referendum, if the continuation of the Order is not approved by a majority of producers, feeders, and importers voting in the referendum, or by producers, feeders, and importers voting in the referendum who account for at least two-thirds of the production represented by the persons voting in the referendum, the Order will be suspended or terminated. These rules would also apply to any additional referendum conducted pursuant to the

The Act specifies that the initial referendum and any subsequent referendum be conducted on a date and location established by the Secretary, under a procedure by which sheep producers, sheep feeders, and importers of sheep and sheep products intending to vote in the referendum shall certify that they were engaged in sheep production, sheep feeding, or the importation of sheep and sheep products during the representative period and, on the same day, would have an opportunity to vote in the referendum. In addition, the Act provides that the Secretary must provide absentee ballots on request made either in-person or by mail. The Department proposes that the initial referendum be conducted at county Cooperative Extension Service (CES) offices. The CES of the U.S. Department of Agriculture will coordinate with State and County CES offices concerning their roles in conducting the initial referendum.

The proposed rule sets forth procedures to be followed in conducting the referendum under the Act, including definitions, supervision of the referendum, registration, voting procedures, reporting referendum results, and disposition of the ballots and records. The Department proposes that the Consolidated Farm Service Agency (CFSA) of the Department assist in the conduct of the referendum by;

- (1) counting ballots;
- (2) determining the eligibility of challenged voters; and
 - (3) reporting referendum results.

List of Subjects in 7 CFR Part 1280

Administrative practice and procedure, Advertising, Agricultural research, Marketing agreements, Sheep and sheep products, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

For the reasons set forth in the preamble, it is proposed that 7 CFR part 1280 as proposed to be added at 60 FR 28751 (June 2, 1995), be amended as follows:

PART 1280—SHEEP PROMOTION, RESEARCH, AND INFORMATION

1. The authority citation for 7 CFR Part 1280 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 7101-7111.

2. Part 1280 as proposed to be added at 60 FR 28751 (June 2, 1995), is amended by adding Subpart E to read as

Subpart E-Procedures for the Conduct of Referendum

Definitions

Sec. 1280.601 Act. 1280.602 Administrator. 1280.603 Carbonized wool. 1280.604 Consolidated Farm Service Agency. 1280.606 Consolidated Farm Service Agency County Committee. 1280.606 Consolidated Farm Service Agency County Executive Director. 1280.607 Cooperative Extension Service. 1280.608 Cooperative Extension Service agent. 1280.609 Cooperative Extension Service of

the U.S. Department of Agriculture. 1280.610 Degreased wool.

Department. 1280.611

1280.612 Deputy Administrator.

1280.613 Feeder.

1280.614 Greasy wool.

1280.615 Importer.

1280.616 Order.

1280 617 Person

1280.618 Producer.

1280.619 Public notice. 1280.620 Pulled wool.

1280.621 Raw wool.

1280.622 Referendum.

1280.623 Registration period.

1280.624 Representative period.

1280.625 Secretary.

1280.626 Sheep.

1280.627 Sheep products.

1280.628 State.

1280.629 Unit.

1280.630 United States.

1280.631 Volume of production.

1280.632 Voting period.

1280.633 Wool.

1280.634 Wool products.

Referendum

1280.650 General.

1280.651 Supervision of referendum.

1280.652 Eligibility.

1280.653 Time and place of registration and voting.

1280.654 Facilities for registering and

voting. 1280.655 Registration form and ballot.

1280.656 Registration and voting

procedures.

1280.657 List of registered voters.

1280.658 Challenge of voters.

1280.659 Receiving ballots. 1280.660 Canvassing ballots.

1280.661 CFSA county office report.

1280.662 CFSA State office report.

1280.663 Results of the referendum

1280.664 Disposition of ballots and records.

1280.665 Instructions and forms.

Subpart E-Procedures for the Conduct of Referendum

Definitions

§1280.601 Act.

The term "Act" means the Sheep Promotion, Research, and Information Act of 1994, 7 U.S.C. 7101-7111; Public Law 103-407; 108 Statute 4210; as approved October 22, 1994, and any amendments thereto.

§1280.602 Administrator.

The term "Administrator" means the Administrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service, or any officer or employee of the Department to whom there has heretofore been delegated or may hereafter be delegated the authority to act in the Administrator's stead.

§1280.603 Carbonized wool.

The term "Carbonized wool" means wool that has been immersed in a bath, usually of mineral acids or acid salts, that destroys vegetable matter in the wool, but does not affect the wool fibers.

§1280.604 Consolidated Farm Service Agency.

The term "Consolidated Farm Service Agency"—formerly Agricultural Stabilization Conservation Service (ASCS)—also referred to as "CFSA," means the Consolidated Farm Service Agency of the Department.

§1280.605 Consolidated Farm Service Agency County Committee.

The term "Consolidated Farm Service Agency County Committee," also referred to as the "CFSA County Committee or COC," means the group of persons within a county elected to act as the Consolidated Farm Service Agency County Committee.

§1280.606 Consolidated Farm Service Agency County Executive Director.

The term "Consolidated Farm Service Agency County Executive Director" also referred to as the "CFSA County Executive Director," means the person employed by the CFSA County Committee to execute the policies of the CFSA county committee and be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the county CFSA office, or the person acting in such capacity.

§ 1280.607 Cooperative Extension Service.

The term "Cooperative Extension Service," also referred to as "CES" means the State partner in the Cooperative Extension Service system.

§1280.608 Cooperative Extension Service Agent.

The term "Cooperative Extension Service Agent," also referred to as the