

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

Commodity	U.S. production	U.S. imports from all countries	U.S. imports from Mexico	Mexican production	Mexican exports
Radish .....	53,781	15,338	14,654	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )
Tomato .....	10,590,000	804,548	664,362	2,085,831	1,551,685

<sup>1</sup> Not available.

*Coconut fruit with milk and husk from Mexico.* As noted earlier in this document, coconut fruit without husk have been admissible into the United States from Mexico under permit. In this document, we propose to allow coconut fruit with milk and husk from Mexico to be imported into the United States. While the data on coconut production and trade do not differentiate between coconut fruit with or without husk and milk, it is possible that an increase in imports of coconuts into the United States from Mexico would occur, since coconut fruit with milk and husk have previously been inadmissible from Mexico. Because the U.S. production of coconut fruit with milk and husk is supplemented with imports in order to satisfy the domestic demand, we do not believe that allowing the importation of coconut fruit with milk and husk from Mexico would have a significant effect on either U.S. consumers or producers. In addition, we believe that U.S. consumers would benefit from the increase in the supply and availability of coconut fruit with milk and husk from Mexico.

*Pitaya from Mexico.* In the United States, pitaya are a specialty crop

produced on a small scale; thus no data on the U.S. production of pitaya are available. Mexican production and trade data are also not available.

*Melon and watermelon from Peru.* We propose to amend the regulations to allow the entry of commercial shipments of watermelon and several varieties of melon (*Cucumis melo* L. subsp. *melo*) into the United States from Peru. The specific varieties of melons that would be considered for importation include cantaloupe, netted melon (muskmelon, nutmeg melon, and Persian melon), vegetable melon (snake melon and oriental pickling melon), and winter melon (honeydew and casaba melon). The melon and watermelon from Peru would be admissible from the Departments of Lima, Ica, Arequipa, Moquegua, and Tacna, which we propose to recognize as free of the South American cucurbit fly.

From 2001 to 2003, the United States produced an average of almost 3 million metric tons of melon and watermelon and imported an average of 882,350 metric tons. For that same 3-year period, Peru produced an average of 72,337 metric tons of melon and watermelon. For the 2-year period of 2000 and 2001, Peru exported an average of 1,393

metric tons of melon and watermelon. Because the U.S. production of melon and watermelon is supplemented with imports in order to satisfy the domestic demand, we do not believe that allowing the importation of melon and watermelon from certain areas of Peru would have a significant effect on either U.S. consumers or producers. In addition, we believe that U.S. consumers of melon and watermelon would benefit from the increase in its supply and availability.

*Watermelon, squash, cucumber, and oriental melon from the Republic of Korea.* We propose to allow watermelon, squash, cucumber, and oriental melon to be imported into the United States from the Republic of Korea (South Korea) under certain conditions. Table 2 shows the average U.S. and South Korean production and trade data available for the 3-year period of 2000, 2001, and 2002, with a 2-year average for 2000 and 2001 for exports from South Korea. Note that data include a broader category than what is actually proposed to be imported; e.g., we propose to import cucumber, but the data are available under the broader category of cucumber and gherkins.

TABLE 2.—PRODUCTION AND TRADE DATA (IN METRIC TONS) FOR U.S. AND SOUTH KOREAN FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Commodity	U.S. production	U.S. imports from all countries	U.S. imports from South Korea	South Korean production	South Korean exports
Melon and watermelons .....	2,969,250	882,350	0	324,260	428
Cucumbers and gherkins .....	1,078,800	15,035	0	451,175	7,030
Pumpkins, squash, and gourds .....	761,253	223,697	0	240,161	515

*Grapes from South Korea.* We propose to allow the importation of grapes into the United States from South Korea under certain conditions. From 2001 to 2003, the United States produced an average of almost 6.5 million metric tons of grapes and imported an average of 987,124 metric tons. For that same 3-year period, South Korea produced an average of 461,198 metric tons grapes (approximately 7 percent of the total U.S. production) with an average export of 101 metric tons. Because the U.S. production of grapes is supplemented

with imports in order to satisfy the domestic demand, we do not believe that allowing the importation of grapes from South Korea would have a significant effect on either U.S. consumers or producers. In addition, we believe that U.S. consumers of grapes would benefit from the increase in its supply and availability.

This proposed rule contains information collection requirements, which have been submitted for approval to the Office of Management and Budget (see “Paperwork Reduction Act” below).

#### Executive Order 12988

This proposed rule would allow certain fruits and vegetables to be imported into the United States from certain parts of the world. If this proposed rule is adopted, State and local laws and regulations regarding the importation of fruits and vegetables under this rule would be preempted while the fruits and vegetables are in foreign commerce. Fresh fruits and vegetables are generally imported for immediate distribution and sale to the