### MARKETING POLICY ESTIMATES—1994 CROP

[Kernelweight basis in millions of pounds]

|   | 12/9/94<br>Initial<br>esti-<br>mates | 5/12/95<br>Revised<br>esti-<br>mates |
|---|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Estimated Production:   |                                      |                                      |
| <ol> <li>1. 1994 Production</li> <li>2. Loss and Exempt—</li> </ol> | 640.0                                | 727.1                                |
| 3.0%3. Marketable Produc-   | 19.2                                 | 21.8                                 |
| tion<br>Estimated Trade De-   | 620.8                                | 705.3                                |
| mand:   |                                      |                                      |
| 4. Domestic   | 175.0                                | 152.8                                |
| 5. Export   | 381.4                                | 449.0                                |
| 6. Total  | 556.4                                | 601.8                                |
| Inventory Adjustment: 7. Carryin 7/1/94                             | 99.6                                 | 102.6                                |
| 8. Desirable Carry-   |                                      |                                      |
| over 6/30/95  | 100.0                                | 206.1                                |
| 9. Adjustment (Item 8   |                                      |                                      |
| minus item 7)   | 0.4                                  | 103.5                                |
| Salable/Reserve:  |                                      |                                      |
| 10. Adjusted Trade  |                                      |                                      |
| Demand (Item 6 plus item 9)   | 556.8                                | 705.3                                |
| 11. Reserve (Item 3   | 330.6                                | 705.5                                |
| minus item 10)  | 64.0                                 | 0                                    |
| 12. Salable % (ltem   |                                      |                                      |
| 10 divided by item  |                                      |                                      |
| 3×100)  | 1 90                                 | 100.0                                |
| 13. Reserve % (100%   | 140                                  |                                      |
| minus item 12)  | <sup>1</sup> 10                      | 0                                    |

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Percent.

As previously mentioned and reflected in the table, estimated almond crop production for the 1994–95 season increased from 640 to 727.1 million kernelweight pounds. Estimated weight losses resulting from the removal of inedible kernels by handlers and losses during manufacturing also increased from 19.2 to 21.8 million kernelweight pounds. Therefore, marketable production is expected at 705.3 million kernelweight pounds.

The Board's estimated trade demand (or shipments) also increased from 556.5 million kernelweight pounds to a total of 601.8 kernelweight pounds. If the estimates are achieved, this would set a new record for the California almond industry. Although estimated domestic trade demand decreased from 175 to 152.8 million kernelweight pounds, estimated export trade demand increased sharply from 381.4 to 449 million kernelweight pounds. Almond production in the rest of the world was well below normal, contributing to a significant increase in the amount of California almonds shipped into export markets.

The Board also revised its inventory estimates. The carryin figure—supplies of salable almonds carried in from the 1993–94 crop year—was slightly revised

from 99.6 to 102.6 million kernelweight pounds. The desirable carryout figuresupplies of salable almonds to be carried out on June 30 for early season shipment during the 1995-96 crop year-was revised from 100 to 206.1 million kernelweight pounds. With the projected short crop for the upcoming season, the carryout figure was significantly increased to provide a more adequate supply of almonds available to meet early market needs. After taking into account the carryin and desirable carryover figures, the adjusted trade demand was increased from 556.8 to 705.3 million kernelweight pounds, an amount equal to the Board's estimate of marketable production.

The order also permits the Board to recommend the establishment of a percentage of reserve almonds that can be exported. However, export is currently the largest market for California almonds and is not considered a secondary or noncompetitive outlet. For the 1994-95 crop year, exports were included in the trade demand and the export market was not an authorized reserve outlet. The percentage of reserve almonds available for export was established at 0 percent in the final rule previously cited that established volume regulation for the 1994-95 crop. The export percentage is not changed as a result of this action.

The Board believed that immediate release of the reserve will positively impact market stability by increasing the amount of almonds available to the market prior to the harvest of the 1995 crop, and by augmenting the overall supply available for the upcoming season. The interim final rule is expected to facilitate a smooth transition into the 1995–96 season. Since market stability is of paramount importance in achieving long-term industry health, the Board concluded that there are no viable alternatives to its recommendation.

This rule is not expected to impose any additional costs on handlers or producers because release of the reserve will eliminate the need for handlers to store almonds and will allow the product to enter an eager market in a smooth fashion. Therefore, the Administrator of the AMS has determined that the issuance of this final rule will not have a significant economic effect on a substantial number of small entities.

After consideration of all relevant material presented, including the Board's recommendation, and other available information, it is found that finalizing the interim final rule, without

change, as published in the **Federal Register** (60 FR 28520, June 1, 1995) will tend to effectuate the declared policy of the Act.

## List of Subjects in 7 CFR Part 981

Almonds, Marketing agreements, Nuts, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

For the reasons set forth in the preamble, 7 CFR part 981 is amended as follows:

# PART 981—ALMONDS GROWN IN CALIFORNIA

Accordingly, the interim final rule amending 7 CFR part 981 which was published at 60 FR 28520 on June 1, 1995, is adopted as a final rule without change.

Dated: July 31, 1995.

#### Martha B. Ransom,

Acting Deputy Director, Fruit and Vegetable Division.

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#### 7 CFR Part 982

[Docket No. FV95-982-1IFR]

# Filberts/Hazelnuts Grown in Oregon and Washington; Expenses and Assessment Rate

**AGENCY:** Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Interim final rule with request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** This interim final rule authorizes expenditures and establishes an assessment rate under Marketing Order No. 982 for the 1995-96 marketing year. Authorization of this budget enables the Filbert/Hazelnut Marketing Board (Board) to incur expenses that are reasonable and necessary to administer the program. Funds to administer this program are derived from assessments on handlers. DATES: Effective July 1, 1995, through June 30, 1996. Comments received by September 6, 1995, will be considered prior to issuance of a final rule. **ADDRESSES:** Interested persons are invited to submit written comments concerning this action. Comments must be sent in triplicate to the Docket Clerk, Fruit and Vegetable Division, AMS, USDA, P.O. Box 96456, room 2523-S, Washington, DC 20090-6456, FAX 202-720–5698. Comments should reference the docket number and the date and page number of this issue of the **Federal Register** and will be available for public inspection in the Office of the Docket Clerk during regular business hours.