

vegetable farms are small by Small Business Administration standards, it is likely that the majority of U.S. farms producing the commodities discussed below are small. The potential economic effects of this final rule are discussed below by commodity and country of origin.

Citrus from Australia. The regulations contain provisions for the importation of citrus from certain areas in Australia. In this rule, we are adding new areas in Australia from which citrus may be imported into the United States. In 2001, while the United States produced almost 15 million metric tons of citrus, Australia produced 604,000 metric tons, which is approximately 4 percent of U.S. production. That same year, the value of U.S. citrus exports reached almost \$591 million, whereas the value of Australian citrus exports reached \$108.7 million. In 2001, the United States imported more than \$298 million of citrus fruits; of that amount, \$22 million, or 7 percent, was imported from Australia. Because the U.S. production of citrus is supplemented with citrus imports in order to satisfy the domestic demand, we do not believe that allowing the importation of citrus from additional areas in Australia will have a significant effect on either U.S. consumers or producers. In addition, we believe that U.S. consumers of citrus will benefit from the increase in its supply and availability.

Tomatoes from Australia. In 2000, the United States produced over 11 million metric tons of tomatoes, exported 208,564 metric tons, and imported 730,063 metric tons. Australia produced 413,617 metric tons of tomatoes, which is less than the total U.S. imports, and exported 3,807 metric tons in 2000. Because the U.S. production of tomatoes is supplemented with tomato imports in order to satisfy the domestic demand, we do not believe that allowing the importation of tomatoes from Australia will have a significant effect on either U.S. consumers or producers.

Peppers from Chile. From 1997 to 2000, the United States production of peppers (*Capsicum annuum*) increased 30 percent, from 678,000 metric tons to 885,630 metric tons. However, the U.S. demand for imports of peppers increased by 70 percent during the same time period. Although no trade data on peppers from Chile are available, we do not believe that peppers imported from Chile will have a significant impact on U.S. producers or other small entities.

Rambutan from Guatemala. There are no data available regarding domestic production of rambutan in the United States. In Guatemala, only one 280-square-kilometer farm commercially

produces rambutan. Recent production data for rambutan in Guatemala indicate about 117 metric tons are produced per year. We believe any exports to the United States will be minimal and would not have any significant economic effect on U.S. producers, whether small or large, or consumers.

Figs from Mexico. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, from 1997 to 2000, the United States produced an average of 47,000 metric tons of fresh figs per year. The U.S. production of fresh figs remained stable for those 4 years, but U.S. imports of fresh figs increased from 221 metric tons in 1997 to 427 metric tons in 2000, indicating an increase in the demand for fresh figs in the United States. From 1997 to 2000, Mexico produced an average of 3,000 metric tons of fresh figs per year. We do not expect a significant economic effect on U.S. producers, whether small or large, or consumers, because the U.S. demand for figs appears to be exceeding the U.S. production of fresh figs.

Citrus from South Africa. The regulations contain provisions for the importation of citrus from the Western Cape Province of South Africa. In this document, we are adding the Hartswater and Warrenton magisterial districts in the Northern Cape Province of South Africa to the areas from which citrus can be imported into the United States. In 2001, while the United States produced almost 15 million metric tons of citrus, South Africa produced 1.4 million metric tons, which is approximately 10 percent of U.S. production. That same year, the value of U.S. citrus exports reached almost \$591 million, and the value of South African citrus exports reached \$204.5 million. In 2001, the United States imported more than \$298 million of citrus fruits; of that amount, \$26,348,000, or 9 percent, was imported from South Africa. Because the U.S. production of citrus is supplemented with citrus imports in order to satisfy the domestic demand, we do not believe that expanding the areas from which the United States may import citrus from South Africa will have a significant effect on either U.S. consumers or producers. In addition, we believe that U.S. consumers of citrus will benefit from the increase in its supply and availability.

Peppers from Spain. From 1997 to 2000, the United States production of peppers (*Capsicum annuum*) increased 30 percent, from 678,000 metric tons to 885,630 metric tons. However, the U.S. demand for imports of peppers increased by 70 percent during the same time period. In 2000, the United States produced 885,630 metric tons of

peppers and exported 71,478 metric tons. Of the 346,654 metric tons of peppers that the United States imported in 2000, 2,269 metric tons, or less than 1 percent, were imported from the Almeria Province of Spain. Under this rule, the United States may accept imports of peppers from the additional province of Alicante in Spain.

Considering that the U.S. production of peppers is supplemented with imports of peppers in order to satisfy the domestic demand, we do not believe that allowing the importation of tomatoes from an additional province in Spain will have a significant effect on either U.S. consumers or producers.

Tomatoes from Spain. In 2000, the United States produced over 11 million metric tons of tomatoes, exported 208,564 metric tons, and imported 730,063 metric tons. Of the tomatoes imported into the United States, 5,650 metric tons, or less than 1 percent, were imported from Spain. Considering that the U.S. production of tomatoes is supplemented with imports of tomatoes in order to satisfy the domestic demand, we do not believe that allowing the importation of pink or red tomatoes from the municipalities of Albuñol and Carchuna in the Granada Province in Spain will have a significant effect on either U.S. consumers or producers.

Unavailability of Data. Due to the unavailability of data, we are unable to determine the effect that the importation of the following commodities will have on U.S. producers or consumers:

- Rambutan from Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, and Panama.
- Longan from China.
- Cape gooseberries and yellow pitaya from Colombia.
- Loroco from El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua.
- Parsley and rosemary from El Salvador.
- Waterlily or lotus and German chamomile from El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua.
- Basil from Honduras.
- Yam-bean or Jicama root and oregano or sweet marjoram from El Salvador and Honduras.
- Yard-long bean from Nicaragua.
- Persimmon from Spain.

Fennel from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Nicaragua. There are no data available on the production of fennel in El Salvador, Guatemala, or Nicaragua. Fennel is produced in Arizona and California. While the estimated total value or quantity produced in the United States is not known, in 2001, Monterey County, CA, produced an estimated 741 acres of fennel valued at \$3,303,000, and Santa Barbara County,