DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Office of the Secretary

Increase in Fiscal Year 2016 Specialty Sugar Tariff-Rate Quota, and Determination of Total Amounts of Fiscal Year 2017 WTO Tariff-Rate Quotas for Raw Cane Sugar and Certain Sugars, Syrups and Molasses

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Office of the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture (the Secretary) is providing notice of an increase in the fiscal year (FY) 2016 specialty sugar tariff-rate quota (TRQ) of 20,000 metric tons raw value (MTRV).

The Secretary also announces the establishment of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 (October 1, 2016–September 30, 2017) in-quota aggregate quantity of raw cane sugar at 1,117,195 metric tons raw value (MTRV), and the establishment of the FY 2017 in-quota aggregate quantity of certain sugars, syrups, and molasses (also referred to as refined sugar) at 162,000 MTRV.

DATES: Effective Date: May 6, 2016.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
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SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On June 15, 2015, USDA announced the establishment of the in-quota quantity of the FY 2016 refined sugar TRQ at 132,000 MTRV for which the sucrose content, by weight in the dry state, must have a polarimeter reading of 99.5 degrees or more (FR 80, No. 114, June 15, 2015, page 34129). This amount includes the minimum level to which the United States is committed under the WTO Uruguay Round Agreements (22,000 MTRV of which 1,656 MTRV is reserved for specialty sugar) and an additional 110,000 MTRV reserved for specialty sugars.

Pursuant to Additional U.S. Note 5 to Chapter 17 of the U.S. Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTS) and Section 359k of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938, as amended, the Secretary today increases the overall FY 2016 refined sugar TRQ by 20,000 MTRV to 152,000 MTRV. The increased amount is reserved for specialty sugar. Entry of this sugar will be permitted beginning May 9, 2016. The sugar entered under this tariff-rate quota is reserved for organic sugar and other specialty sugars not currently produced commercially in the United States or reasonably available from domestic sources.

The provisions of paragraph (a)(i) of the Additional U.S. Note 5, Chapter 17 in the U.S. Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTS) authorize the Secretary to establish the in-quota tariff-rate quota (TRQ) amounts (expressed in terms of raw value) for imports of raw cane sugar and certain sugars, syrups, and molasses that may be entered under the subheadings of the HTS subject to the lower tier of duties during each fiscal year. The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) is responsible for the allocation of these quantities among supplying countries and areas.

Section 359(k) of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938, as amended, requires that at the beginning of the quota year the Secretary of Agriculture establish the TRQs for raw cane sugar and refined sugars at the minimum levels necessary to comply with obligations under international trade agreements, with the exception of specialty sugar.

Notice is hereby given that the Secretary has determined, in accordance with paragraph (a)(i) of the Additional U.S. Note 5, Chapter 17 in the HTSs and section 359(k) of the 1938 Act, that an aggregate quantity of up to 1,17,195 MTRV of raw sugar may be entered or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption during FY 2017. This is the minimum amount to which the United States is committed under the WTO Uruguay Round Agreements. The Secretary has further determined that an aggregate quantity of 162,000 MTRV of sugars, syrups, and molasses may be entered or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption during FY 2017. This quantity includes the minimum amount to which the United States is committed under the WTO Uruguay Round Agreements, 22,000 MTRV, of which 20,344 MTRV is established for any sugars, syrups and molasses, and 1,656 MTRV is reserved for specialty sugar. An additional amount of 140,000 MTRV is added to the specialty sugar TRQ for a total of 141,656 MTRV.

Because the specialty sugar TRQ is first-come, first-served, tranches are needed to allow for orderly marketing throughout the year. The FY 2017 specialty sugar TRQ will be opened in five tranches. The first tranche, totaling 1,656 MTRV, will open October 3, 2016. All specialty sugars are eligible for entry under this tranche. The second tranche will open on October 26, 2016, and be equal to 40,000 MTRV. The third tranche of 38,344 MTRV will open on January 6, 2017. The fourth and fifth tranches of 30,000 MTRV each will open on April 8, 2017, and July 7, 2017, respectively. The second, third, fourth, and fifth tranches will be reserved for organic sugar and other specialty sugars not currently produced commercially in the United States or reasonably available from domestic sources.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number and the agency informs potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information that such persons are not required to respond to the collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Food and Nutrition Service

Title: Evaluation of Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentives (FINI).

OMB Control Number: 0584–NEW.

Summary of Collection: The Agriculture Act of 2014 (Pub. L. 113–79) authorized USDA to provide Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentives (FINI) grants to eligible organizations to design and implement projects to increase purchases of fruits and vegetables among low income consumers participating in the SNAP by providing incentives at point of purchase.

Need and Use of the Information: The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) will collect information to measure changes in fruit and vegetable purchases and consumption, food security, and perceived diet quality and health status among Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) participants receiving incentives at point of purchase.

Description of Respondents: Individuals/Households, State/Local Government, Business or other for-profit; Not-for-profit institutions.

Number of Respondents: 11,286.

Frequency of Responses: 64,656.