

Regulations by adding a new part 1580, to read as follows:

## **PART 1580—TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE FOR FARMERS**

Sec.

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**Authority:** 19 U.S.C. 2401.

### **§ 1580.101 General statement.**

This part provides regulations for the Trade Adjustment Assistance for Farmers program. Under these provisions, producers of agricultural commodities may petition the Department of Agriculture for eligibility to apply for trade adjustment assistance based on criteria set forth in the Trade Act of 1974, as amended by the Trade Act of 2002 (19 U.S.C. 2251, *et seq.*). If the Administrator determines that the national average price for a commodity is less than 80 percent of the preceding 5-year average and that an increase in imports has contributed importantly to the decline in commodity prices, the producers may apply for technical assistance and cash benefits under the program.

### **§ 1580.102 Definitions.**

As used in the part, the following terms mean:

*Adjusted gross income* means income as defined in 7 CFR 1400.601.

*Administrator* means the Administrator of the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS).

*Agricultural commodity* means any commodity in its raw or natural state found in chapters 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 12, 14, 23, 24, 41, 51, and 52 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS), and chapter 3 of the HTS with respect to aquaculture products.

*Articles like or directly competitive* generally means products falling under

the same HTS number used to identify the agricultural commodity in the petition. A “like” product means substantially identical in inherent or intrinsic characteristics, and the term “directly competitive” means those articles which are substantially equivalent for commercial purposes, that is, are adapted to the same uses and are essentially interchangeable therefore.

*Authorized representative* means an association of agricultural commodity producers.

*Certification date* means the date on which the Administrator announces in the **Federal Register** or by Department news release, whichever comes first, a certification of eligibility to apply for adjustment assistance.

*Contributed importantly* means a cause which is important, but not necessarily more important than any other cause.

*Department* means the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

*Deputy Administrator* means the Deputy Administrator of the Farm Service Agency (FSA).

*Extension Service* means the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

*Family member* means an individual to whom a person is related as spouse, lineal ancestor, lineal descendent, or sibling, including:

- (1) Great grandparent;
- (2) Grandparent;
- (3) Parent;
- (4) Child, including legally adopted children;
- (5) Great grandchildren;
- (6) Sibling of the family member in the farming operation; and
- (7) Spouse of a person listed in paragraphs (1) through (6) of this definition.

*Farm Service Agency (FSA)* means the Farm Service Agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

*Filing date* means the date that a notice of petition is published in the **Federal Register**.

*Group of producers* means three or more producers who are not members of the same family.

*Impacted area* means one or more States of the United States.

*Marketing year* means the marketing season or year as defined by National Agriculture Statistic Service (NASS), or a specific period as proposed by the petitioners and certified by the Administrator.

*National average price* means the average price paid to producers for an agricultural commodity in a marketing year as determined by the Administrator.

*Net farm income* means net farm profit or loss reported on Internal Revenue Service Schedule F (Form 1040) and Form 4835 for the year that most closely corresponds with the marketing year under consideration.

*Person* means an individual, partnership, joint stock owner, corporation, association, trust, estate, or any other legal entity as defined in 7 CFR 1400.3.

*Producer* means a person who is an owner, operator, landlord, tenant, or sharecropper, who shares in the risk of producing a crop and who is entitled to share in the crop available for marketing from the farm.

*Raw or natural state* means unaltered by any process other than cleaning, grading, coating, sorting, trimming, mixing, conditioning, drying, dehulling, shelling, chilling, cooling, blanching or fumigating.

*United States* means the 50 States of the United States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

### **§ 1580.201 Petitions for trade adjustment assistance.**

(a) A group of agricultural commodity producers in the United States or their authorized representative may file a petition for trade adjustment assistance.

(b) Filings may be written or electronic, as provided for by the Administrator, and submitted to FAS from August 17 through January 31. FAS shall not accept a petition received after January 31 but will return it to the sender. If January 31 falls on a weekend, the petition will be accepted the next business day.

(c) Petitions shall include the following information.

(1) Name, business address, phone number, and email address (if available) of each producer in the group, or their authorized representative. A petition filed by a group shall identify a contact person for the group.

(2) The agricultural commodity and its Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS) number.

(3) The production area represented by the group or its authorized representative. The petitioners shall indicate if they are filing on behalf of all producers in the United States, or if they are filing solely on behalf of producers in a specifically identified impacted area. In the latter case, at least one member of the group must reside in each State within the impacted area, or the authorized representative must have members residing in each State within the impacted area.

(4) The beginning and ending dates for the marketing year during which domestic prices were affected by