

sources of fruits and vegetables while continuing to provide protection against the introduction and spread of quarantine pests.

Availability of and Request for Production and Trade Data

For some of the commodities proposed for importation into the United States in this document, data on the levels of production are unavailable for a number of reasons. Some of these commodities are not produced in significant quantities either in the United States or in the country that would be exporting the commodity to the United States. Generally, statistical data are less available for commodities produced in small quantities when compared to a country's more widely or commercially produced commodities. The uncertainty surrounding the cost and availability of transportation and the demand for the commodity in the United States increases the difficulty in obtaining estimates of the potential volume of commodities exported from foreign countries to the United States.

Therefore, we are requesting the public to provide APHIS with any available data regarding the production or trade of *Annona* spp. in the United States and Grenada and pitaya in the United States and Mexico. These data will assist us in further assessing the effects that allowing the importation of these commodities could have on U.S. producers or consumers.

Effects on Small Entities

Data on the number and size of U.S. producers of the various commodities proposed for importation into the United States in this document are not available. However, since most fruit and 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. Potential economic effects that could occur if this proposal is adopted are discussed below by commodity and country of origin.

African horned cucumber from Chile. We propose to amend the regulations to allow the entry of African horned cucumber from Chile. African horned cucumber is a specialty crop that is grown in small quantities. Less than 20 acres of the fruit are cultivated in California; and less than 10 acres in Region V (Olmue) and Region X (Osorno) of Chile have been cultivated since 1996. Approximately 32,000 pounds of fruit are expected to be shipped to the United States annually from March to May. There is no reason to believe that allowing imports of African horned cucumber from Chile would have any significant economic impact on U.S. entities. In addition, we believe that U.S. consumers of African horned cucumber would benefit from the increase in its supply and availability.

Annona spp. from Grenada. In this document, we propose to allow the entry of commercial fruit shipments of cherimoya, soursop, custard apple, sugar apple, and atemoya, which are species of *Annona*, into the United States from Grenada. In the United States, *Annona* spp. are apparently a specialty crop produced on a small scale mainly in southern California; thus no data on the U.S. production of *Annona* spp. are available. Although no separate data are available on the production and trade of *Annona* spp. from Grenada, data may have been included with the production of all apples. From 2001 to 2003, Grenada produced an average of

533 metric tons of apples. In addition, *Annona* spp. exports may be included under the category of "apples, not elsewhere specified," which includes wild apples. The 3-year average for exports of apples, not elsewhere specified, from Grenada is 5 metric tons. We believe any exports to the United States would be minimal and would not have any significant economic effect on U.S. producers, whether small or large, or consumers. In addition, we believe that U.S. consumers of *Annona* spp. would benefit from the increase in its supply and availability.

Fruit and vegetables from Mexico. We propose to specifically list *Allium* spp., asparagus, banana, beets, carrots, coconut fruit without husk, cucurbits, eggplant, grape, jicama, lemon, sour lime, parsley, pineapple, prickly pear pads, radish, tomato, and tuna as admissible fruits and vegetables from Mexico. Because these fruits and vegetables are admissible into the United States from Mexico under permit, specifically listing these commodities in the regulations would not have any economic effect on U.S. producers, whether small or large, or consumers. While production and trade data are not available for jicama, prickly pear, and tuna from Mexico or the United States, data are shown for the other commodities, as available, in table 1. The data provided in table 1 are based on either a 2- or 3-year average. The averages presented for most U.S. and Mexican production and trade, as well as for tomato exports from Mexico, are for the 3-year period of 2000, 2001, and 2002. A 2-year average for 2000 and 2001 is given for exports from Mexico (except tomatoes), U.S. production of parsley and beets, and U.S. imports of parsley and cucurbits.

TABLE 1.—U.S. AND MEXICAN PRODUCTION AND TRADE DATA (IN METRIC TONS) OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Commodity	U.S. production	U.S. imports from all countries	U.S. imports from Mexico	Mexican production	Mexican exports
<i>Allium</i> spp.:					
Shallot and green onion	444,429	257,784	159,953	1,021,605	599,491
Garlic	258,680	37,806	14,776	50,894	27,544
Leek and other alliaceous vegetables	(¹)	3,040	2,752	(¹)	87,455
Asparagus	103,060	75,086	38,231	57,545	44,378
Banana	12,850	4,232,383	74,560	1,961,201	126,368
Beets	101,738	20,341	15,254	(¹)	775,100
Carrot	1,913,700	85,037	23,508	358,054	201,944
Coconut	0	63,075	4,854	1,058,667	87,584
Cucurbits:					
Melon and watermelons	2,969,250	882,350	363,902	1,469,700	572,529
Cucumbers and gherkins	1,078,800	15,035	1,924	416,667	7,880
Pumpkins, squash, and gourds	761,253	223,697	148,343	550,000	372,294
Eggplant	77,290	40,233	36,863	59,000	135,697
Grape	6,495,380	987,124	191,477	427,497	117,510
Lemon and lime	572,250	218,816	184,814	1,658,420	733,184
Parsley	14,210	5,897	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)
Pineapple	302,500	348,617	19,923	598,629	117,510