

Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA

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may receive reasonable compensation at a rate recommended by the committee and approved by the Secretary. [33 FR 8504, June 8, 1968]

§ 953.26 Powers.

The committee shall have the following powers:

- (a) To administer the provisions of this subpart in accordance with its terms;
- (b) To make rules and regulations to effectuate the terms and provisions of this subpart;
- (c) To receive, investigate, and report to the Secretary complaints of violation of the provisions of this subpart; and
- (d) To recommend to the Secretary amendments to this subpart.

§ 953.27 Duties.

It shall be the duty of the committee:

- (a) To act as intermediary between the Secretary and any producer or handler;
- (b) To keep minutes, books, and records which clearly reflect all of the acts and transactions of the committee and such minutes, books, and records shall be subject to examination at any time by the Secretary or his authorized agent or representative;
- (c) To investigate, from time to time, and to assemble data on the growing, harvesting, shipping, and marketing conditions with respect to potatoes, and to engage in such research and service activities which relate to the handling or marketing of potatoes as may be approved by the Secretary;
- (d) To furnish to the Secretary such available information as he may request;
- (e) To select subcommittees of committee members, a chairman and such other officers as may be necessary, and to adopt such rules and regulations for conduct of its business as it may deem advisable;
- (f) At the beginning of each fiscal year, to submit to the Secretary a budget of its expenses for such fiscal year, together with a report thereon;
- (g) To cause the books of the committee to be audited by a competent accountant at least once each fiscal year and at such other time as the committee may deem necessary or as

the Secretary may request. The report of such audit shall show the receipt and expenditure of funds collected pursuant to this part; a copy of each such report shall be furnished to the Secretary and a copy of each such report shall be made available at the principal office of the committee for inspection by producers and handlers;

- (h) To appoint such employees, agents, and representatives as it may deem necessary and to determine the salaries and define the duties of each such person; and
- (i) To consult, cooperate and exchange information with other potato marketing committees and other individuals or agencies in connection with all proper committee activities and objectives under this subpart.

§ 953.28 Obligations.

Upon the removal or expiration of the term of office of any member of the committee, such member shall account for all receipts and disbursements and deliver all property and funds, together with all books and records, in his possession, to his successor in office or to a trustee designated by the Secretary and shall execute such assignments and other instruments as may be necessary or appropriate to vest in such successor or trustee full title to all the property, funds, and claims vested in such member pursuant to this section: *Provided*, That the provisions of this subpart shall apply to alternate members in possession of funds, property, books or records, or participate in the receipt or disbursement of funds.

§ 953.29 District committees.

Potato producers and handlers in each district, as defined in § 953.11, may establish and organize a District Committee of potato producers and handlers within each such district for the purpose of assisting in an advisory capacity the members of the Southeastern Potato Committee from their district. The size and composition of each such District Committee shall be determined by producers and handlers within each district. Reports on the size and composition of each District Committee shall be made available upon request to the Southeastern Potato Committee. The members of such

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District Committees shall not receive compensation from any funds dispersed by the Southeastern Potato Committee. Members of District Committees may be selected at meetings sponsored by the Southeastern Potato Committee. The terms of office of members of District Committees shall coincide with the terms of office of members of the Southeastern Potato Committee.

EXPENSES AND ASSESSMENTS

§ 953.33 Expenses.

The committee is authorized to incur such expenses as the Secretary finds may be necessary to carry out the functions of the committee pursuant to the provisions of this subpart during each fiscal year. The funds to cover such expenses shall be acquired by levying assessments as provided in § 953.34.

§ 953.34 Assessments.

(a) Each handler who first handles potatoes shall, with respect to the potatoes so handled by him, pay to the committee such handler's pro rata share of the expenses which the Secretary finds will be necessarily incurred by the committee for its maintenance and functioning during each fiscal year. Such handler's pro rata share of such expenses shall be equal to the ratio between the total quantity of potatoes handled by him as the first handler thereof, during the applicable fiscal year, and the total quantity of potatoes handled by all handlers as the first handlers thereof, during the same fiscal year. The Secretary shall fix the rate of assessment to be paid by such handlers: *Provided*, That the rate of assessment during each fiscal year shall not exceed 1 cent per hundred-weight.

(b) At any time during or after a fiscal year, the Secretary may increase the rate of assessment in order to secure sufficient funds to cover any later finding by the Secretary relative to the expenses of the committee. Such increase shall be applicable to all potatoes handled during the given fiscal year. In order to provide funds to carry out the functions of the committee, handlers may make advance payment of assessments.

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§ 953.35 Accounting.

(a) If, at the end of a fiscal period, the assessments collected are in excess of expenses incurred, such excess shall be accounted for in accordance with one of the following:

(1) If such excess is not retained in a reserve, as provided in paragraph (a)(2) of this section, it shall be refunded proportionately and to the extent practical to the persons from whom it was collected: *Provided*, That each handler may be credited with such refund, for the operations of the following fiscal period, unless he demands payment thereof, in which event such proportionate refund shall be paid to him.

(2) The committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may establish an operating monetary reserve, and may carry over into subsequent fiscal periods such excess in a reserve so established: *Provided*, That funds in the reserve shall not exceed approximately one fiscal period's expenses. Such reserve funds may be used by the committee (i) to defray expenses authorized pursuant to § 953.33, (ii) to defray expenses during any fiscal period, prior to the time assessment income is sufficient to cover such expenses, (iii) to cover deficits incurred during any fiscal period when assessment income is less than expenses, (iv) to defray expenses incurred during any period when any or all provisions of this part are suspended or are inoperative, and (v) to cover necessary expenses of liquidation in the event of termination of this part. Upon such termination, any funds not required to defray the necessary expenses of liquidation and after reasonable effort by the committee it is found impracticable to return such remaining funds to handlers from whom collected, such funds shall be disposed of in such manner as the Secretary may determine to be appropriate.

(b) The committee may make recommendations to the Secretary for one or more of the members thereof, or any other person or persons to act as trustee or trustees for holding records, funds, or any other committee property during periods of suspension of this part, or during any period or periods when regulations are not in effect; and, if the Secretary determines such action appropriate, he may direct that