	—	1,000,000
TOTAL OAQ	9,987,500	92,650	0	0	10,080,150	—	—	10,080,150
BEET PROCESSORS' MARKETING ALLOCATIONS:								
Amalgamated Sugar Co. ...	1,162,220	10,781	-29,979	-71,320	1,071,703	—	(2,770)	1,068,933
American Crystal Sugar Co.	1,996,116	18,565	-75,752	-180,217	1,758,711	—	(11,701)	1,747,010
Michigan Sugar Co.	560,601	5,200	121,322	0	687,124	—	31,896	719,020
Minn-Dak Farmers Co-op.	376,983	3,497	44,520	0	425,000	—	(4,025)	420,975
So. Minn Beet Sugar Co-op.	732,635	6,796	-58,187	-138,428	542,816	—	(5,319)	537,497
Western Sugar Co.	554,200	5,093	-4,218	-10,034	545,042	—	(7,555)	537,487
Wyoming Sugar Growers, LLC	45,451	422	2,294	0	48,167	—	(527)	47,640
TOTAL BEET SUGAR STATE CANE SUGAR ALLOTMENTS:	5,428,206	50,355	0	-400,000	5,078,562	—	—	5,078,562

FY 2015 OVERALL BEET/CANE ALLOTMENTS AND ALLOCATIONS—Continued

Distribution	Initial FY15 allocations	Change in OAQ due to change in food use	Reassignment among processors	Reassignment to imports	Adjusted allocations	Reassignment within states	Reassignment among processors	Adjusted allocations
Date of Announcement	September 26, 2014	May 4, 2015			August 28, 2015;			
Florida	2,318,566	22,732	0	-332,253	2,009,046	—	—	2,009,046
Louisiana	1,793,672	17,586	0	-201,973	1,609,285	—	—	1,609,285
Texas	201,557	1,976	0	-57,275	146,258	—	—	146,258
Hawaii	245,499	0	0	-8,499	237,000	—	—	237,000
TOTAL CANE SUGAR CANE PROCESSORS' MARKETING ALLOCATIONS:	4,559,294	42,295	0	-600,000	4,001,588	—	—	4,001,588
Florida								
Florida Crystals	954,615	9,360	0	-210,252	753,723	(17,376)	—	736,347
Growers Co-op. of FL	417,076	4,089	0	-25,825	395,341	(2,134)	—	393,206
U.S. Sugar Corp.	946,876	9,284	0	-96,177	859,983	19,510	—	879,493
TOTAL	2,318,566	22,732	0	-332,253	2,009,046	—	—	2,009,046
Louisiana								
Louisiana Sugar Cane Products, Inc.	1,245,224	12,209	0	-168,664	1,088,768	—	—	1,088,768
M.A. Patout & Sons	548,448	5,377	0	-33,308	520,517	—	—	520,517
TOTAL	1,793,672	17,586	0	-201,973	1,609,285	—	—	1,609,285
Texas								
Rio Grande Valley	201,557	1,976	0	-57,275	146,258	—	—	146,258
Hawaii								
Hawaiian Commercial & Sugar Company	245,499	0	0	-8,499	237,000	—	—	237,000

FY 2014 OAQ, State Allotments, and Processor Allocations

On August 30, 2013, CCC announced the initial FY 2014 OAQ of 9,843,000 STRV, the distribution of the FY 2014 beet sugar allotment of 5,349,671 STRV (54.35 percent of the OAQ) to sugar beet processors, and the distribution of the 4,493,330 STRV cane sugar allotment (45.65 percent of the OAQ) to sugarcane states and processors.

In a May 30, 2014 news release, CCC announced the reassignment of projected surplus beet sugar and cane

sugar marketing allotments and allocations under the FY 2014 Sugar Marketing Allotment Program. The reassignment, which transferred allocations from processors with surplus allocation to processors with deficit allocation, was expected to increase the supply of domestically-produced sugar.

Data supplied by the processors indicated that the beet sugar sector would be unable to market 100,000 STRV of its sugar marketing allotment, while the raw cane sugar sector would be unable to market 550,000 STRV of its sugar marketing allotment. Hence, the

allotments were reduced to 5,249,671 STRV for beet sugar and 3,943,330 STRV for cane sugar, while 650,000 STRV was reassigned to raw cane sugar imports already expected in the WASDE report. This reassignment to imports was merely an accounting effort to comply with the Sugar Program requirements as specified in 7 U.S.C. 1359ee and was not an increase in the raw sugar tariff-rate quota.

