

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE****Office of the Secretary****2 CFR Subtitle B, Ch. IV****5 CFR Ch. LXXIII****7 CFR Subtitle A; Subtitle B, Chs. I-XI, XIV-XVIII, XX, XXV-XXXVIII, XLII****9 CFR Chs. I-III****36 CFR Ch. II****48 CFR Ch. 4****Semiannual Regulatory Agenda, Spring 2015**

**AGENCY:** Office of the Secretary, USDA.

**ACTION:** Semiannual regulatory agenda.

**SUMMARY:** This agenda provides summary descriptions of significant and not significant regulations being developed in agencies of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) in conformance with Executive Orders (EO) 12866 "Regulatory Planning and Review," and 13563 "Improving Regulation and Regulatory Review." The agenda also describes regulations affecting small entities as required by section 602 of the Regulatory Flexibility Act, Public Law 96-354. This agenda also identifies regulatory actions that are being reviewed in compliance with section 610(c) of the Regulatory Flexibility Act. We invite public comment on those actions as well as any

regulation consistent with EO 13563.

USDA has attempted to list all regulations and regulatory reviews pending at the time of publication except for minor and routine or repetitive actions, but some may have been inadvertently missed. There is no legal significance to the omission of an item from this listing. Also, the dates shown for the steps of each action are estimated and are not commitments to act on or by the date shown.

USDA's complete regulatory agenda is available online at [www.reginfo.gov](http://www.reginfo.gov). Because publication in the **Federal Register** is mandated for the regulatory flexibility agendas required by the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 602), USDA's printed agenda entries include only:

- (1) Rules that are likely to have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities; and
- (2) Rules identified for periodic review under section 610 of the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For further information on any specific entry shown in this agenda, please contact the person listed for that action. For general comments or inquiries about the agenda, please contact Michael Poe, Office of Budget and Program Analysis, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250, (202) 720-3257.

**DATED:** March 24, 2015.

**NAME:** Michael Poe,  
*Chief, Legislative and Regulatory Staff.*

## The 165 Regulatory Agendas

**Office of the Secretary - Proposed Rule**

Title	Regulation Identifier Number
Implementation of Executive Order 13559--Partnerships With Faith-Based and Other Neighborhood Organizations	<a href="#">0503-AA55</a>

**Office of the Secretary - Completed Action**

Title	Regulation Identifier Number
Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Age in Programs or Activities Receiving Federal Financial Assistance	<a href="#">0503-AA57</a>

**Office of Chief Financial Officer - Long-term Action**

Title	Regulation Identifier Number
Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards--USDA Implementation	<a href="#">0505-AA15</a>

**Foreign Agricultural Service - Proposed Rule**

Title	Regulation Identifier Number
Facility Guarantee Loan Program (FGP)	<a href="#">0551-AA73</a>

**Foreign Agricultural Service - Final Rule**

Title	Regulation Identifier Number
Dairy Import Licensing Program	<a href="#">0551-AA82</a>
General Administrative Policy Agreements to Conduct International Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching Activities	<a href="#">0551-AA83</a>
General Administrative Policy for Joint Venture Agreements	<a href="#">0551-AA84</a>
General Administrative Policy Cost-Reimbursable Agreements	<a href="#">0551-AA85</a>
USDA Local and Regional Food Aid Procurement Program	<a href="#">0551-AA87</a>
McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program	<a href="#">0551-AA88</a>
Food for Progress Program	<a href="#">0551-AA89</a>

**Foreign Agricultural Service - Completed Action**

Title	Regulation Identifier Number
Export Credit Guarantee Programs: Elimination of Intermediate Term Guarantee (GSM-103) Program; Amend Regulations for Export Credit Guarantee (GSM-102) Program	<a href="#">0551-AA74</a>
Pima Agricultural Cotton Trust Fund and Agriculture Wool Apparel Manufacturers Trust Fund	<a href="#">0551-AA86</a>

**Farm Service Agency - Proposed Rule**

Title	Regulation Identifier Number
Payment Limitation and Payment Eligibility--Actively Engaged in Farming	<a href="#">0560-AI31</a>

**Farm Service Agency - Final Rule**

	Regulation

Title	Identifier Number
Environmental Compliance and Related Concerns	<a href="#">0560-AH02</a>
Conservation Compliance	<a href="#">0560-AI26</a>
Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)	<a href="#">0560-AI30</a>
Farm Loan Programs, Highly Fractionated Indian Lands (HFIL) Loan Program	<a href="#">0560-AI32</a>

#### Farm Service Agency - Completed Action

Title	Regulation Identifier Number
Clarification of Bales Made Available for Shipment by Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) Approved Warehouses	<a href="#">0560-AI18</a>
Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP)	<a href="#">0560-AI27</a>
Marketing Assistance Loans, Loan Deficiency Payments, and Sugar Loans	<a href="#">0560-AI28</a>
Farm Loan Programs Changes	<a href="#">0560-AI29</a>

#### Federal Crop Insurance Corporation - Final Rule

Title	Regulation Identifier Number
General Administrative Regulations; Subpart X--Interpretations of Statutory Provisions, Policy Provisions, and Procedures	<a href="#">0563-AC45</a>
General Administrative Regulation-Subpart V--Submission of Policies, Provisions of Policies and Rates of Premium	<a href="#">0563-AC46</a>

#### Federal Crop Insurance Corporation - Long-term Action

Title	Regulation Identifier Number
General Administrative Regulations; Catastrophic Risk Protection Endorsement; Area Risk Protection Insurance Regulations; and the Common Crop Insurance Regulations, Basic Provisions	<a href="#">0563-AC43</a>

#### Federal Crop Insurance Corporation - Completed Action

Title	Regulation Identifier Number
Common Crop Insurance Regulations; Macadamia Tree and Macadamia Nut Crop Provisions	<a href="#">0563-AC44</a>

#### Rural Business-Cooperative Service - Final Rule

Title	Regulation Identifier Number
Business and Industry (B&I) Guaranteed Loan Program	<a href="#">0570-AA85</a>
Rural Business Development Grant	<a href="#">0570-AA92</a>
Strategic Economic and Community Development	<a href="#">0570-AA94</a>
Program Measures and Metrics	<a href="#">0570-AA95</a>

#### Rural Business-Cooperative Service - Completed Action

Title	Regulation Identifier Number
Rural Energy for America Program	<a href="#">0570-AA76</a>
Value-Added Producer Grant Program	<a href="#">0570-AA79</a>
Debt Settlement--Community and Business Programs	<a href="#">0570-AA88</a>
Revision of RD Regulations Concerning the Use of the Decennial Census for Obtaining Population, Income, and Unemployment Data and Updating FmHA References	<a href="#">0570-AA91</a>
Biorefinery, Renewable Chemical, and Biobased Product Manufacturing Assistance Program	<a href="#">0570-AA93</a>

#### Rural Utilities Service - Proposed Rule

Title	Regulation Identifier

	Number
Policy on Audits of RUS Borrowers	<a href="#">0572-AC33</a>

**Rural Utilities Service - Final Rule**

Title	Regulation Identifier Number
Water Systems for Rural and Native Villages in Alaska	<a href="#">0572-AC28</a>
Telecommunications Equipment Contract	<a href="#">0572-AC29</a>
Rural Broadband Access Loans and Loan Guarantees	<a href="#">0572-AC34</a>

**Rural Housing Service - Proposed Rule**

Title	Regulation Identifier Number
Civil Rights Compliance Requirements	<a href="#">0575-AA83</a>
Citizenship Implementation	<a href="#">0575-AC86</a>
Servicing Community Programs Loans and Grants	<a href="#">0575-AC87</a>
Community Facilities Direct Loans and Grants--Consolidate Three Regulations	<a href="#">0575-AC91</a>
Multi-Family Housing Financial Reporting	<a href="#">0575-AC98</a>
Multi-Family Housing 12-Month RA Agreements	<a href="#">0575-AD03</a>

**Rural Housing Service - Final Rule**

Title	Regulation Identifier Number
Multi-Family Housing (MFH) Reinvention	<a href="#">0575-AC13</a>
Environmental Policies and Procedures	<a href="#">0575-AC56</a>
Civil Monetary Penalties	<a href="#">0575-AC93</a>
Rural Development Voucher Program	<a href="#">0575-AC96</a>
Reserve Account Dual Signature Requirement	<a href="#">0575-AC99</a>
Revision of Indemnification, Refinance and Special Loan Servicing Section, and Adding a Section Defining "Qualified Mortgage"	<a href="#">0575-AD00</a>
Community Facilities Technical Assistance and Training Grant	<a href="#">0575-AD02</a>

**Rural Housing Service - Long-term Action**

Title	Regulation Identifier Number
National Flood Insurance Regulations	<a href="#">0575-AC07</a>

**Rural Housing Service - Completed Action**

Title	Regulation Identifier Number
Guaranteed Single-Family Housing	<a href="#">0575-AC18</a>
Loan Packager Certification	<a href="#">0575-AC88</a>
Rural Area Definition Changes	<a href="#">0575-AD01</a>

**Natural Resources Conservation Service - Final Rule**

Title	Regulation Identifier Number
Equitable Relief From Ineligibility Final Rule Amendment	<a href="#">0578-AA57</a>
Agricultural Conservation Easement Program	<a href="#">0578-AA61</a>
Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)	<a href="#">0578-AA62</a>
Conservation Stewardship Program Interim Rule	<a href="#">0578-AA63</a>

**Natural Resources Conservation Service - Completed Action**

Title	Regulation Identifier Number
Changes to Existing Conservation Program Regulations	<a href="#">0578-AA60</a>

**Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service - Proposed Rule**

Title	Regulation Identifier Number
Scrapie in Sheep and Goats	<a href="#">0579-AC92</a>
Plant Pest Regulations; Update of General Provisions	<a href="#">0579-AC98</a>
Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy and Scrapie; Importation of Small Ruminants and Their Germplasm, Products, and Byproducts	<a href="#">0579-AD10</a>
Brucellosis and Bovine Tuberculosis; Update of General Provisions	<a href="#">0579-AD65</a>
Animal Welfare; Establishing De Minimis Exemptions From Licensing	<a href="#">0579-AD99</a>

**Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service - Final Rule**

Title	Regulation Identifier Number
Importation of Wood Packaging Material From Canada	<a href="#">0579-AD28</a>
Importation of Beef From a Region in Brazil	<a href="#">0579-AD41</a>
Treatment of Firewood and Spruce Logs Imported From Canada	<a href="#">0579-AD60</a>
Viruses, Serums, Toxins, and Analogous Products; Single Label Claim for Veterinary Biological Products	<a href="#">0579-AD64</a>
Establishing a Performance Standard for Authorizing the Importation and Interstate Movement of Fruits and Vegetables	<a href="#">0579-AD71</a>
User Fees for Agricultural Quarantine and Inspection Services	<a href="#">0579-AD77</a>
Importation of Beef From a Region in Argentina	<a href="#">0579-AD92</a>

**Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service - Long-term Action**

Title	Regulation Identifier Number
Introduction of Organisms and Products Altered or Produced Through Genetic Engineering	<a href="#">0579-AC31</a>

**Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service - Completed Action**

Title	Regulation Identifier Number
Importation of Poultry and Poultry Products From Regions Affected With Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza	<a href="#">0579-AC36</a>
Importation of Plants for Planting	<a href="#">0579-AD47</a>
Importation of Litchi and Longan Fruit from Vietnam Into the Continental United States	<a href="#">0579-AD51</a>
Importation of Mangoes From Jamaica Into the Continental United States	<a href="#">0579-AD80</a>
Importation of Fresh Blueberry Fruit From Morocco Into the Continental United States	<a href="#">0579-AD81</a>
Importation of Fresh Bananas From the Philippines Into Hawaii and U.S. Territories	<a href="#">0579-AD82</a>
Expansion of Areas in the Philippines Considered Free of Mango Seed Weevil and Mango Pulp Weevil and Establishment of a Lower Irradiation Dose as a Treatment for Mango Pulp Weevil	<a href="#">0579-AD84</a>
Importation of Fresh Unshu Oranges From Japan Into the United States	<a href="#">0579-AD85</a>
Viruses, Serums, Toxins, and Analogous Products; Standard Requirements; Addition of Terminology to Define Veterinary Biologics Test Results	<a href="#">0579-AD86</a>
Importation of Two Hybrids of Unshu Orange From the Republic of Korea Into the Continental United States	<a href="#">0579-AD87</a>

**Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration - Proposed Rule**

Title	Regulation Identifier Number
Fees for Commodity Inspection Services (Excluding Rice)	<a href="#">0580-AB11</a>

**Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration - Completed Action**

Title	Regulation Identifier Number
Suspension of Flock Delivery and Stages of Poultry Production	<a href="#">0580-AB23</a>

#### Agricultural Marketing Service - Proposed Rule

Title	Regulation Identifier Number
National Organic Program, Origin of Livestock, NOP-11-0009	<a href="#">0581-AD08</a>
National Organic Program, Organic Pet Food Standards	<a href="#">0581-AD20</a>
National Organic Program, Organic Apiculture Practice Standard, NOP-12-0063	<a href="#">0581-AD31</a>
National Organic Program--Organic Aquaculture Standards	<a href="#">0581-AD34</a>

#### Agricultural Marketing Service - Final Rule

Title	Regulation Identifier Number
Exemption of Producers and Handlers of Organic Products From Assessment Under a Commodity Promotion Law	<a href="#">0581-AD37</a>

#### Food Safety and Inspection Service - Proposed Rule

Title	Regulation Identifier Number
Product Labeling: Use of the Voluntary Claim "Natural" on the Labeling of Meat and Poultry Products	<a href="#">0583-AD30</a>
Addition of Namibia to the List of Countries Eligible to Export Meat Products to the United States	<a href="#">0583-AD51</a>
New Requirements for Contamination Control in Slaughter Operations for Cattle of Any Age	<a href="#">0583-AD52</a>
Affirmation of Interim Final Rule With Amendments: Control of Listeria Monocytogenes in Ready-to-Eat Meat and Poultry Products	<a href="#">0583-AD53</a>
Requirements for the Disposition of Non-Ambulatory Disabled Veal Calves	<a href="#">0583-AD54</a>
Revision of the Nutrition Facts Panels for Meat and Poultry Products and Updating Certain Reference Amounts Customarily Consumed	<a href="#">0583-AD56</a>

#### Food Safety and Inspection Service - Final Rule

Title	Regulation Identifier Number
Mandatory Inspection of Fish of the Order Siluriformes and Products Derived From Such Fish	<a href="#">0583-AD36</a>
Electronic Export Application and Certification as a Reimbursable Service and Flexibility in the Requirements for Official Export Inspection Marks, Devices, and Certificates	<a href="#">0583-AD41</a>
Descriptive Designation for Needle- or Blade-Tenderized (Mechanically Tenderized) Beef Products	<a href="#">0583-AD45</a>
Records to be Kept by Official Establishments and Retail Stores That Grind Raw Beef Products	<a href="#">0583-AD46</a>
Eligibility of Lithuania to Export Meat and Meat Products to the United States	<a href="#">0583-AD57</a>

#### Food Safety and Inspection Service - Completed Action

Title	Regulation Identifier Number
Descriptive Designation for Raw Meat and Poultry Products Containing Added Solutions	<a href="#">0583-AD43</a>

#### Food and Nutrition Service - Proposed Rule

Title	Regulation Identifier Number
Emergency Supplemental Nutrition Assistance for Victims of Disasters Procedures	<a href="#">0584-AE00</a>
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: 2008 Farm Bill Provisions on Clarification of Split Issuance; Accrual of Benefits; Interchange Fees and Definition Changes	<a href="#">0584-AE02</a>
Child and Adult Care Food Program: Meal Pattern Revisions Related to the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010	<a href="#">0584-AE18</a>
Enhancing Retailer Eligibility Standards in SNAP	<a href="#">0584-AE27</a>
Administrative Reviews in the School Nutrition Programs	<a href="#">0584-AE30</a>

Modernizing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Benefit Redemption Systems	<a href="#">0584-AE37</a>
Processing of Donated Foods for Use in the NSLP and Other Food Assistance Programs: Implementation of the Agricultural Act of 2014, and Further Revisions and Clarifications in Processing Requirements	<a href="#">0584-AE38</a>
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP): Electronic Benefits Transfer Requirements for Scanning and Product-Lookup Technology	<a href="#">0584-AE39</a>
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP): Implementation of the Agricultural Act of 2014 Purchasing and Delivery Services for the Elderly and Disabled	<a href="#">0584-AE40</a>
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP): Student Eligibility, Convicted Felons, Lottery and Gambling, and State Immigration Verification Provisions of the Agricultural Act of 2014	<a href="#">0584-AE41</a>
Food and Nutrition Service Regulatory Implementation of Office of Management and Budget's Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards	<a href="#">0584-AE42</a>
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: Standard Utility Allowances Based on the Receipt of Energy Assistance Payments	<a href="#">0584-AE43</a>
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Promotion	<a href="#">0584-AE44</a>
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Photo Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) Card Implementation Requirements	<a href="#">0584-AE45</a>

#### Food and Nutrition Service - Final Rule

Title	Regulation Identifier Number
Direct Certification of Children in SNAP Households and Certification of Homeless, Migrant, and Runaway Children for Free Meals in the NSLP, SBP, and SMP	<a href="#">0584-AD60</a>
Implementing Provisions From the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004: Seamless Summer Option for Schools Participating in the National School Lunch Program	<a href="#">0584-AD70</a>
Simplified Cost Accounting and Other Actions To Reduce Paperwork in the Summer Food Service Program	<a href="#">0584-AD84</a>
Review of Major Changes in Program Design and Management Evaluation Systems	<a href="#">0584-AD86</a>
Eligibility, Certification, and Employment and Training Provisions	<a href="#">0584-AD87</a>
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: Farm Bill of 2008 Retailer Sanctions	<a href="#">0584-AD88</a>
Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program	<a href="#">0584-AD96</a>
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Provision Major System Failures	<a href="#">0584-AD98</a>
Clarification of Eligibility of Fleeing Felons	<a href="#">0584-AE01</a>
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: Nutrition Education and Obesity Prevention Grant	<a href="#">0584-AE07</a>
National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs: Nutrition Standards for All Foods Sold in School, as Required by the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010	<a href="#">0584-AE09</a>
National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs: School Food Service Account Revenue Amendments Related to the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010	<a href="#">0584-AE11</a>
Child and Adult Care Food Program: Amendments Related to the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010	<a href="#">0584-AE12</a>
National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program: Eliminating Applications Through Community Eligibility as Required by the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010	<a href="#">0584-AE16</a>
WIC: Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) Implementation	<a href="#">0584-AE21</a>
Child Nutrition Programs: Local School Wellness Policy Implementation Under the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010	<a href="#">0584-AE25</a>
Requirements for the Distribution and Control of Donated Foods; and the Emergency Food Assistance Program: Implementation of the Agricultural Act of 2014	<a href="#">0584-AE29</a>
SNAP: Employment and Training Program Monitoring, Oversight and Reporting Measures	<a href="#">0584-AE33</a>
SNAP Requirement for National Directory of New Hires Wage Verification	<a href="#">0584-AE36</a>

#### Food and Nutrition Service - Completed Action

Title	Regulation Identifier Number
Professional Standards for State and Local School Nutrition Programs Personnel as Required By the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010	<a href="#">0584-AE19</a>

#### Forest Service - Proposed Rule

Title	Regulation Identifier Number
Small Business Administration Timber Sale Set-Aside Program	<a href="#">0596-AC46</a>
Administrative Issuances; Involving the Public in the Formulation of Forest Service Directives	<a href="#">0596-AC65</a>
Wilderness Management Policy	<a href="#">0596-AC96</a>
Management of Surface Activities Associated With Outstanding Mineral Rights on National Forest System Lands	<a href="#">0596-AD03</a>

National Forest System Invasive Species Management Handbook	<a href="#">0596-AD05</a>
American Indian and Alaska Native Relations	<a href="#">0596-AD15</a>
FSM 2358 National Saw Program--Sawyer Evaluation and Certification	<a href="#">0596-AD16</a>
Idaho Roadless Rule--Caribou-Targhee National Forest Modification	<a href="#">0596-AD22</a>
Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program	<a href="#">0596-AD23</a>
Prohibitions in Region 8, Southern Region	<a href="#">0596-AD24</a>

#### Forest Service - Final Rule

Title	Regulation Identifier Number
Resource Agency Procedures for Conditions and Prescriptions in Hydropower Licenses	<a href="#">0596-AC42</a>
Water Quality Management and Best Management Practices for Water and Soil Conservation	<a href="#">0596-AC71</a>
Forest Service Manual 2020--Ecological Restoration and Resilience Policy	<a href="#">0596-AC82</a>
Forest Products for Traditional and Cultural Purposes	<a href="#">0596-AD00</a>
Ski Area Definition--Land Uses, Special Uses	<a href="#">0596-AD12</a>
Ski Area--D Clauses: Resource and Improvement Protection, Water Facilities, and Water Rights	<a href="#">0596-AD14</a>
Commercial Filming in Wilderness	<a href="#">0596-AD20</a>
Stewardship End Result Contracting	<a href="#">0596-AD25</a>

#### Forest Service - Long-term Action

Title	Regulation Identifier Number
Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER)	<a href="#">0596-AC73</a>
Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive (TES) Plant and Animals; TES Habitat Management; and Biodiversity Conservation Guidance	<a href="#">0596-AC92</a>

#### Forest Service - Completed Action

Title	Regulation Identifier Number
Groundwater Resource Management Policy Direction (Forest Service Manual, Chapter 2560 and Forest Service Handbook 2709.11)	<a href="#">0596-AC51</a>
Paleontological Resources Preservation	<a href="#">0596-AC95</a>
Land Management Planning Rule Policy	<a href="#">0596-AD06</a>
Travel Management Rule	<a href="#">0596-AD17</a>
Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP)	<a href="#">0596-AD21</a>

#### Office of Procurement and Property Management - Final Rule

Title	Regulation Identifier Number
Integrated Resource Service Contract Fire Liability Clause	<a href="#">0599-AA21</a>
Voluntary Labeling Program for Biobased Products: Mature Market Products	<a href="#">0599-AA22</a>
Guidelines for Designating Biobased Products for Federal Procurement: Mature Market Products	<a href="#">0599-AA23</a>

**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Office of the Secretary ( AgSEC )**

RIN: 0503-AA55

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**Title:** Implementation of Executive Order 13559--Partnerships With Faith-Based and Other Neighborhood Organizations

**Abstract:**

This rule would revise USDA's generally applicable regulation in 7 CFR part 16 regarding the equal protection of faith-based organizations in the Department's programs and activities. These revisions are being undertaken to implement the provisions of Executive Order (EO)13559, "Fundamental Principles and Policymaking Criteria for Partnerships with Faith-Based and Other Neighborhood Organizations." Executive Order 13559 revised Executive Order 13279, which provides the legal basis for USDA's current faith-based rules, by changing terminology, clarifying existing principles, and prescribing additional beneficiary

protections. Some of the changes that pertain to this rulemaking include restating "inherently religious activities" as "explicitly religious activities," clarifying the distinction between direct and indirect Federal financial assistance, and implementing the beneficiary protections specified in section 2(h) of Executive Order 13559.

