

lien securing the debt owed to the Agency if the debt instrument provides that the Agency may voucher the account to protect its lien or security.

(b) The Agency may pay protective advances only when it determines it to be in the Government's best financial interest.

(c) Protective advances are immediately due and payable.

§ 772.16 Liquidation.

When the Agency determines that continued servicing will not accomplish the objectives of the loan and the delinquency or financial stress cannot be cured by the options in § 772.13, the borrower will be encouraged to dispose of the Agency security voluntarily through sale or transfer and assumption. If a transfer or voluntary sale is not carried out, the loan will be liquidated according to title 7, part 1955, subpart A of chapter XVIII of the Code of Federal Regulations.

§ 772.17 Equal opportunity and non-discrimination requirements.

With respect to any aspect of a credit transaction, the Agency will comply with the requirements of the Equal Credit Opportunity Act as implemented in § 1910.2 of title 7, part 1910, subpart A of chapter XVIII of the Code of Federal Regulations, and the Department's civil rights policy in 7 CFR part 15d.

§ 772.18 Exception authority.

Exceptions to any requirement in this subpart can be approved in individual cases by the Administrator if application of any requirement or failure to take action would adversely affect the Government's interest. Any exception must be consistent with the authorizing statute and other applicable laws.

PART 1901—PROGRAM-RELATED INSTRUCTIONS

Subpart E—Civil Rights Compliance Requirements.

2. The authority citation for part 1901 is revised to read as follows:

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 301; 7 U.S.C. 1989; 40 U.S.C. 442; 42 U.S.C. 1480.

3. Amend § 1901.204 by:

- a. Removing paragraphs (a)(1), (2), (4), and (10);
- b. Redesignating paragraph (a)(3) as paragraph (a)(1);
- c. Redesignating paragraphs (a)(5) through (9) as paragraphs (a)(2) through (6); and
- d. Redesignating paragraphs (a)(11) through (28) as paragraphs (a)(7) through (24).

PART 1951—SERVICING AND COLLECTIONS

Subpart E—Servicing of Community and Direct Business Programs Loans and Grants

4. The authority citation for part 1951 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 301; 7 U.S.C. 1932 note; 7 U.S.C. 1989; 42 U.S.C. 1480.

5. Amend § 1951.201 by removing the words "loans for Grazing and other shift-in-land-use projects;" and "Association Irrigation and Drainage loans;"

§ 1951.221 [Amended]

6. Amend § 1951.221 in paragraph (b) heading by removing the words "Grazing Association Loans, Irrigation and Drainage and other".

Signed in Washington, DC, on April 2, 2003.

J.B. Penn,

Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services.

[FR Doc. 03-8597 Filed 4-8-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-05-U

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

7 CFR Part 956

[Docket No. FV03-956-1 PR]

Sweet Onions Grown in the Walla Walla Valley of Southeast Washington and Northeast Oregon; Fiscal Period Change

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: This rule invites comments on a proposed change in the fiscal period under the Walla Walla sweet onion marketing order from June 1 through May 31 to January 1 through December 31. This rule was recommended by the Walla Walla Sweet Onion Marketing Committee (Committee), the agency responsible for local administration of the marketing order regulating the handling of sweet onions grown in the Walla Walla Valley of Southeast Washington and Northeast Oregon. The current fiscal period has been in place since the marketing order's inception in 1995. Because of advance planning needed for market promotion, including paid advertising, the Committee now develops its budget of expenditures before June 1, but delays actual expenditures until that date. This has made it more difficult for

the Committee to coordinate the timing of marketing promotion activities with the short harvest and marketing season for Walla Walla sweet onions. The recommended change is expected to help the Committee better coordinate its marketing promotion activities with the marketing season—mid-June into September.

DATES: Comments must be received by June 9, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments concerning this rule. Comments must be sent to the Docket Clerk, Marketing Order Administration Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, AMS, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., STOP 0237, Washington, DC 20250-0237; Fax: (202) 720-8938; or E-mail:

moab.docketclerk@usda.gov. Comments should reference the docket number and the date and page number of this issue of the **Federal Register** and will be available for public inspection in the Office of the Docket Clerk during regular business hours, or can be viewed at: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/fv/moab.html>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Robert J. Curry, Northwest Marketing Field Office, Marketing Order Administration Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, AMS, USDA, 1220 SW Third Avenue, suite 385, Portland, Oregon 97204-2807; telephone: (503) 326-2724, Fax: (503) 326-2724; or George Kelhart, Technical Advisor, Marketing Order Administration Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, AMS, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., STOP 0237, Washington, DC 20250-0237; telephone: (202) 720-2491, Fax: (202) 720-8938.

Small business may request information on complying with this regulation by contacting Jay Guerber, Marketing Order Administration Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, AMS, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., STOP 0237, Washington, DC 20250-0237; telephone: (202) 720-2491, Fax: (202) 720-8938, or E-mail: Jay.Guerber@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This rule is issued under Marketing Agreement and Order No. 956 (7 CFR part 956) regulating the handling of Walla Walla sweet onions grown in Southeast Washington and Northeast Oregon, hereinafter referred to as the "order." The order is effective under the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, as amended (7 U.S.C. 601-674), hereinafter referred to as the "Act."

The Department of Agriculture (USDA) is issuing this rule in conformance with Executive Order 12866.