The FY 2014 (2013-crop) beet sugar and cane sugar marketing allotments and allocations are listed in the following table:

FY 2014 OVERALL BEET/CANE ALLOTMENTS AND ALLOCATIONS

Distribution	Initial FY14 allocations	Reassignments among processors	Reassignment to imports	Adjusted allocations
	Date of Announcement	August 30, 2013			May 29, 2014
Beet Sugar	5,349,671	.....	(100,000)	5,249,671
Cane Sugar	4,493,330	.....	(550,000)	3,943,330
Reassignment to Imports of Raw Cane Sugar .....	.....	.....	650,000	650,000
TOTAL OAQ	9,843,000	.....	.....	9,843,000
BEET PROCESSORS' MARKETING ALLOCATIONS:				
Amalgamated Sugar Co.	1,145,405	(68,408)	(37,305)	1,039,693
American Crystal Sugar Co	1,967,161	(34,459)	(18,791)	1,913,912
Michigan Sugar Co.	552,490	107,128	.....	659,618
Minn-Dak Farmers Co-op	371,529	76,249	.....	447,778
So. Minn Beet Sugar Co-op	722,035	(75,606)	(41,230)	605,200
Western Sugar Co.	546,256	(345)	(73)	546,050
Wyoming Sugar Growers, LLC	44,794	(4,771)	(2,602)	37,421
TOTAL BEET SUGAR	5,349,671	.....	(100,000)	5,249,671
STATE CANE SUGAR ALLOTMENTS:				
Florida	2,283,112	(22,051)	(411,110)	1,849,951

FY 2014 OVERALL BEET/CANE ALLOTMENTS AND ALLOCATIONS—Continued

Distribution Date of Announcement	Initial FY14 allocations	Reassignments among processors	Reassignment to imports	Adjusted allocations
	August 30, 2013	May 29, 2014		
Louisiana	1,766,244	(6,044)	(112,681)	1,647,519
Texas	198,475	(1,406)	(26,209)	170,860
Hawaii	245,499	29,501	.....	275,000
TOTAL CANE SUGAR	4,493,330	.....	(550,00)	3,943,330
CANE PROCESSORS' MARKETING ALLOCATIONS:				
Florida				
Florida Crystals	940,017	(12,711)	(236,976)	690,330
Growers Co-op of FL	410,698	(3,543)	(66,055)	341,100
U.S. Sugar Corp.	932,397	(5,797)	(108,079)	818,521
TOTAL	2,283,112	(22,051)	(411,110)	1,849,951
Louisiana				
Louisiana Sugar Cane Products, Inc.	1,226,182	(4,826)	(89,968)	1,131,388
M.A. Patout & Sons	540,061	(1,218)	(22,712)	516,131
TOTAL	1,766,244	(6,044)	(112,681)	1,647,519
Texas:				
Rio Grande Valley	198,475	(1,406)	(26,209)	170,860
Hawaii:				
Hawaiian Commercial & Sugar Company	245,499	29,501	.....	275,000

Authority: 15 U.S.C. 714b and 7 U.S.C. 1359hh(c).

Val Dolcini,

Administrator, Farm Service Agency, and Executive Vice President, Commodity Credit Corporation.

[FR Doc. 2015-32456 Filed 12-23-15; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-05-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

Information Collection Activity; Comment Request

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. chapter 35, as amended), the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Rural Utilities Service (RUS) invites comments on this information collection for which the Agency intends to request approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by February 22, 2016.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Thomas P. Dickson, Acting Director, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, USDA Rural Development, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., STOP 1522, Room 5164, South Building, Washington, DC 20250-1522.

Telephone: (202) 690-4492. Fax: (202) 720-8435.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) regulation (5 CFR part 1320) implementing provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13) requires that interested members of the public and affected agencies have an opportunity to comment on information collection and recordkeeping activities (see 5 CFR 1320.8(d)). This notice identifies an information collection that RUS is submitting to OMB as a revision to an existing collection. Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to: Thomas P. Dickson, Acting Director, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, Rural Utilities Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, STOP 1522,

Room 5164, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250-1522. Fax: (202) 720-8435.

Title: 7 CFR part 1728, Electric Standards and Specifications for Materials and Construction.

OMB Control Number: 0572-0131.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: RUS provides loans and loan guarantees in accordance with the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, 7 U.S.C. 901 *et seq.*, as amended, (RE Act). Section 4 of the RE Act requires that the Agency make or guarantee a loan only if there is reasonable assurance that the loan, together with all outstanding loans and obligations of the Borrower, will be repaid in full within the time agreed. In order to facilitate the programmatic interests of the RE Act and, in order to assure that loans made or guaranteed by the Agency are adequately secure, RUS, as a secured lender, has established certain standards and specifications for materials, equipment, and the construction of electric systems. The use of standards and specifications for materials, equipment and construction units helps assure the Agency that: (1) Appropriate standards and specifications are maintained; (2) RUS loan security is not adversely affected, and; (3) Loan and loan guarantee funds are used effectively and for the intended purposes. The regulation, 7 CFR part 1728, establishes Agency policy that materials and equipment purchased by RUS Electric Borrowers or accepted as contractor-furnished material must