

recommended to AMS to change the period for remitting and reporting assessments for the following States or regions from a monthly basis to quarterly basis: Delaware, Louisiana, South Carolina, Texas, Eastern Region, and the Western Region.

This rule will assist these smaller soybean producing States and regions (listed above) in reporting and remitting their assessments to the Board. The Board has decided that the current requirement to remit and report assessments on a monthly basis is no longer necessary given the minimal number of first purchasers and total remitters from these smaller soybean producing States and regions. Allowing these States and regions to become quarterly remitters would reduce their administrative costs. It is estimated that administrative costs will be reduced by approximately \$10,000 if first purchasers of soybeans and producers marketing processed soybeans and soybean products of a producer's own production in the States and regions of Delaware, Louisiana, South Carolina, Texas, the Eastern Region, and the Western Region remit and report assessments on a quarterly basis. Producers that market soybeans to first purchasers will continue to pay the assessment at the time of settlement. Due to the minimal number of first purchasers and total remittances in these States and regions, allowing the States or regions to remit quarterly will be beneficial to the States, regions, and the Board by reducing the administrative costs of collecting assessments.

Comments

On June 18, 2003, the Department published in the **Federal Register** (68 FR 36498) for comment a proposed rule to amend the Rules and Regulations established under the Act. The proposed rule provided first purchasers of soybeans and producers marketing processed soybeans or soybean products of a producer's own production in the States or regions of Delaware, Louisiana, South Carolina, Texas, Eastern Region, and the Western Region, to remit and report assessments on a quarterly basis rather than a monthly basis.

The proposed rule was published with a request for comments to be submitted by July 18, 2003. The Department received one comment, in a timely manner, from an individual who did not support the program in general. This commenter further questioned the impact of the proposal on assessments. In the proposal, we noted that the rule would assist smaller soybean producing States and regions in reporting and

remitting their assessments to the Board. We concluded that allowing the States or regions to remit quarterly would be beneficial to the States, regions, and the Board by reducing the administrative costs of collecting assessments. As such this action should impact assessments favorably.

Based on the Board's recommendation, in conjunction with the affected States and regions, and no substantive comments, AMS is changing the period for remitting and reporting assessments for the following States or regions from a monthly basis to a quarterly basis: Delaware, Louisiana, South Carolina, Texas, Eastern Region, and the Western Region.

This rule will become effective April 1, 2004.

List of Subjects in 7 CFR Part 1220

Administrative practice and procedure, Advertising, Agricultural research, Marketing agreements, Soybeans and soybean products, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

■ For the reasons set forth in the preamble, Title 7, part 1220 is amended as follows:

PART 1220—SOYBEAN PROMOTION, RESEARCH, AND CONSUMER INFORMATION

■ 1. The authority citation for 7 CFR part 1220 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 6301–6311.

■ 2. In § 1220.312, the table in paragraph (b) is revised to read as follows:

§ 1220.312 Remittance of assessments and submission of reports to United Soybean Board or Qualified State Soybean Board.

* * * * *				
(b) * * *				
Monthly		Quarterly		
Arkansas		Alabama		
Iowa		Delaware		
Kansas		Florida		
Kentucky		Georgia		
Michigan		Illinois		
Minnesota		Indiana		
Missouri		Louisiana		
Mississippi		Maryland		
North Carolina		North Dakota		
Tennessee		Nebraska		
Wisconsin		New Jersey		
		Ohio		
		Oklahoma		
		Pennsylvania		
		South Carolina		
		South Dakota		
		Texas		
		Virginia		
		Eastern Region		
		Western Region		

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Dated: December 9, 2003.

A.J. Yates,
Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Housing Service

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Rural Utilities Service

Farm Service Agency

7 CFR Part 1951

RIN 0560–AG56

Prompt Disaster Set-Aside Consideration and Primary Loan Servicing Facilitation

AGENCY: Farm Service Agency, USDA.

ACTION: Final rule; correction.

SUMMARY: This document corrects a final rule published September 25, 2003, which provided disaster set-aside more quickly to those who can most benefit from the program. This document is necessary to correct an editorial mistake relating to the amount which may be set aside.

DATE: This rule is effective on December 16, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael Cumpston, Farm Loan Programs, Loan Servicing and Property Management Division, United States Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency, STOP 0523, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250–0523, telephone (202) 690–4014; electronic mail: mike_cumpton@wdc.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This document corrects a final rule which amended 7 CFR part 1951 published in the **Federal Register** on September 25, 2003 (68 FR 55299–55304). Section 1951.954(b)(3), as promulgated incorrectly states, “The installment that may be set aside is limited to the first or second scheduled annual installment due after the disaster occurred and the amount may not exceed the installment set aside.” This document removes the words, “and the amount may not exceed the installment set aside” as extraneous. The maximum set-aside amount is covered by paragraph (b)(4). This correction will make the regulation more clear.