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Proposed Rule

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 16 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** E.O. 13559

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	05/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No

**Government Levels Affected:** No

**Small Entities Affected:** No

**Federalism:** No

**Energy Affected:** No

**Agency Contact:** Norah Deluhery

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**

**Office of the Secretary ( AgSEC )**

**RIN:** 0503-AA57

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**Title:** Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Age in Programs or Activities Receiving Federal Financial Assistance

**Abstract:**

USDA seeks to issue a Department-wide regulation to implement provisions of the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, and the Governmentwide age discrimination regulation promulgated by HHS to prohibit age discrimination in programs and activities receiving Federal financial assistance.

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Completed Action

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 15c (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** 42 U.S.C. 6101 et seq

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	12/10/2014	79 FR 73245
Direct Final Rule	12/10/2014	79 FR 73191
Direct Final Rule Comment Period End	01/09/2015	
Direct Final Rule Effective	01/09/2015	
NPRM Comment Period End	01/26/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No

**Government Levels Affected:** No

**Federalism:** No

**Energy Affected:** No

**Agency Contact:** Anna G. Stroman

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)  
Office of Chief Financial Officer ( OCFO )**

RIN: 0505-AA15

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**Title:** Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards--USDA Implementation

**Abstract:**

Adopts and implements OMB's final guidance on Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards. Implements 2 CFR Part 200 and puts in USDA-specific requirements into 2 CFR 415, 416, and 422. USDA will be removing five parts in title VII.

**Priority:** Other Significant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Long-term Action

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 200 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** 31 U.S.C. 503

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Next Action Undetermined		
Interim Final Rule	12/19/2014	79 FR 75867

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No

**Government Levels Affected:** Local; State; Tribal

**Small Entities Affected:** Business; Governmental Jurisdictions; Organizations

**Federalism:** No

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)  
Foreign Agricultural Service ( FAS )**

RIN: 0551-AA73

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**Title:** Facility Guarantee Loan Program (FGP)

**Abstract:**

The FGP provides payment guarantees to finance commercial exports of U.S. manufactured goods and services that will be used to improve or establish agriculture-related facilities in emerging markets, with the goal of enhancing U.S. agricultural commodity sales. Under the provisions of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, the proposed rule will incorporate changes to allow for a construction waiver. The proposed rule will also simplify the implementation and application process of the FGP program.

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Proposed Rule

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 1493 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** 7 U.S.C. 5602; 7 U.S.C. 5622; 7 USC 5661 to 5664; 7 USC 5676; 15 U.S.C. 714b(d), 714c(f)

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
ANPRM	08/06/2009	74 FR 39240
ANPRM Comment Period End	10/05/2009	
Proposed Rule	05/00/2015	
Final Rule	09/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No**Small Entities Affected:** No**Energy Affected:** No**RIN Information URL:** www.fas.usda.gov**Agency Contact:** Connie Ehrhart

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**Government Levels Affected:** No**Federalism:** No**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Foreign Agricultural Service ( FAS )**

RIN: 0551-AA82

 [View Related Documents](#)**Title:** Dairy Import Licensing Program**Abstract:**

The U.S. dairy market has changed a great deal since the dairy import licensing regulation was promulgated in 1996. In intervening years, there have been significant advances in technology and telecommunications and certain processes; for example, issuing new or reallocated licenses can now be managed in less time. While the United States was a major net importer of cheese in 1996, as of 2011 the United States had become a net exporter of cheese. Given such large changes in the dairy market environment, we are requesting comments on various aspects of the program, such as how the fees are calculated and the basis upon which historical and lottery licenses are issued each year.

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Final Rule**Major:** Undetermined**Unfunded Mandates:** No**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 6 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)**Legal Authority:** ch 4 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule**Legal Deadline:** None**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
ANPRM	02/06/2013	78 FR 8434
ANPRM Comment Period End	04/08/2013	
NPRM	12/23/2014	79 FR 76919
NPRM Comment Period End	02/23/2015	
Final Rule	08/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No**Small Entities Affected:** Business**Energy Affected:** No**Agency Contact:** Connie Ehrhart

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**Government Levels Affected:** No**Federalism:** No**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Foreign Agricultural Service ( FAS )**

RIN: 0551-AA83

 [View Related Documents](#)**Title:** General Administrative Policy Agreements to Conduct International Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching Activities**Abstract:** This direct final rule provides uniform guidelines on the use, award, and administration of Federal financial assistance transactions awarded by FAS under the authority of 7 U.S.C. 3291(a).

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Final Rule

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** None (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** 7 U.S.C. 3291(a)

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Direct Final Rule	09/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No

**Government Levels Affected:** Undetermined

**Federalism:** No

**Related RINs:** Related to 0551-AA84; Related to 0551-AA85

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Foreign Agricultural Service ( FAS )**

**RIN:** 0551-AA84

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** General Administrative Policy for Joint Venture Agreements

**Abstract:** This direct final rule provides uniform guidelines on the use, award, and administration of Federal financial assistance joint venture agreements awarded by FAS under the authority of 7 U.S.C. 3318(b).

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Final Rule

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** None (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** 7 U.S.C. 3318(b)

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Direct Final Rule	09/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No

**Government Levels Affected:** Undetermined

**Federalism:** Undetermined

**Related RINs:** Related to 0551-AA83; Related to 0551-AA85

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Foreign Agricultural Service ( FAS )**

**RIN:** 0551-AA85

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** General Administrative Policy Cost-Reimbursable Agreements

**Abstract:** This direct final rule provides uniform guidelines on the use, award, and administration of Federal financial assistance cost-reimbursable agreements awarded by Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) under the authority of 7 U.S.C. 3319a.

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Final Rule

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** None (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** 7 U.S.C. 3319(a)

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Direct Final Rule	09/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No

**Government Levels Affected:** No

**Federalism:** No

**Related RINs:** Related to 0551-AA83; Related to 0551-AA84

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Foreign Agricultural Service ( FAS )**

**RIN:** 0551-AA87

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** USDA Local and Regional Food Aid Procurement Program

**Abstract:**

FAS is issuing a final rule with comment for the USDA Local and Regional Food Aid Procurement Program (USDA LRP Program), authorized in section 3207 of the Agricultural Act of 2014. The USDA LRP Program funds may be used to support development activities that strengthen the capacity of food-insecure developing countries, and build resilience and address the causes of chronic food insecurity and support USDA's other food assistance programs, especially the McGovern Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program (McGovern-Dole). In addition, funds may be used to fill food availability gaps generated by unexpected emergencies. USDA LRP Program funding used to complement ongoing activities under the McGovern-Dole Program will improve dietary diversity and nutrition, and support the graduation and sustainability of school-feeding programs as they transition to full host-government ownership. LRP funding will enable FAS and its partners to build the capacity of host-governments to implement their own homegrown school feeding programs. A final rule is needed for FAS to begin implementing the program in FY 2016 and will establish awardee obligations regarding financial management and performance standards specifying applicable Departmental regulations and incorporating statutory requirements. The promulgation of a rule to administer the USDA LRP program will require the assignment of a new CFR number.

**Priority:** Other Significant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Final Rule

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** Not Yet Determined (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** Section 3207 of the Agriculture Act of 2014

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Direct Final Rule	09/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No

**Government Levels Affected:** No

**Federalism:** No

**Energy Affected:** No

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)  
Foreign Agricultural Service ( FAS )**

**RIN: 0551-AA88**

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program

**Abstract:**

The McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program (McGovern-Dole) helps support food security, child development, and education in low-income, food-deficient countries around the world. The program provides for the donation of U.S. agricultural commodities, as well as financial and technical assistance, to support school feeding and maternal and child health and nutrition projects.

FAS plans to publish a final rule with comments for the McGovern-Dole Program to: (1) clarify the types of entities eligible for awards and the applicability of the regulations to each type of eligible entity, (2) insert new definitions, (3) include a requirement to disclose the names and estimated costs of intended subrecipients at the proposal phase, (4) insert new terms for cash advances and reimbursements, (5) remove obsolete references to old systems and reporting requirements, (6) clarify and strengthen language requiring award recipients to report on commodity losses or damages and pursue claims, (7) insert a requirement for monetization plans for all programs involving sales of branding and labeling requirements and allow for the option of a waiver in exceptional circumstances, and (10) update other language as necessary to align the regulation with 2 CFR part 200, the new Office of Management and Budget (OMB) rule combining the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles and Audit Requirements for Federal awards.

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Final Rule

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** Not Yet Determined (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** 7 CFR 1599

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Direct Final Rule	08/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** Undetermined

**Government Levels Affected:** Undetermined

**Federalism:** Undetermined

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)  
Foreign Agricultural Service ( FAS )**

**RIN: 0551-AA89**

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** Food for Progress Program

**Abstract:**

The Food for Progress Program provides for the donation of U.S. agricultural commodities to developing countries committed to introducing and expanding free enterprise in the agricultural sector. The commodities are monetized (sold on the local market), and the proceeds are used to support agricultural development activities. Food for Progress has two objectives: to improve agricultural productivity and expand trade in agricultural products.

FAS plans to publish a final rule with comments for the Food for Progress Program to: (1) clarify the types of entities eligible for awards and the applicability of the regulations to each type of eligible entity, (2) insert new definitions, (3) include a requirement to disclose the names and estimated costs of intended subrecipients at the proposal phase, (4) insert new terms for cash advances and reimbursements, (5) remove obsolete references to old systems and reporting requirements, (6) clarify and

strengthen language requiring award recipients to report on commodity losses or damages and pursue claims, (7) insert a requirement for monetization plans for all programs involving sales of donated commodities, (8) incorporate new performance monitoring requirements, (9) strengthen branding and labeling requirements and allow for the option of a waiver in exceptional circumstances, and (10) update other language as necessary to align the regulations with 2 CFR part 200, the new Office of Management and Budget (OMB) rule combining the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles and Audit Requirements for Federal awards.

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Final Rule

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** Not Yet Determined (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** 7 CFR part 1499

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Direct Final Rule	08/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No

**Government Levels Affected:** No

**Federalism:** No

**Energy Affected:** No

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Foreign Agricultural Service ( FAS )**

**RIN:** 0551-AA74

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** Export Credit Guarantee Programs: Elimination of Intermediate Term Guarantee (GSM-103) Program; Amend Regulations for Export Credit Guarantee (GSM-102) Program

**Abstract:**

Under the provisions of the Agricultural Act of 2014, the final rule will incorporate updates to the Export Credit Guarantee Programs. The purpose is to repeal all references to the GSM-103 program and to incorporate improvements and changes to the implementation and operation of the GSM-102 program. Changes to the final rule incorporate program operational changes and information from press releases and notices to participants that have been implemented since the publication of the current rule, and include other administrative revisions to enhance clarity and program integrity. These changes should increase program availability to all participants and enhance access for smaller U.S. exporters and their sales. The final rule eliminates provisions for the Intermediate Export Credit Guarantee (GSM-103) Program, consistent with the removal of authority to operate this program in the 2008 Farm Bill.

