

§ 924.32

(g) To act as intermediary between the Secretary and any grower or handler;

(h) To investigate and assemble data on the growing, handling, and marketing conditions with respect to prunes;

(i) To submit to the Secretary such available information as he may request;

(j) To notify producers and handlers of all meetings of the committee to consider recommendations for regulations;

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

(l) To investigate compliance with the provisions of this part;

(m) With the approval of the Secretary, to redefine the districts into which the production area is divided, and to reapportion the representation of any district on the committee: *Provided*, That any such changes shall reflect, insofar as practicable, shifts in prune production within the districts and the production area.

§ 924.32 Procedure.

(a) Six members of the committee, including alternates acting for members, shall constitute a quorum; and any action of the committee shall require the concurring vote of at least 6 members: *Provided*, That any action relating to regulations authorized by §§ 924.52 and 924.53 which would be effective in District 2 shall require the concurring vote of at least 2 members from District 2.

(b) The committee may provide for simultaneous meetings of groups of its members assembled at two or more designated places: *Provided*, That such meetings shall be subject to the establishment of communication between all such groups and the availability of loud speaker receivers for each group so that each member may participate in the discussions and other actions the same as if the committee were assembled in one place. Any such meeting shall be considered as an assembled meeting.

(c) The committee may vote by telegraph, telephone, or other means of communication, and any votes so cast shall be confirmed promptly in writing:

7 CFR Ch. IX (1-1-05 Edition)

Provided, That if an assembled meeting is held, all votes shall be cast in person.

§ 924.33 Expenses and compensation.

The members of the committee, and alternates when acting as members, shall be reimbursed for expenses necessarily incurred by them in the performance of their duties under this part and may also receive compensation, as determined by the committee, which shall not exceed \$10 per day or portion thereof spent in performing such duties: *Provided*, That at its discretion the committee may request the attendance of one or more alternates at any or all meetings, notwithstanding the expected or actual presence of the respective members, and may pay expenses and compensation, as aforesaid.

§ 924.34 Annual report.

The committee shall, prior to the last day of each fiscal period, prepare and mail an annual report to the Secretary and make a copy available to each handler and grower who requests a copy of the report. This annual report shall contain at least: (a) A complete review of the regulatory operations during the fiscal period; (b) an appraisal of the effect of such regulatory operations upon the prune industry; and (c) any recommendations for changes in the program.

EXPENSES AND ASSESSMENTS

§ 924.40 Expenses.

The committee is authorized to incur such expenses as the Secretary finds are reasonable and likely to be incurred by the committee for its maintenance and functioning and to enable it to exercise its powers and perform its duties in accordance with the provisions of this part during each fiscal period. The funds to cover such expenses shall be acquired by the levying of assessments as prescribed in § 924.41.

§ 924.41 Assessments.

(a) Each person who first handles prunes shall, with respect to the prunes so handled by him, pay to the committee upon demand such person's pro rata share of the expenses which the