

## Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA

## § 959.27

*District No. 1:* (Coastal Bend) The Counties of Victoria, Calhoun, Goliad, Refugio, Bee, Live Oak, San Patricio, Aransas, Jim Wells, Nueces, Kleberg, Brooks, Kenedy, Duval, and McMullen in the State of Texas.

*District No. 2:* (Laredo) The Counties of Zapata, Webb, and Jim Hogg in the State of Texas.

*District No. 3:* (Lower Valley) The Counties of Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr, and Willacy in the State of Texas.

*District No. 4:* (Wilson-Karnes) The Counties of DeWitt, Wilson, Atascosa, and Karnes in the State of Texas.

*District No. 5:* (Winter Garden) The Counties of Val Verde, Frio, Kinney, Uvalde, Medina, Maverick, Zavala, Dimmit, and La Salle in the State of Texas.

### § 959.25 Redistricting.

The committee may recommend, and pursuant thereto, the Secretary may approve, the reapportionment of members among districts, and the reestablishment of districts within the production area. In recommending any such changes, the committee shall give consideration to:

(a) Shifts in onion acreage within the districts and within the production area during recent years;

(b) The importance of new production in its relation to existing districts;

(c) The equitable relationship of committee membership and districts;

(d) Economies to result for producers in promoting efficient administration due to redistricting or reapportionment of members within districts; and

(e) Other relevant factors. No change in districting or in apportionment of members within districts may become effective less than 30 days prior to the date on which terms of office begin each year and no recommendations for such redistricting or reapportionment may be made less than six months prior to such date.

### § 959.26 Selection.

The Secretary shall select members and respective alternates from districts established pursuant to § 959.24 or § 959.25. Initial selections shall be as follows:

*District No. 1:* 3 producer members and alternates; 1 handler member and alternate.

*District No. 2:* 2 producer members and alternates; 1 handler member and alternate.

*District No. 3:* 3 producer members and alternates; 2 handler member and alternates.

*District No. 4:* 1 handler member and alternate.

*District No. 5:* 2 producer members and alternates; 2 handler members and alternates.

### § 959.27 Nomination.

The Secretary may select the members of the committee and alternates from nominations which may be made in the following manner:

(a) A meeting or meetings of producers and handlers shall be held for each district to nominate members and alternates for the committee. For nominations to the initial committee, the meetings may be sponsored by the United States Department of Agriculture or by any agency or group requested to do so by such department. For nominations for succeeding members and alternates on the committee, the committee shall hold such meetings or cause them to be held prior to June 15 of each year, after the effective date of this subpart, or by such other date as may be specified by the Secretary;

(b) At each such meeting at least one nominee shall be designated for each position as member and for each position as alternate member on the committee;

(c) Nominations for committee members and alternates shall be supplied to the Secretary in such manner and form as he may prescribe, not later than July 1 of each year, or by such other date as may be specified by the Secretary;

(d) Only producers may participate in designating producer nominees, and only handlers may participate in naming handler nominees. In the event a person is engaged in producing or handling onions in more than one district, such person shall elect the district within which he may participate as aforesaid in designating nominees;

(e) Regardless of the number of districts in which a person produces or handles onions, each such person is entitled to cast only one vote on behalf of himself, his agents, subsidiaries, affiliates, and representatives in designating nominees for committee members and alternates. An eligible voter's privilege of casting only one vote as aforesaid shall be construed to permit