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Completed Action

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 1493 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** 7 U.S.C. 5602, 5622; 7 U.S.C. 5661 and 5662; 7 U.S.C. 5663 and 5664; 5676; 15 U.S.C. 714b(d), 714c(f)

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
ANPRM	12/17/2008	73 FR 76568
ANPRM Comment Period End	02/02/2009	
NPRM	07/27/2011	76 FR 44836
NPRM Comment Period End	09/26/2011	
Proposed Rule	12/27/2013	78 FR 79253
NPRM Comment Period End	01/27/2014	
Final Rule	11/18/2014	79 FR 68589
Final Action Effective	12/18/2014	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No  
**Small Entities Affected:** Business  
**Energy Affected:** No  
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**Government Levels Affected:** No  
**Federalism:** No  
**Public Comment URL:** www.regulations.gov

**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Foreign Agricultural Service ( FAS )**

**RIN:** 0551-AA86

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** Pima Agricultural Cotton Trust Fund and Agriculture Wool Apparel Manufacturers Trust Fund

**Abstract:**

FAS proposes to include the Agriculture Pima Cotton Trust rule as a CFR part that includes a part about the Agriculture Wool Trust regulation. The entry will provide the public with eligibility and reporting requirements for the program.

Agriculture Pima Cotton Trust: section 12314 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Act) established the Pima Agriculture Cotton Trust Fund with the purpose of reducing the economic injury to domestic manufacturers resulting from tariffs on cotton fabric that are higher than tariffs on certain apparel articles made of cotton fabric. The Act allocates \$16 million in Commodity Credit Corporation funds for each calendar years 2014 to 2018.

Agriculture Wool Trust: The Act authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to make payments for the programs the Agriculture Wool Trust Fund supports beginning in calendar years 2014 through 2019. USDA will administer the Wool Grant program beginning in calendar year 2015 and the Wool Duty Refund program beginning in calendar year 2016.

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Completed Action

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** None (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** Section 12314

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Final Rule	03/09/2015	80 FR 12321
Final Action Effective	03/09/2015	
Comment Period End	04/08/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No

**Government Levels Affected:** Undetermined

**Federalism:** Yes

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Farm Service Agency ( FSA )**

**RIN:** 0560-AI31

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** Payment Limitation and Payment Eligibility--Actively Engaged in Farming

**Abstract:**

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) proposes to revise regulations on behalf of the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) to specify the requirements for a person to be considered actively engaged in farming for the purpose of payment eligibility for certain FSA and CCC programs. Specifically, FSA proposes to revise and clarify the requirements for a significant contribution of active personnel management to a farming operation. These changes are required by the Agricultural Act of 2014 (the 2014 Farm Bill). The provisions of the proposed rule would not apply to persons or entities comprised solely of family members. The rule would not change the existing regulations as they relate to contributions of land, capital, equipment, labor or the special rules related to landowners with a risk in the crop or spouses.

**Priority:** Other Significant**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Proposed Rule**Major:** No**Unfunded Mandates:** No**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 1400 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)**Legal Authority:** 7 U.S.C. 1308?1 note**Legal Deadline:** None**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	03/26/2015	80 FR 15916
NPRM Comment Period End	05/26/2015	
Final Action	10/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No**Government Levels Affected:** No**Small Entities Affected:** Business; Organizations**Federalism:** No**Energy Affected:** No

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Farm Service Agency ( FSA )**

RIN: 0560-AH02

 [View Related Documents](#)
**Title:** Environmental Compliance and Related Concerns**Abstract:**

This rule will provide the Farm Service Agency (FSA) with an environmental compliance regulation that updates, improves, and clarifies its requirements to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act; the National Historic Preservation Act; and numerous other environmental and cultural resource laws, regulations, and Executive orders. It will also make the regulation consistent for both FSA's Farm Loan Programs and Farm Programs. Also, it will remove outdated regulations used by FSA from chapter XVIII of the Code of Federal Regulations, formerly used by the predecessor to FSA, the Farmers Home Administration. The changes will promote predictability and reduce uncertainty for environmental compliance related to actions for FSA programs. The changes will coordinate, simplify, and harmonize the environmental compliance rules.

**Priority:** Other Significant**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Final Rule**Major:** No**Unfunded Mandates:** No**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 799 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)**Legal Authority:** 42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.**Legal Deadline:** None**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	09/03/2014	79 FR 52239
NPRM Comment Period End	12/02/2014	
Final Rule	08/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No**Government Levels Affected:** No**Small Entities Affected:** No**Federalism:** No

**Energy Affected:** No**Public Comment URL:** www.regulations.gov

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Farm Service Agency ( FSA )**

RIN: 0560-AI26

 [View Related Documents](#)**Title:** Conservation Compliance**Abstract:**

The interim rule implements mandatory changes to the conservation compliance regulations in 7 CFR part 12 as required by the Agricultural Act of 2014 (the 2014 Farm Bill). The current regulations require participants in most USDA programs to comply with conservation compliance measures on any land that is highly erodible or that is considered a wetland. The 2014 Farm Bill expands current conservation compliance requirements to apply to producers who obtain subsidized Federal crop insurance under the Federal Crop Insurance Act. It also slightly modifies the existing wetlands "Mitigation Banking" program to remove the requirement that USDA hold easements in the mitigation program.

**Priority:** Other Significant**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Final Rule**Major:** No**Unfunded Mandates:** No**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 12 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)**Legal Authority:** 7 U.S.C. 1501 et seq.; 16 U.S.C. 3811 and 3812; 16 U.S.C. 3821 and 3822**Legal Deadline:** None**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Interim Final Rule	04/24/2015	80 FR 22873
Interim Final Rule Effective	04/24/2015	
Interim Final Rule Comment Period End	06/23/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No**Government Levels Affected:** No**Small Entities Affected:** Business**Federalism:** No**Energy Affected:** No**Public Comment URL:** regulations.gov

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Farm Service Agency ( FSA )**

RIN: 0560-AI30

 [View Related Documents](#)**Title:** Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)**Abstract:**

The rule implements changes to CRP required by the 2014 Farm Bill. CRP assists producers to conserve and improve soil, water, and wildlife resources by converting highly erodible and other environmentally sensitive acreage to a long-term vegetative cover. The core scope of CRP will not change. The changes required by the 2014 Farm Bill include providing an "early out" for

contract cancellations in 2015, removing the requirement for a payment reduction for emergency haying and grazing, and allowing non-cropland (grasslands) in CRP. CRP is a Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) program administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA).

**Priority:** Other Significant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Final Rule

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 1410 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** 16 U.S.C. 3831 to 3835

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Notice	07/21/2014	79 FR 41247
Comment Period End	09/08/2014	
Notice	12/23/2014	79 FR 76952
Comment Period End	02/15/2015	
Interim Final Rule	05/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No

**Government Levels Affected:** No

**Small Entities Affected:** Business

**Federalism:** No

**Energy Affected:** No

**Public Comment URL:** regulations.gov

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Farm Service Agency ( FSA )**

RIN: 0560-AI32

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** Farm Loan Programs, Highly Fractionated Indian Lands (HFIL) Loan Program

**Abstract:**

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) will implement a new HFIL loan program to provide revolving loan funds to eligible intermediary lenders familiar with Indian lands, and those lenders will give loans to the qualified individuals, entities, and tribes to purchase HFIL, as specified in the section 5402 of the 2014 Farm Bill. As ownership of Indian land descends from one generation to another, fractionation continues to be a worsening problem, and many tracts are held in undivided ownership by hundreds or thousands of people. The ability of the owners to use land decreases as fractionation increases, sometimes to the point where it is nearly impossible to locate the owners or for the owners to coordinate. The new HFIL program is required by 2014 Farm Bill. This final rule provides a way for tribal members to be able to get loans to purchase the lands and consolidate the fractionated interests to qualified tribes, individuals and entities.

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Final Rule

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR part 769 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** 25 U.S.C. 488

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	07/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No

**Government Levels Affected:** Tribal

**Federalism:** No

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Farm Service Agency ( FSA )**

RIN: 0560-AI18

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** Clarification of Bales Made Available for Shipment by Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) Approved Warehouses

**Abstract:**

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) administers the CCC-approved Cotton Warehouse Program for CCC. FSA is amending the regulations that specify the requirements for CCC approved cotton warehouses. The amendment clarifies the definition of Bales Made Available for Shipment (BMAS). CCC-approved cotton warehouses are required to report BMAS, among other data, to CCC weekly. The amendment clarifies that bales made available, but not picked up (BNPU), cannot be "counted" as BMAS for longer than two weeks. A conforming change will be made to the CCC Cotton Storage Agreement.

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Completed Action

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 1423.11 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** 15 U.S.C. 714b and 714c

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	09/26/2013	78 FR 59289
NPRM Comment Period End	11/25/2013	
Final Rule	12/01/2014	79 FR 70995
Final Action Effective	12/31/2014	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No

**Government Levels Affected:** No

**Federalism:** No

**Energy Affected:** No

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Farm Service Agency ( FSA )**

RIN: 0560-AI27

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP)

**Abstract:**

The Agricultural Act of 2014 (the 2014 Farm Bill) extends and revises the Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP) and authorizes funding through 2018. BCAP provides financial assistance to producers who establish and harvest biomass crops. The 2014 Farm Bill adds some new payment amounts and eligibility restrictions, but the core goals of BCAP are unchanged. The definition of eligible materials removes bagasse as an eligible material and requires that all woody biomass be harvested directly from the land. Materials used for research are added as an eligible material. The 2014 Farm Bill reduces the payment for collection, harvest, storage, and transportation matching payments from \$45 per dry ton under the 2008 Farm Bill to \$20 per dry ton. The regulation revises the previous specification that FSA prioritized project areas to now specify that, as required by the 2014 Farm Bill, at least 10 percent of payments will be matching payments.

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Completed Action

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 1450 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** 7 U.S.C. 8111

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Final Rule	02/27/2015	80 FR 10569
Comment Period End	04/28/2015	
Final Action Effective	05/28/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No

**Government Levels Affected:** No

**Small Entities Affected:** Business

**Federalism:** No

**Energy Affected:** No

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Farm Service Agency ( FSA )**

**RIN:** 0560-AI28

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** Marketing Assistance Loans, Loan Deficiency Payments, and Sugar Loans

**Abstract:**

The Agricultural Act of 2014 (the 2014 Farm Bill) reauthorizes Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL) and Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP) for all eligible commodities including cotton, honey, and sugar loans for the 2014 through 2018 crop years. The MAL and LDP programs allow producers to receive short-term loans against their crops, so that producers can market their crops at a time that is convenient for them, rather than being forced to sell immediately after harvest to pay the bills. The MAL and LDP programs are continued with no changes to the loan rates except for cotton, and there are no other changes to the basic structure of the programs. The rule removes the references to the program years that previously limited it to 2008-2012, and makes some minor discretionary changes to add clarity to the regulations. MALs, LDPs, and sugar loans are Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) programs administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA).

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Completed Action

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 1405; 7 CFR 1421; 7 CFR 1425; 7 CFR 1427; 7 CFR 1434; 7 CFR 1435 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** 7 U.S.C. 9031 and 9032; 7 U.S.C. 9034; 7 U.S.C. 9036; 7 U.S.C. 9038 to 9040; 7 U.S.C. 7272; 7 U.S.C. 1359bb; 7 U.S.C. 1359ll; 7 U.S.C. 9091

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Final Rule	01/02/2015	80 FR 114
Final Action Effective	01/02/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No

**Government Levels Affected:** No

**Small Entities Affected:** Business

**Federalism:** No

**Energy Affected:** No

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)  
 Farm Service Agency ( FSA )**

**RIN: 0560-AI29**

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** Farm Loan Programs Changes

**Abstract:**

The rule implements regulatory changes required by the Agricultural Act of 2014 (2014 Farm Bill) for certain program requirements in the Farm Loan Programs (FLP) regulations. The changes are: increase percent of guarantees on Conservation Loans (CL); reduce interest rates for direct Farm Ownership (FO) loans made under a joint financing arrangement; increase the loan limit for direct FO loans made under the Down Payment Program; remove the rural residency requirements for Youth Loan (YL) applicants; allow a borrower who had debt forgiveness on YL to receive future Federal loans under certain conditions; revise Microloans (ML) for beginning and veteran farms to exclude them from the existing direct Operating Loan (OL) term limitations; make a special ML interest rate available to beginning and veteran farmers; eliminate certain appraisal requirements; remove term limits on guaranteed OLs; and change the term from "median" to "average" in the definition of a beginning farmer.

