

List of Subjects**7 CFR Part 723**

Acreage allotments, Marketing quotas, Penalties, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Tobacco.

7 CFR Part 1464

Loan programs-agriculture, Price support programs, Tobacco, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Warehouses.

■ Accordingly, 7 CFR parts 723 and 1464 are amended as follows:

PART 723—TOBACCO

■ 1. The authority citation for 7 CFR part 723 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 7 U.S.C., 1301–1314, 1314–1, 1314b, 1314b–1, 1314b–2, 1314c, 1314d, 1314e, 1314f, 1314i, 1315, 1316, 1362, 1363, 1372–75, 1377–1379, 1421, 1445–1, and 1445–2.

■ 2. Section 723.111 is amended by adding paragraphs (h) through (j) to read as follows:

§ 723.111 Flue-cured (types 11–14) tobacco.

* * * * *

(h) The 2000 crop national marketing quota is 543.0 million pounds.

(i) The 2001 crop national marketing quota is 548.9 million pounds.

(j) The 2002 crop national marketing quota is 582.0 millions pounds.

PART 1464—TOBACCO

■ 3. The authority citation for 7 CFR part 1464 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 1421, 1423, 1441, 1445, and 1445–1, 15 U.S.C. 714b and 714c; Pub. L. 106–78, Pub. L. 106–113, Stat. 1135 and Pub. L. 106–224.

■ 4. Section 1464.12 is amended by adding paragraphs (h) though (j) to read as follows:

§ 1464.12 Flue-cured (types 11–14) tobacco.

* * * * *

(h) The 2000 crop national price support level is 164.0 cents per pound.

(i) The 2001 crop national price support level is 166.0 cents per pound.

(j) The 2002 crop national price support level is 165.4 cents per pound.

Signed in Washington, DC, on June 3, 2003.

James R. Little,

*Administrator, Farm Service Agency,
Executive Vice President, Commodity Credit Corporation.*

[FR Doc. 03–14624 Filed 6–10–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–05–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service****9 CFR Part 82**

[Docket No. 02–117–8]

Exotic Newcastle Disease; Removal of Areas from Quarantine

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Interim rule and request for comments.

SUMMARY: We are amending the exotic Newcastle disease regulations by removing Dona Ana, Luna, and Otero Counties, NM, Hudspeth County, TX, and portions of El Paso County, TX, from the list of quarantined areas. This action removes restrictions on the movement of birds, poultry, and certain other articles from those areas.

DATES: This interim rule was effective June 5, 2003. We will consider all comments that we receive on or before August 11, 2003.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by postal mail/commercial delivery or by e-mail. If you use postal mail/commercial delivery, please send four copies of your comment (an original and three copies) to: Docket No. 02–117–8, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737–1238. Please state that your comment refers to Docket No. 02–117–8. If you use e-mail, address your comment to regulations@aphis.usda.gov. Your comment must be contained in the body of your message; do not send attached files. Please include your name and address in your message and “Docket No. 02–117–8” on the subject line.

You may read any comments that we receive on this docket in our reading room. The reading room is located in room 1141 of the USDA South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC. Normal reading room hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. To be sure someone is there to help you, please call (202) 690–2817 before coming.

APHIS documents published in the **Federal Register**, and related information, including the names of organizations and individuals who have commented on APHIS dockets, are available on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppd/rad/webrepor.html>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Aida Boghossian, Senior Staff

Veterinarian, Emergency Programs Staff, VS, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 41, Riverdale, MD 20737–1231; (301) 734–8073.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Background**

Exotic Newcastle disease (END) is a contagious and fatal viral disease affecting the respiratory, nervous, and digestive systems of birds and poultry. END is so virulent that many birds and poultry die without showing any clinical signs. A death rate of almost 100 percent can occur in unvaccinated poultry flocks. END can infect and cause death even in vaccinated poultry.

The regulations in “Subpart A—Exotic Newcastle Disease (END)” (9 CFR 82.1 through 82.16, referred to below as the regulations) were established to prevent the spread of END in the United States in the event of an outbreak. In § 82.3, paragraph (a) provides that any area where birds or poultry infected with END are located will be designated as a quarantined area, and that a quarantined area is any geographical area, which may be a premises or all or part of a State, deemed by epidemiological evaluation to be sufficient to contain all birds or poultry known to be infected with or exposed to END. Portions of Arizona, California, Nevada, New Mexico, and Texas are designated as quarantined areas in § 82.3(c) of the regulations. As a result, the interstate movement from the quarantined areas of birds, poultry, products, and materials that could spread END is prohibited or restricted. Further, because the Secretary has declared an extraordinary emergency because of END in those States, the regulations in § 82.16 provide that the intrastate movement from those quarantined areas of birds, poultry, products, and materials that could spread END is prohibited or restricted.

In this interim rule, we are reducing the size of the quarantined area in Texas and eliminating the quarantined area in New Mexico based on the results of extensive surveillance and investigations conducted in those States. These activities are described below.

On April 9, 2003, END was confirmed in backyard poultry on a premises in the town of Socorro, El Paso County, TX. Therefore, in an interim rule effective April 10, 2003, and published in the **Federal Register** on April 16, 2003 (68 FR 18531–18532, Docket No. 02–117–5), we amended § 82.3(c) by quarantining El Paso and Hudspeth Counties, TX, and Dona Ana, Luna, and Otero Counties, NM. As provided for by the regulations in § 82.3(a), this quarantined area