

Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA

§ 993.41

marketing conditions relative to prunes, which are necessary in connection with the performance of its official duties;

(d) To select, from among its members, a chairman and other appropriate officers, and to adopt such rules and regulations for the conduct of the business of the committee as it may deem advisable;

(e) To appoint or employ such other persons as it may deem necessary, and to determine the salaries and define the duties of such persons;

(f) To submit to the Secretary not later than the fourth Tuesday of July of each year, a budget of its anticipated expenditures and the recommended rate of assessment for the ensuing crop year, and the supporting data therefor;

(g) To submit to the Secretary such available information with respect to prunes as the committee may deem appropriate, or as the Secretary may request;

(h) To prepare and submit to the Secretary quarterly statements of the financial operations of the committee, exclusive of reserve prune operations, and to make such statements, together with the minutes of the meetings of said committee, available for inspection at the offices of the committee by producers, dehydrators, and handlers;

(i) To prepare and submit to the Secretary annually, as soon as practicable after the end of each crop year and at such other times as the committee may deem appropriate or the Secretary may request, a statement of the committee's financial operations with respect to reserve prunes for such crop year and to make such statement available at the offices of the committee for inspection by producers, dehydrators, and handlers;

(j) To cause the books of the committee to be audited by a certified public accountant at least once each crop year, and at such other times as the committee may deem necessary or as the Secretary may request, and two copies of each such audit report shall be submitted to the Secretary and a copy which does not contain confidential data shall be available for inspection at the offices of the committee, by producers, dehydrators, and handlers;

(k) To give the Secretary the same notice of meetings of the committee as is given to the members of the committee;

(l) To give producers, dehydrators, and handlers reasonable advance notice of meetings of the committee, and to maintain all such meetings open to such persons;

(m) To investigate compliance with the provisions of this subpart and with any rules and regulations established pursuant to such provisions; and

(n) To establish, with the approval of the Secretary, such rules and procedures relative to administration of this subpart as may be consistent with the provisions contained in this subpart and as may be necessary to accomplish the purposes of the act and the efficient administration of this subpart.

[30 FR 9798, Aug. 6, 1965, as amended at 37 FR 861, Jan. 20, 1972]

§ 993.37 Research and development.

The committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may establish or provide for the establishment of marketing research and development projects designed to assist, improve, or promote the marketing, distribution, and consumption of prunes. The expense of such projects shall be paid from funds collected pursuant to § 993.81.

MARKETING POLICY

§ 993.41 Marketing policy.

(a) On or before the first Tuesday of each July, the committee shall prepare and submit to the Secretary a report setting forth its recommended marketing policy for the ensuing crop year. If it becomes advisable to modify such policy, because of changed demand, supply, or other conditions, the committee shall formulate a new policy and shall submit a report thereon to the Secretary. Notice of the committee's marketing policy, and of any modifications thereof, shall be given promptly by reasonable publicity to producers, dehydrators, and handlers.

(b) In formulating its marketing policy for the ensuing crop year, the committee shall consider and shall include in its report to the Secretary, the following estimates (natural condition basis) and recommendations:

§ 993.48

- (1) The carryover of salable prunes as of August 1;
- (2) The carryover of reserve prunes as of August 1;
- (3) The grade and size composition of the salable and reserve carryovers;
- (4) The quantity of prunes to be produced without regard to possible diversions of prune plums by producers;
- (5) The probable quality and prune sizes in the crop;
- (6) The domestic trade demand by uses of prunes;
- (7) The foreign trade demand by countries or groups of countries;
- (8) The desirable carryout of salable prunes at the end of the ensuing crop year;
- (9) The quantity of undersized prunes in the crop, itemized as to French prunes and non-French prunes;
- (10) The quantity of prunes to be withheld as reserve prunes so as to protect against errors of estimation and permit orderly marketing of the supply;
- (11) The recommended salable and reserve percentages;
- (12) The quantity of prune plums, dried weight basis, deemed desirable to be diverted pursuant to § 993.62;
- (13) Any recommended change in regulations pursuant to §§ 933.49 to 993.53, inclusive;
- (14) The probable assessable tonnage for the purposes of § 993.81; and
- (15) The current prices for prunes, the trend and level of consumer income, whether producer prices are likely to exceed parity, and such other factors as may have a bearing on the marketing of prunes or the administration of this part.

[30 FR 9798, Aug. 6, 1965, as amended at 37 FR 862, Jan. 20, 1972]

PROHIBITION ON HANDLING

§ 993.48 Regulation.

No handler shall handle prunes except in accordance with the provisions of this part.

[30 FR 9799, Aug. 6, 1965]

GRADE AND SIZE REGULATIONS

§ 993.49 Incoming regulation.

(a) No handler shall receive prunes from producers or dehydrators, other

than substandard prunes and undersized prunes, unless such prunes meet the minimum standards for natural condition prunes set forth in § 993.97 (Exhibit A), or as such standards may be modified, or the more restrictive grade regulation established pursuant to this section, and then in effect: *Provided*, That no handler shall receive any prunes (including substandard prunes and undersized prunes) from producers or dehydrators unless such prunes have been properly dried and cured in original natural condition, without the addition of water, and are free from active insect infestation, so that they are capable of being received, stored, and packed without material deterioration or spoilage. Any "high moisture content prunes," as described in the exception in § 993.5(b), in the possession of a handler, shall be held separate and apart from any prunes held by him. If such "high moisture content prunes" are dried or dehydrated to a point where they are capable of being stored, without material deterioration or spoilage, unrefrigerated or not otherwise artificially preserved, they shall be deemed, at that time, to have been received by such handler as prunes, and shall be subject to all of the conditions and restrictions of this subpart.

(b) The Secretary, on the basis of a recommendation of the committee or other information, may establish size regulations or more restrictive grade regulations with respect to prunes that may be received by a handler from producers and dehydrators whenever he finds that such action would tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act.

(c) In no crop year shall a handler receive from producers or dehydrators prunes, other than as undersized prunes, which pass freely through a round opening with a diameter as follows: For French prunes 23/32 of an inch, and for non-French prunes 28/32 of an inch: *Provided*, That the Secretary upon a recommendation of the Committee, may establish larger openings whenever it is determined that supply conditions for a crop year warrant such regulation. The quantity of undersized prunes in any lot received by a handler from a producer or dehydrator shall be determined by the inspection service