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Completed Action

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 761; 7 CFR 762; 7 CFR 764; 7 CFR 765 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** 7 U.S.C. 1924; 7 U.S.C. 1927; 7 U.S.C. 1935; 7 U.S.C. 1941 to 1943; 7 U.S.C. 1946; 7 U.S.C. 1949; 7 U.S.C. 1991

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Final Rule	12/31/2014	79 FR 89689
Final Action Effective	12/31/2014	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No

**Government Levels Affected:** No

**Small Entities Affected:** Business

**Federalism:** No

**Energy Affected:** No

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)  
 Federal Crop Insurance Corporation ( FCIC )**

**RIN: 0563-AC45**

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**Title:** General Administrative Regulations; Subpart X--Interpretations of Statutory Provisions, Policy Provisions, and Procedures

**Abstract:**

The Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC) proposes to revise the General and Administrative Regulation subpart X-- Interpretations of Statutory and Regulatory Provisions, to incorporate interpretations of procedures previously issued and administered in accordance with Manager's Bulletin MGR-05-018 and to provide a mechanism for interpretations of policy provisions that are not codified in the Code of Federal Regulations. This action would provide requestors with information on how to request a final agency determination or an interpretation of FCIC procedures and unpublished policy provisions within one administrative regulation, bring consistency and clarity to the processes used, and to clarify existing provisions.

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Final Rule

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 400 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations.](#))

**Legal Authority:** 7 U.S.C. 1506 (l); 7 U.S.C. 1506 (o)

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	03/18/2015	80 FR 14030
NPRM Comment Period End	04/17/2015	
Final Action	09/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No

**Government Levels Affected:** No

**Small Entities Affected:** No

**Federalism:** No

**Energy Affected:** No

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Federal Crop Insurance Corporation ( FCIC )**

RIN: 0563-AC46

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** General Administrative Regulation-Subpart V--Submission of Policies, Provisions of Policies and Rates of Premium

**Abstract:**

The Federal Crop Insurance Corporation replaces the General Administrative Regulation-subpart V--Submission of Policies, Provisions of Policies and Rates of Premium to incorporate legislative changes to the Federal Crop Insurance Act (Act) stemming from the Agricultural Act of 2014, to clarify existing regulations, lessen the burden of submitters of crop insurance policies, provisions of policies, or rates of premium under section 508(h) of the Act; provide guidance on the submission and payment for concept proposals under section 522 of the Act; and to incorporate changes that are consistent with those made in the Common Crop Insurance Policy Basic Provisions.

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Final Rule

**Major:** Undetermined

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 400 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations.](#))

**Legal Authority:** 7 U.S.C. 1506(l); 7 U.S.C. 1506(o); 7 U.S.C. 1508(h); 7 U.S.C. 1522(b); 7 U.S.C. 1523(i); ...

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	02/25/2015	80 FR 10008
NPRM Comment Period End	04/27/2015	
Final Action	09/00/2015	
Final Action Effective	10/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No

**Government Levels Affected:** No

**Small Entities Affected:** No

**Federalism:** No

**Energy Affected:** No

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Federal Crop Insurance Corporation ( FCIC )**

RIN: 0563-AC43

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** General Administrative Regulations; Catastrophic Risk Protection Endorsement; Area Risk Protection Insurance Regulations; and the Common Crop Insurance Regulations, Basic Provisions

**Abstract:**

The Federal Crop Insurance Corporation amends the General Administrative Regulations--Ineligibility for Programs under the Federal Crop Insurance Act, the Catastrophic Risk Protection Endorsement, the Area Risk Protection Insurance Regulations, and the Common Crop Insurance Regulations, Basic Provisions, to revise those revisions affected by changes mandated by the Agricultural Act of 2014 (commonly referred to as the 2014 Farm Bill), enacted on February 7, 2014.

**Priority:** Economically Significant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Long-term Action

**Major:** Yes

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 400; 7 CFR 457 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** Pub. L. 113-79

**Legal Deadline:** 2015 Contract year

Action	Source	Description	Date
Other	Statutory		06/30/2014

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Interim Final Rule Effective	06/30/2014	79 FR 37155
Interim Final Rule Comment Period End	09/02/2014	
Final Action	11/00/2016	
Final Action Effective	11/00/2016	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No

**Government Levels Affected:** No

**Small Entities Affected:** No

**Federalism:** No

**Energy Affected:** No

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Federal Crop Insurance Corporation ( FCIC )**

RIN: 0563-AC44

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** Common Crop Insurance Regulations; Macadamia Tree and Macadamia Nut Crop Provisions

**Abstract:**

The rule amends the Common Crop Insurance Regulations, Macadamia Tree Crop Insurance Provisions, and the Macadamia Nut Crop Insurance Provisions to remove the provision requiring an optional unit to contain at least 80 acres. The action would provide policy changes to better meet the needs of producers. The changes will apply for the 2016 and succeeding crop years for macadamia trees and the 2017, and succeeding crop years for macadamia nuts.

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Completed Action

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 457 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** 7 U.S.C. 1506 (l); 7 U.S.C. 1506 (o)

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	08/01/2014	79 FR 44719
NPRM Comment Period End	09/30/2014	
Final Action	04/16/2015	80 FR 20407
Final Action Effective	05/18/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No

**Government Levels Affected:** No

**Small Entities Affected:** No

**Federalism:** No

**Energy Affected:** No

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Rural Business-Cooperative Service ( RBS )**

**RIN:** 0570-AA85

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** Business and Industry (B&I) Guaranteed Loan Program

**Abstract:**

The Agency published a proposed rule for the Business and Industry (B&I) Guaranteed Loan Program on September 15, 2014 (78 FR 22044), which, when finalized, would revise the 1996 B&I regulations. While there have been some minor modifications to the B&I Guaranteed Loan Program regulations since 1996, this action is in response to the implement 2014 Farm Bill provisions and makes needed refinements to the regulation. These changes are designed to enhance the program, improve efficiency, correct minor inconsistencies, clarify the regulations, and ultimately reduce delinquencies. The Agency held several lender meetings throughout the country to see how changes to the program could benefit lenders who use the program. The proposed changes being considered may result in a lower the subsidy rate. The rule, when finalized, would increase lending activity, expand business opportunities, and create jobs in rural areas, particularly in areas that have historically experienced economic distress.

**Priority:** Other Significant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Final Rule

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 4287; 7 CFR 4279 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	09/15/2014	79 FR 55316
NPRM Comment Period End	11/14/2014	
Final Rule	09/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No

**Government Levels Affected:** No

**Federalism:** No

**Energy Affected:** No

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Rural Business-Cooperative Service ( RBS )**

**RIN:** 0570-AA92

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**Title:** Rural Business Development Grant

**Abstract:**

This regulation will combine the current Rural Business Enterprise Grant and the Rural Business Opportunity Grant into one regulation as required by the 2014 Farm Bill.

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Final Rule**Major:** No**Unfunded Mandates:** No**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 4280 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)**Legal Authority:** 7 U.S.C. 1989**Legal Deadline:** None**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Interim Final Rule	03/25/2015	80 FR 15665
Interim Final Rule Comment Period End	05/26/2015	
Final Action	12/00/2016	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No**Government Levels Affected:** Local; Tribal**Small Entities Affected:** Business; Governmental Jurisdictions; Organizations**Federalism:** No**Energy Affected:** No

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)****Rural Business-Cooperative Service ( RBS )**

RIN: 0570-AA94

 [View Related Documents](#)**Title:** Strategic Economic and Community Development**Abstract:**

This interim rule implements section 6025, Strategic Economic and Community Development under the Agricultural Act of 2014 (2014 Farm Bill). Unless the Agency provides otherwise, the Agency will reserve up to 10 percent of the funds appropriated to certain Rural Development (RD) programs each fiscal year to fund projects that support the implementation of strategic economic and community development plans across multi-jurisdictional areas. The programs from which funds will be reserved are community facility programs, water and waste disposal programs, and rural business and cooperative development programs. To be eligible for the reserved funds, projects must be first eligible for funding under the programs from which the funds are reserved. In addition projects must be carried out solely in rural areas. Any reserved funding that is not obligated by June 30 of the fiscal year in which the funds were reserved will be returned to the programs regular funding accounts.

**Priority:** Economically Significant**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Final Rule**Major:** Yes**Unfunded Mandates:** No**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 1942, subpart A; 7 CFR 1942, subpart C; 7 CFR 3570, subpart B; 7 CFR 3575, subpart A; 7 CFR 1779; 7 CFR 1780, subpart A, B, C, D; 7 CFR 4279, subpart A, B; 7 CFR 4287, subpart B (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)**Legal Authority:** Pub. L. 113-076, sec 6025**Legal Deadline:** None**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Interim Final Rule	05/00/2015	
Interim Final Rule Comment Period End	07/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No**Government Levels Affected:** Undetermined**Small Entities Affected:** No**Federalism:** No**Energy Affected:** No

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Rural Business-Cooperative Service ( RBS )**

RIN: 0570-AA95

 [View Related Documents](#)**Title:** Program Measures and Metrics**Abstract:**

The Agency is proposing to publish a Final Rule with request for comments that will codify certain program measures and metrics for included Agency programs and establish the process by which the Agency will collect the data. Section 6209 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (2014 Farm Bill) (P.L. 113-79) requires the Secretary of Agriculture to collect data regarding economic activities created through grants and loans, including any technical assistance provided as a component of the grant or loan program, and measure the short- and long-term viability of award recipients and any entities to whom those recipients provide assistance using award funds. The proposed action will not change the underlying provisions of the included programs (e.g., eligibility, applications, scoring, and servicing provisions).

**Priority:** Other Significant**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Final Rule**Major:** No**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 4284, subpart J; 7 CFR 4280, subparts A and D; 7 CFR 4284, subparts E and F; 7 CFR 4279, subparts A and B; 7 CFR 4287, subpart B; 7 CFR 4274, subpart D; 7 CFR 1942, subpart A; 7 CFR 3575, subpart A; 7 CFR 3570, subpart B (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** Pub. L. 113-79, sec 6209**Legal Deadline:** None**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Final Rule	01/00/2016	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No**Government Levels Affected:** No**Small Entities Affected:** No**Federalism:** No**Energy Affected:** No**Agency Contact:** Kenneth Robert Meardon

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Rural Business-Cooperative Service ( RBS )**

RIN: 0570-AA76

 [View Related Documents](#)**Title:** Rural Energy for America Program**Abstract:**

The Agency published a proposed rule for the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) on April 12, 2013 (78 FR 22044). The agency is authorized under section 9007 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (as amended by the Agricultural Act of 2014) to provide grants for energy audits and renewable energy development assistance, and provide financial assistance for energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy systems. The 2014 Farm Bill directs that at least 20 percent of funds be used for grants of \$20,000 or less, and up to 4 percent of mandatory funds for energy audits and Renewable Energy Development Assistance Grants. Eligible entities for energy audits and renewable energy development assistance include units of State, tribal, or local government; an instrumentality of a State, tribal, or local government; land grant or other institutions of higher education; rural electric cooperatives; RCID Councils or public power entities. Eligible entities for financial assistance for energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy systems include agricultural producers and rural small businesses. The agency identified REAP as one of the Department's periodic retrospective review of regulations under Executive Order 13563, and has proposed a tiered application approach that reduces applicant burden for technical reports and streamlines the narrative portion of the application.

