

file comments through December 30, 1994. No comments were received.

While this action will impose some additional costs on handlers and producers, the costs on handlers are in the form of uniform assessments, and those on producers will be shared equally by all equity holders in the 1994-95 reserve pool for Natural (sun-dried) Seedless raisins. However, these costs will be offset by the benefits derived by the operation of the marketing order. Therefore, the Administrator of the AMS has determined that this action will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.

After consideration of all relevant matter presented, including the information and recommendations submitted by the Committee and other available information, it is hereby found that this rule, as hereinafter set forth, will tend to effectuate the declared policy of the Act.

It is further found that good cause exists for not postponing the effective date of this action until 30 days after publication in the **Federal Register** (5 U.S.C. 553) because the Committee needs to have sufficient funds to pay its expenses which are incurred on a continuous basis. The 1994-95 crop year began on August 1, 1994. The marketing order requires that the rate of assessment for the crop year apply to all assessable raisins handled during the crop year. In addition, handlers are aware of this action which was unanimously recommended by the Committee at a public meeting and published in the **Federal Register** as an interim final rule.

List of Subjects in 7 CFR Part 989

Grapes, Marketing agreements, Raisins, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

PART 989—RAISINS PRODUCED FROM GRAPES GROWN IN CALIFORNIA

Accordingly, the interim final rule amending 7 CFR part 989 which was published at 59 FR 54379 on October 31, 1994, is adopted as a final rule without change.

Dated: January 18, 1995.

Sharon Bomer Lauritsen,

Deputy Director, Fruit and Vegetable Division.
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Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

9 CFR Part 91

[Docket No. 93-031-2]

Inspection of Animals for Export to Mexico or Canada

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: We are amending the regulations concerning the inspection and handling of livestock for exportation by requiring that all animals intended for exportation other than by land (that is to say, by air or sea) to Mexico or Canada receive a final inspection by an Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service veterinarian at an export inspection facility at a designated port of embarkation. We have determined this action is necessary to help ensure that only healthy animals are exported from the United States.

EFFECTIVE DATE: February 23, 1995.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Michael David, Senior Staff Veterinarian, Import-Export Animals Staff, National Center for Import-Export, Veterinary Services, APHIS, USDA, P.O. Drawer 810, Riverdale, MD 20738. The telephone number for the agency contact will change when agency offices in Hyattsville, MD, move to Riverdale, MD, in February. Telephone: (301) 436-7511 (Hyattsville); (301) 734-7511 (Riverdale).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The regulations in 9 CFR part 91, "Inspection and Handling of Livestock for Exportation" (referred to below as the regulations), prescribe conditions for exporting animals from the United States. Section 91.3(a) requires, among other things, that all animals intended for exportation to Mexico or Canada, except cattle from Mexico imported into the United States in bond for temporary feeding and return to Mexico, be accompanied from the State of origin of the export movement to the border of the United States by an origin health certificate. Section 91.3(b) requires, among other things, that all animals in export shipments, except animals intended for export to Mexico or Canada, be inspected, tested, or treated as prescribed in the regulations before the movement of the export shipment to the export inspection facility. Section 91.14(a) requires that all animals, except animals being exported to Mexico or Canada, be exported through designated

ports of embarkation with export inspection facilities that meet the standards for export inspection facilities specified in § 91.14(c). Section 91.15(a) requires that all animals offered for exportation to foreign countries, except Mexico or Canada, be inspected by an Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) veterinarian at either: (1) An export inspection facility at a port designated in § 91.14(a); or (2) in special cases, at a port or inspection facility designated by the Administrator under § 91.14(b).

On April 26, 1994, we published in the **Federal Register** (59 FR 21675-21676, Docket No. 93-031-1) a proposal to amend the regulations by requiring that all animals intended for exportation other than by land (that is to say, by air or sea) to Mexico or Canada receive a final inspection by an APHIS veterinarian at an export inspection facility at a designated port of embarkation to help ensure that only healthy animals are exported from the United States.

We solicited comments concerning our proposal for 60 days ending June 27, 1994. We received three comments by that date. They were from one producer and two horse industry organizations. We carefully considered these comments, which are discussed below by topic.

Basis for Change

One commenter stated that there is no evidence that unhealthy horses are being exported to Canada or Mexico, or that Canadian or Mexican officials are concerned about the problem. The commenter stated further that if these countries are concerned, they and not APHIS need to address the problem. We have made no change in response to this comment. It is the responsibility of the Secretary of Agriculture to ensure that only healthy horses and other livestock are exported from the United States (21 U.S.C. 105, 112, 113, 612 and 614).

One commenter stated that the present regulations, which require the animals to be accompanied from the State of origin to the port of embarkation by an origin health certificate, are sufficient. We have made no change based on this comment. We agree that the present regulations are sufficient for animals traveling by land to Canada or Mexico because of the follow-up inspection at the border. However, animals identified on the origin health certificate may have been inspected at any time within 30 days prior to the date of the export movement. We believe that a final inspection at the port of embarkation is necessary for animals shipped to Canada or Mexico by air or