**Priority:** Economically Significant**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Completed Action

**Major:** Yes**Unfunded Mandates:** No**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 4280-B (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)**Legal Authority:** 7 U.S.C. 8107**Legal Deadline:** None**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Interim Final Rule	04/14/2011	76 FR 21109
Interim Final Rule Effective	04/14/2011	
Interim Final Rule Comment Period End	06/13/2011	
NPRM	04/12/2013	78 FR 22044
Final Rule	12/29/2014	79 FR 78220
Final Rule Effective	02/12/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No**Government Levels Affected:** No**Small Entities Affected:** Business**Federalism:** No**Energy Affected:** No**Agency Contact:** Kelley Oehler

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Rural Business-Cooperative Service ( RBS )**

RIN: 0570-AA79

 [View Related Documents](#)**Title:** Value-Added Producer Grant Program**Abstract:**

The Agency is proposing a final rule in order to implement the final rule for the Value-Added Producer Grant (VAPG) program. This final rule modifies the interim rule for VAPG based on comments received on the interim rule, which was published on February 23, 2011 (76 FR 10122), on the Agricultural Act of 2014 (2014 Farm Bill); and on a listening session, held on April 25, 2014, on the VAPG provisions in the 2014 Farm Bill. This action addresses these modifications, as well as a number of program clarifications, including but not limited to allowing seafood producers to be able to apply under the locally produced value-added agricultural product methodology, and eligibility for tribal entities. Farm Bill provisions include providing priority for funding applicants that are Veteran Farmers and Ranchers. It further provides additional priority points for Agricultural Producer Groups, Farmer or Rancher Cooperatives, and Majority-Controlled Producer-Based Business Ventures whose projects best contribute to creating or increasing marketing opportunities for Beginning Farmers and Rancher, Veteran Farmers and Ranchers, Socially-Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers, and operators of Small- and Medium-sized Family Farms and Ranches. Program clarifications include guidance that was addressed in the annual Federal Register notices since publication of the interim rule.

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Completed Action**Major:** No**Unfunded Mandates:** No**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 1951, subpart E; 7 CFR 4284, subpart J (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)**Legal Authority:** Pub. L. 110-246**Legal Deadline:** None**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	05/28/2010	75 FR 29920
NPRM Comment Period End	06/28/2010	
Interim Final Rule	02/23/2011	76 FR 10090
Interim Final Rule Effective	03/25/2011	
Final Rule, Request for Comment	05/08/2015	80 FR 26787
Final Rule Effective	05/08/2015	
Final Rule Comment Period End	07/07/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No**Government Levels Affected:** No

**Small Entities Affected:** Business  
**Energy Affected:** No  
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**Federalism:** No

**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Rural Business-Cooperative Service ( RBS )**

**RIN:** 0570-AA88

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** Debt Settlement--Community and Business Programs

**Abstract:**

The change will permit the Rural Business Service Administrator to use statutory authority that has been delegated to the Administrator but is currently not being used as it relates to certain programs administered by the Agency, specifically debt settlement of loans for the Intermediary Relending Program and Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program.

**Priority:** Other Significant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Completed Action

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 1956-C; 7 CFR 1951-R (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** 7 U.S.C. 1981

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Direct Final Rule	03/13/2015	80 FR 13199

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No

**Government Levels Affected:** Local; Tribal

**Small Entities Affected:** Organizations

**Federalism:** No

**Energy Affected:** No

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Rural Business-Cooperative Service ( RBS )**

**RIN:** 0570-AA91

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** Revision of RD Regulations Concerning the Use of the Decennial Census for Obtaining Population, Income, and Unemployment Data and Updating FmHA References

**Abstract:**

RD is proposing to revise program regulations within RBS, RUS, and RHS to update population-, income-, and unemployment-related data sources referenced in program regulations. These changes will have little to no impact on applicants. The only impact, which is marginal at most, is that there may be some change in the amount of funds a particular State may receive as a result of using Bureau of Labor Statistics in lieu of Census Bureau data previously reported in the decennial Census.

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Completed Action

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 1714; 7 CFR 1781; 7 CFR 1806; 7 CFR 1810; 7 CFR 1822; 7 CFR 1900; 7 CFR 1901; 7 CFR 1940; 7

CFR 1942 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** 7 U.S.C. 901 et seq; 7 U.S.C. 1921 et seq; 7 U.S.C. 6941 et seq; 5 U.S.C. 301; 7 U.S.C. 1989; 16 U.S.C. 1005; 42 U.S.C. 1480; 12 U.S.C. 1480

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Direct Final Rule	02/24/2015	80 FR 9855
Comment Period End	03/26/2015	
Final Action Effective	04/27/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No

**Government Levels Affected:** No

**Small Entities Affected:** No

**Federalism:** No

**Energy Affected:** No

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**

**Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS)**

**RIN:** 0570-AA93

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** Biorefinery, Renewable Chemical, and Biobased Product Manufacturing Assistance Program

**Abstract:**

The Biorefinery Assistance Program was authorized under the 2008 Farm Bill. The 2014 Farm Bill continues the authority established by the 2008 Farm Bill but made changes to the program that require revisions to existing regulations. The 2014 Farm Bill changed the program's name to the Biorefinery, Renewable Chemical, and Biobased Product Manufacturing Assistance Program and mandated that the program provide loan guarantees for the development, construction, and retrofitting of commercial-scale biorefineries as well as biobased product manufacturing facilities. Increasing production of homegrown renewable fuels, chemicals, and biobased products has grown; so has the need to develop and produce them. Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS) offers opportunities to producers to develop and manufacture such products through the Biorefinery, Renewable Chemical, and Biobased Product Manufacturing Assistance Program. RBS published the Biorefinery Assistance Program proposed rule in the Federal Register on April 18, 2010, (75 FR 20044) and an interim rule on February 14, 2011, both with 60-day comment periods. Comments were received from biofuel and bio-products producers, banking and investment institutions, attorneys, and research and development companies. In addition to the program changes required by the 2014 Farm Bill, RBS needs to address the comments received to the February 14, 2011, interim rule. The Biorefinery, Renewable Chemical, and Biobased Product Manufacturing Assistance Program focuses on accelerating the commercialization of production of advanced biofuels and renewable chemicals, as well as biobased product manufacturing.

**Priority:** Other Significant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Completed Action

**Major:** Undetermined

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 4279 subpart C; 7 CFR 4287 subpart D (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** 7 U.S.C. 8103

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Withdrawn	05/05/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No

**Government Levels Affected:** No

**Small Entities Affected:** Business; Governmental Jurisdictions; Organizations

**Federalism:** No

**Energy Affected:** No

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Rural Utilities Service ( RUS )**

RIN: 0572-AC33

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** Policy on Audits of RUS Borrowers

**Abstract:**

The Agency will issue a proposed rule to incorporate the latest revisions to Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards Issued by GAO. Other changes include clarifying the management letter to provide better guidance on subsidiary reporting; expanding the definition of borrower to include broadband and wireless providers; adding new definitions pertaining to the peer review program administered by the American Institute of Certified Accountants; increasing the threshold for expenditures under OMB Circular A-133; clarifying the peer review requirements; and clarifying procedures for requesting a change in audit date.

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Proposed Rule

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 1773 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** 7 U.S.C. 901 et seq; 7 U.S.C. 1921 et seq; 7 U.S.C. 6941 et seq

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	06/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No

**Government Levels Affected:** No

**Federalism:** No

**Energy Affected:** No

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Rural Utilities Service ( RUS )**

RIN: 0572-AC28

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** Water Systems for Rural and Native Villages in Alaska

**Abstract:**

7 USC 1926(d) authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to make grants to the State of Alaska for the benefit of rural or Native villages in Alaska to develop and construct water and wastewater systems that would improve the health and sanitation conditions in those villages. The Rural Utilities Service will remove the current administration of this program from 7 CFR 1780 and issue a new regulation, 7 CFR 1784, in order to provide specific policies and procedures governing the program.

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Final Rule

**Major:** Undetermined

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 1784 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** 5 U.S.C. 301; 7 U.S.C. 1989; 16 U.S.C. 1005

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite

NPRM	12/20/2013	78 FR 77009
NPRM Comment Period End	02/18/2014	
Final Action	07/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No**Government Levels Affected:** Local; State**Federalism:** No**Energy Affected:** No**Agency Contact:** Michele L Brooks

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)****Rural Utilities Service ( RUS )****RIN:** 0572-AC29 [View Related Documents](#)**Title:** Telecommunications Equipment Contract**Abstract:**

In order to facilitate the programmatic interest of the Rural Electrification Act that loans made or guaranteed by the Agency are adequately secured, the Agency has established certain standardized forms for materials and equipment and the construction of electric and telecommunications systems. The use of standard forms, construction contracts, and procurement procedures helps to ensure that appropriate standards and specifications are maintained by the borrower, protects the Agency's loan security so it is not adversely affected, and ensures that the loan and loan guarantee funds are used effectively and for the intended purpose. The Rural Utilities Service is issuing a new equipment contract, RUS Form 395, for use by telecommunications program borrowers. The new contract will reflect present business and utilities practices, as well as changes in technology, services, and equipment.

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Final Rule**Major:** No**Unfunded Mandates:** No**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 1753; 7 CFR 1755 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)**Legal Authority:** 5 U.S.C. 501; 7 U.S.C. 901 et seq**Legal Deadline:** None**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	02/12/2014	79 FR 8327
Direct Final Rule	07/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No**Government Levels Affected:** No**Federalism:** No**Energy Affected:** No**Agency Contact:** Michele L Brooks

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)****Rural Utilities Service ( RUS )****RIN:** 0572-AC34 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** Rural Broadband Access Loans and Loan Guarantees

**Abstract:**

The Rural Utilities Service is amending regulations for the Rural Broadband Access Loan and Loan Guarantee program to implement section 6104 of the Agriculture Act of 2014 (2014 Farm Bill).

**Priority:** Other Significant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Final Rule

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 1738 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** Pub. L. 107-171; 7 U.S.C. 901 et seq

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Interim Final Rule	06/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No

**Government Levels Affected:** No

**Small Entities Affected:** No

**Federalism:** No

**Energy Affected:** No

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**

**Rural Housing Service ( RHS )**

**RIN:** 0575-AA83

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** Civil Rights Compliance Requirements

**Abstract:**

In this proposed rule, the Rural Housing Service (RHS) proposes to a comprehensive civil rights regulation to provide detailed guidelines to improve compliance with applicable enacted civil rights laws. Mechanisms for monitoring compliance by USDA field offices and recipients of Federal financial assistance at all levels will decrease the Agency's vulnerability that exists due to compliance issues.

**Priority:** Other Significant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Proposed Rule

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 15; 12 CFR 202; 28 CFR 42; 45 CFR 90; 41 CFR 60 to 64; 24 CFR 14; 7 CFR 1901-E; 7 CFR 1940-D (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** Pub. L. 100-259; 29 U.S.C. 794; Pub. L. 94-135; 42 U.S.C. 6101 et seq; Pub. L. 94-239; 15 U.S.C. 1601 et seq; E.O. 11246; Pub. L. 88-352; 42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq; Pub. L. 90-284; 42 U.S.C. 3601 to 3619; Pub. L. 100-430; Pub. L. 92-318; 20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq; Pub. L. 93-112; E.O. 12898

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Proposed Rule	05/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** Undetermined

**Government Levels Affected:** Undetermined

**Federalism:** No

**Energy Affected:** No

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Rural Housing Service ( RHS )**

RIN: 0575-AC86

 [View Related Documents](#)
**Title:** Citizenship Implementation**Abstract:**

The Rural Housing Service published a proposed rule (68 FR 32872) on June 2, 2003, to streamline and consolidate 14 regulations into 7 CFR 3560, which sets forth requirements, policies, and procedures for originating, processing, and servicing Rural Development's Multi-Family Housing (MFH) direct loans and grants. The programs covered by this part are authorized by title V of the Housing Act of 1949. The Center for Immigration Studies and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security estimated in 2009 that the illegal population was 10.96 percent of the total population. The economic impact of implementation of this rule is a possible reduction of over \$118 million in RA. An interim rule was published on November 26, 2004 (69 FR 69032-69176), to implement those changes with an effective date of February 24, 2005. The Agency published in the Federal Register on February 22, 2005, (70 FR 8503), to indefinitely delay the effective date of specific words in quotes in the following specific sections: Sections 3560.152(a)(1) "Be a United States citizen or qualified alien, and"; 3560.154(a)(7) ". . . and a certification that the applicant is a U.S. citizen or a qualified alien as defined in section 3560.11 . . ."; 3560.156(c)(12) ". . . their citizenship status, . . ."; and 3560.254(c)(3) "Whose head of the household is a U.S. citizen or a legal alien as defined in section 3560.11." The interim final rule contained requirements regarding citizenship eligibility about which the Agency received several comments. The comments suggested that Agency procedures unnecessarily imposed more requirements than those required under the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) procedures for similar programs. RHS plans to publish a proposed rule to implement the citizenship requirements and to harmonize RHS' requirements with those currently established by HUD.

**Priority:** Economically Significant**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Proposed Rule**Major:** Undetermined**Unfunded Mandates:** No**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 3560-D; 7 CFR 3560-F (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)**Legal Authority:** 42 U.S.C. 1436(a); 42 U.S.C. 1471; Pub. L. 108-447**Legal Deadline:** None**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	01/00/2016	
NPRM Comment Period End	03/00/2016	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No**Government Levels Affected:** No**Federalism:** No**Energy Affected:** No**Related RINs:** Related to 0575-AC13**Agency Contact:** Joan Atkinson

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Rural Housing Service ( RHS )**

RIN: 0575-AC87

 [View Related Documents](#)
**Title:** Servicing Community Programs Loans and Grants**Abstract:**

The Agency will consolidate the applicable portions of the seven regulations used to service Community Facilities direct loans and grants into one streamlined regulation. The consolidation will improve the Agency's ability to service its portfolio and will ensure that the Government's investment is protected and maximized. The proposed action will have no financial impact on the

public or the Agency and will be in the best interest of the Government and the public. The consolidation and update will provide an improved basis for servicing Community Facilities direct loans by providing servicing options that will enable facilities to recover from delinquent situations, and continue operating and providing essential services to the public. The Agency also expects this action to reduce the use of program loan cost expense funds to maintain inventory properties. Streamlining seven regulations into one regulation will provide a user-friendly document that will reduce the time burden on Agency staff, as well as provide an easy-to-understand reference for the public.

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant  
**Major:** No  
**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 1951; 7 CFR 1955; 7 CFR 1956 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#) )  
**Legal Authority:** 5 U.S.C. 301; 7 U.S.C. 1989; 42 U.S.C. 1480  
**Legal Deadline:** None

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Proposed Rule  
**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Proposed Rule	06/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No  
**Small Entities Affected:** No  
**Energy Affected:** No  
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**Government Levels Affected:** No  
**Federalism:** No

**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Rural Housing Service ( RHS )**

**RIN:** 0575-AC91

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**Title:** Community Facilities Direct Loans and Grants--Consolidate Three Regulations

**Abstract:**

The Agency plans to consolidate and update three regulations, 7 CFR 1942-A, 1942-C, and 3570-B, into a new regulation, 7 CFR 3570-A. This new regulation will be used to administer the Community Facilities Direct Loan and Grant programs. It also will incorporate the Tribal College and Economic Impact Initiative grant programs. The existing regulations 7 CFR 1942-A, 7 CFR 1942-C, and 7 CFR 3570-B will be obsolete upon publication of the new 7 CFR 3570-A. The proposed action includes the following: remove references to the RUS water and waste disposal program, which was moved to 7 CFR 1780-A in 1997; update scoring priorities to reflect current needs in rural America. \* Incorporate information from staff instructions and guidance that have been renewed and republished for many years. \* Make pre-application optional for small (under \$300,000) projects; clarify and coordinate applicant and project eligibility requirements among the Community Facilities Guarantee, Direct and Grant regulations; update the regulation to reflect recent legal opinions/determinations; update audit requirements in accordance with the latest OMB directives; and add "Exception Authority" to allow for the granting of exceptions by the Administrator to portions of regulations that are not statutory. The granting of exceptions is allowed in other Rural Development regulations under very defined and controlled circumstances.

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant  
**Major:** No  
**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 1942, subpart A; 7 CFR 1942, subpart C; 7 CFR 3570, subpart B (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#) )  
**Legal Authority:** Not Yet Determined  
**Legal Deadline:** None

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Proposed Rule  
**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Proposed Rule	06/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** Undetermined  
**Federalism:** Undetermined  
**Government Levels Affected:** Undetermined

**Energy Affected:** No  
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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)  
 Rural Housing Service ( RHS )**

RIN: 0575-AC98

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**Title:** Multi-Family Housing Financial Reporting

**Abstract:**

The Rural Housing Service (RHS) published a proposed rule June 2, 2003 (68 FR 32872), to streamline and consolidate 14 regulations into 7 CFR 3560, which sets forth requirements, policies, and procedures for originating, processing, and servicing Rural Development's Multi-Family Housing (MFH) direct loans and grants. The programs covered by this part are authorized by title V of the Housing Act of 1949. An interim rule was published November 26, 2004 (69 FR 69032-69176) to implement those changes, with an effective date of February 24, 2005. This proposed rule is to amend the interim rule 7 CFR 3560, regulations to change program requirements at the property level that will reduce operating costs for the project owner by changing financial reporting requirements. Rural Development (RD) is establishing a rule-based reporting threshold, similar to that of US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). RD's Financial Reporting also aligns with HUD's provisions by using a modified version of the HUD IG Audit Guide."

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Proposed Rule

**Major:** Undetermined

**Unfunded Mandates:** Undetermined

**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 3560-A; 7 CFR 3560-C; 7 CFR 3560-D; 7 CFR 3560-E; 7 CFR 3560-F; 7 CFR 3560-G; 7 CFR 3560-M; 7 CFR 3560-O (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** Pub. L. 108-447, sec. 543; 42 U.S.C. 1485; 42 U.S.C. 1486; 42 U.S.C. 1490a; 42 U.S.C. 1490j

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	05/00/2015	
NPRM Comment Period End	07/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No

**Government Levels Affected:** No

**Small Entities Affected:** No

**Federalism:** No

**Energy Affected:** No

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)  
 Rural Housing Service ( RHS )**

RIN: 0575-AD03

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** Multi-Family Housing 12-Month RA Agreements

**Abstract:**

The Rural Housing Service (RHS) published a proposed rule June 2, 2003, (68 FR 32872) to streamline and consolidate 14 regulations into 7 CFR 3560, which sets forth requirements, policies, and procedures for originating, processing, and servicing

Rural Development's Multi-Family Housing (MFH) direct loans and grants. The programs covered by this part are authorized by title V of the Housing Act of 1949. An interim rule was published November 26, 2004, (69 FR 6903269176) to implement those changes, with an effective date of February 24, 2005.

The Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015, requires up to a 12-month term on new Rental Assistance (RA) Agreements and prohibits the renewal of such Agreements within the original 12-month term. An amendment to 3560.258 will establish only one renewal in a 12-month period, with no interim renewal.

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Proposed Rule

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 3560-F (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** Pub. L. 113-235; 42 U.S.C 1490

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Proposed Rule	05/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No

**Government Levels Affected:** No

**Small Entities Affected:** No

**Federalism:** No

**Energy Affected:** No

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**

**Rural Housing Service ( RHS )**

**RIN:** 0575-AC13

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** Multi-Family Housing (MFH) Reinvention

**Abstract:**

The Rural Housing Service has consolidated and streamlined the regulations pertaining to section 515, Rural Rental Housing, section 514, Farm Labor Housing Loans, section 516, Farm Labor Housing Grants, and section 521, Rental Assistance Payments. As in the interim final rule, 14 published regulations have been reduced to one regulation and handbooks for program administration. This will simplify loan origination and portfolio management for applicants, borrowers, and housing operators, as well as Rural Development field staff. This also provides flexibility for program modifications to reflect current and foreseeable changes. The consolidated regulations save time and simplify costs. Finally, the regulation is more customer-friendly and responsive to the needs of the public.

**Priority:** Economically Significant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Final Rule

**Major:** Yes

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 1806; 7 CFR 1822; 7 CFR 1902; 7 CFR 1925; 7 CFR 1930; 7 CFR 1940; 7 CFR 1942; 7 CFR 1944; 7 CFR 1951; 7 CFR 1955; 7 CFR 1956; 7 CFR 1965; 7 CFR 3560; 7 CFR 3565 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** 5 U.S.C. 301; 42 U.S.C. 1490a; 7 U.S.C. 1989; 42 U.S.C. 1475; 42 U.S.C. 1479; 42 U.S.C. 1480; 42 U.S.C. 1481; 42 U.S.C. 1484; 42 U.S.C. 1485; 42 U.S.C. 1486

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	06/02/2003	68 FR 32872
NPRM Comment Period End	08/01/2003	
Interim Final Rule	11/26/2004	69 FR 69032
Interim Final Rule Comment Period End	12/27/2004	
Interim Final Rule Effective	02/22/2005	70 FR 8503
Final Rule	12/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No

**Government Levels Affected:** No

**Federalism:** No

**Energy Affected:** No

**Related RINs:** Merge with 0575-AC86

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**

**Rural Housing Service ( RHS )**

**RIN:** 0575-AC56

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** Environmental Policies and Procedures

**Abstract:**

The Rural Development program is seeking to consolidate, simplify, and update all Agency environmental requirements into a common environmental regulation. This Rural Development regulation will replace 7 CFR 1794; the current utilities environmental regulation, 7 CFR 1940-G; the current housing/business environmental regulation, 7 CFR 1901-F; the current historic preservation regulation; and 7 CFR part 1940-J, the current intergovernmental review regulation. This consolidation effort will produce a single user-friendly tool to help the program constituents, rural communities, and Rural Development staff, as well as bring the environmental requirements of Agency actions in line with the environmental requirements of other Federal programs for similar actions. This rule consists of subparts A through O.

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Final Rule

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 1794; 7 CFR 1901-F; 7 CFR 1940-G (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#) )

**Legal Authority:** 5 U.S.C. 301; 7 U.S.C. 1989; 42 U.S.C. 1480

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	02/04/2014	79 FR 6740
NPRM Comment Period End	04/07/2014	
Final Action	12/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No

**Government Levels Affected:** No

**Small Entities Affected:** No

**Federalism:** No

**Energy Affected:** No

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**

**Rural Housing Service ( RHS )**

**RIN:** 0575-AC93

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** Civil Monetary Penalties

**Abstract:**

The Rural Housing Service (RHS) published a proposed rule (68 FR 32872) on June 2, 2003, to streamline and consolidate 14 regulations into 7 CFR 3560, which sets forth requirements, policies, and procedures for originating, processing, and servicing Rural Development's Multi-Family Housing (MFH) direct loans and grants. Title V of the Housing Act of 1949 authorizes the

programs covered by this part. An interim rule (69 FR 69032-69176) was published November 28, 2004, to implement those changes, with an effective date of February 24, 2005. As part of the implementation of the interim rule, Civil Monetary Penalties were included as an enforcement provision in section 3560.641(b). RHS proposes to amend its regulations to create a new section for imposing civil monetary penalties under the authority of 42 U.S.C. 1490s (section 543 of the Housing Act of 1949, as amended (Act)) (Housing Act CMP). RHS also proposes to adopt the USDA civil monetary penalty provisions for the Program Fraud Civil Remedies Act of 1986 (PFCRA) in a revision to an existing section (PFCRA CMP). The new section will include an amended version of the existing Housing Act CMP provision together with additional language providing procedural guidance.

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Final Rule

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 3560-J (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** 42 U.S.C. 1490s

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Proposed Rule	01/04/2013	78 FR 672
Final Action	08/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No

**Government Levels Affected:** No

**Small Entities Affected:** No

**Federalism:** No

**Energy Affected:** No

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**

**Rural Housing Service ( RHS )**

**RIN:** 0575-AC96

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** Rural Development Voucher Program

**Abstract:**

The Rural Development Voucher Program was created as a demonstration program by Congress to offer protection to eligible multifamily housing tenants in properties financed through Rural Development's section 515 Rural Rental Housing Program who may be subject to economic hardship through prepayment or foreclosure of the Rural Development mortgage. The Housing Act of 1949, as amended by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2005 (Pub. L. 108-447) (the Act) states: "To such extent or in such amounts as are approved in appropriation Acts, the Secretary shall carry out a rural housing voucher program to assist very low-income families and persons to reside in rental housing in rural areas." The Rural Housing Service (RHS) published a proposed rule August 14, 2013 (78 FR 49374), that would add new permanent regulations to implement this program. This rule will provide procedural guidance for the Rural Development Voucher Program.

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Final Rule

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 3560 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** 42 U.S.C. 1490r; Pub. L. 108-447, sec 542

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Proposed Rule	08/14/2013	78 FR 49374
Final Action	10/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No

**Government Levels Affected:** No

**Small Entities Affected:** No

**Federalism:** No

**Energy Affected:** No

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Rural Housing Service ( RHS )**

RIN: 0575-AC99

 [View Related Documents](#)
**Title:** Reserve Account Dual Signature Requirement**Abstract:**

Through this action, the Rural Housing Service (RHS) proposes to amend its regulation at 7 CFR section 3560.306 to change the requirements of the Reserve Account for the section 515 Rural Rental Housing (RRH) program. The action would address reserve account requirements of requiring an Agency countersignature with the borrower when a section 538 guaranteed loan is involved and also clarifying that reserve account funds cannot be used to pay for fees associated with the section 538 guarantee loan program.

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Final Rule**Major:** No**Unfunded Mandates:** No**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 3560 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)**Legal Authority:** 42 U.S.C. 1480**Legal Deadline:** None**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	08/13/2014	79 FR 47383
NPRM Comment Period End	10/14/2014	
Final Rule	09/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No**Government Levels Affected:** Federal; Local; State; Tribal**Small Entities Affected:** No**Federalism:** No**Energy Affected:** No**Agency Contact:** Tammy Daniels

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Rural Housing Service ( RHS )**

RIN: 0575-AD00

 [View Related Documents](#)
**Title:** Revision of Indemnification, Refinance and Special Loan Servicing Section, and Adding a Section Defining "Qualified Mortgage"**Abstract:**

The Agency seeks to expand its lender indemnification authority for loss claims in the case of fraud, misrepresentation, or noncompliance with applicable loan origination requirements; amend special loan options to include principal reductions that lenders may use to mitigate losses while still maintaining the SFHGLP loan guarantee; amend refinance provisions to include a streamlined refinance option that was tested in a successful pilot; and add a section clarifying that any loan guaranteed by the Agency is a "qualified mortgage" under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of (Pub. L. 111-203).

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Final Rule

**Major:** No**Unfunded Mandates:** No**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 3555 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)**Legal Authority:** 5 U.S.C. 301; 42 U.S.C. 1480; subpart E of 7 U.S.C. 1932(a); Pub. L. 111-203**Legal Deadline:** None**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Proposed Rule	03/05/2015	80 FR 11950
Final Rule	06/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No**Government Levels Affected:** No**Small Entities Affected:** No**Federalism:** No**Agency Contact:** Joaquin Tremols

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)****Rural Housing Service ( RHS )**

RIN: 0575-AD02

 [View Related Documents](#)**Title:** Community Facilities Technical Assistance and Training Grant**Abstract:**

Section 6006 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Act) requires the Agency to create a technical assistance and training grant program. The program will provide funding to public bodies, Indian tribes and nonprofit corporations with experience providing technical assistance to eligible community facilities applicants to carry out the following eligible purposes directly associated with developing or improving essential community facilities: help identify and plan community facility needs; identify public and private resources to finance community facility needs; prepare reports and surveys necessary to request financial assistance to develop community facilities; prepare applications for financial assistance; improve management, including financial management, related to the operation of community facilities; or help with other areas of need identified by Rural Development.

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Final Rule**Major:** Undetermined**Unfunded Mandates:** No**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 3575 subpart F (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)**Legal Authority:** 7 U.S.C. 1926(a), sec 306(a) as amended by Pub. L 11.3-79, title VI, sec 6006**Legal Deadline:** None**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Interim Final Rule	05/00/2015	
Interim Final Rule Comment Period End	07/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No**Government Levels Affected:** Local; Tribal**Small Entities Affected:** Governmental Jurisdictions;  
Organizations**Federalism:** No**Energy Affected:** No**Agency Contact:** Susan Woolard

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)  
Rural Housing Service ( RHS )**

RIN: 0575-AC07

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** National Flood Insurance Regulations

**Abstract:**

The Rural Housing Service, Rural Business-Cooperative Service and Rural Utilities Service are rewriting their regulations to conform to the requirements of the National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1994 (NFIRA) Biggert Waters Act, Flood Insurance Reform Act etc.

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Long-term Action

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 1926-B; 7 CFR 1806-B (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** 7 U.S.C. 1989; 42 U.S.C. 1480; 42 U.S.C. 4012a; 42 U.S.C. 4104b; 42 U.S.C. 4106; 42 U.S.C. 4128; Pub. L. 91-152; Pub. L. 93-234; Pub. L. 103-325; ...

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Proposed Rule	09/00/2017	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No

**Government Levels Affected:** Federal; Local; State; Tribal

**Federalism:** No

**Energy Affected:** No

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)  
Rural Housing Service ( RHS )**

RIN: 0575-AC18

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** Guaranteed Single-Family Housing

**Abstract:**

The Guaranteed Single-Family Housing Loan Program interim final rule encourages new residential construction in rural areas. The new rule provides for a "construction-to-permanent financing" process. Lenders will be able to obtain a loan note guarantee when construction commences, in a "single close" transaction, rather than first obtaining short-term construction financing and then later obtaining the guaranteed loan. The new rule streamlines the financing of building new homes. The interim final rule also expands the types of lenders who are eligible to participate, increasing the reach of the program to small community banks in remote areas and to credit unions with memberships who are teachers as well as other groups. The rule change will allow participation by any lending entity supervised and regulated by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the National Credit Union Administration, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, the Federal Reserve Banks, or the Federal Housing Finance Board. Currently, these entities may not be eligible lenders.

**Priority:** Other Significant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Completed Action

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 3555; 7 CFR 1980, subpart D (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** 5 U.S.C. 301; 7 U.S.C. 1989; 42 U.S.C. 1480

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	10/28/2011	76 FR 66860
NPRM Comment Period End	12/27/2011	
Interim Final Rule	12/09/2013	78 FR 73927
Interim Final Rule Effective	12/01/2014	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** Business

**Government Levels Affected:** Local; State

**Federalism:** No**Energy Affected:** No**Agency Contact:** Joaquin Tremols

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)  
Rural Housing Service ( RHS )**

RIN: 0575-AC88

 [View Related Documents](#)**Title:** Loan Packager Certification**Abstract:**

In the Single Family Housing (SFH) direct loan program, the current loan application packaging process is an informal arrangement; the packagers' level of program knowledge and expertise, as well as their level of service, is inconsistent. To address this, the Rural Housing Service (RHS) is proposing to amend its regulations for the SFH direct loan program to create a certified loan application packaging process. Certified packagers will promote the direct loan program in eligible communities, prescreen interested parties informally to determine their likelihood of qualifying for the program, and fully prepare and document the loan application package on behalf of the applicant for submission to the Agency. The certified loan application packaging process will include the requirements for eligible individuals to obtain the designation of an Agency-certified loan application packager and the requirements for qualified nonprofit organizations and public agencies that employ certified packagers. These requirements will cover experience, training, proficiency, and structure. The process may also include Agency-approved independent nonprofit organizations that serve as intermediaries and perform quality assurance reviews on packaged loan applications prior to submission to the Agency. In addition, RHS is proposing to set limitations on the loan application packaging fee. The fee may not exceed 2 percent of the average area loan limit nationwide; the Administrator periodically will set a maximum dollar amount for the fee within this limit. The amount will be published on the Agency's website as an attachment to HB-1-3550. Agency financing of the packaging fee will remain dependent on the borrower's repayment ability and the total secured indebtedness limitation outlined in 7 CFR 3550.63.

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Completed Action**Major:** No**Unfunded Mandates:** No**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 3550 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)**Legal Authority:** 5 U.S.C. 301; 42 U.S.C. 1480**Legal Deadline:** None**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	08/23/2013	78 FR 52460
NPRM Comment Period End	10/22/2013	
NPRM Comment Period Extended	11/01/2013	78 FR 65582
Final Rule	04/29/2015	80 FR 23673
Final Rule Effective	07/28/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No**Government Levels Affected:** No**Small Entities Affected:** No**Federalism:** No**Energy Affected:** No**Agency Contact:** Brooke Baumann

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Rural Housing Service ( RHS )**

RIN: 0575-AD01

 [View Related Documents](#)
**Title:** Rural Area Definition Changes**Abstract:**

When the Agricultural Act of 2014 (2014 Farm Bill) (Pub. L. 113-79) was passed on February 7, 2014, section 6208 of the Farm Bill amended language to section 520 of the Housing Act of 1949 to include language that an area deemed rural as of October 1, 1990, and later determined not to be rural after the 1990, 2000 or 2010 census, or an area deemed rural anytime between January 1, 2000, and December 31, 2010, will retain eligibility until the receipt of the 2020 census data if the area has a population in excess of 25,000 but not in excess of 35,000, is rural in character, and has a serious lack of mortgage credit. To ensure that 7 CFR 3550 is in line with the new housing act provisions, RHS proposes to revise the regulation (7 CFR 3550) to include the new language of the Housing Act of 1949, as amended.

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Completed Action**Major:** No**Unfunded Mandates:** No**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 3550 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)**Legal Authority:** Pub. L. 113-79 Agriculture Act of 2014**Legal Deadline:** None**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Final Rule	12/15/2014	79 FR 74015

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No**Government Levels Affected:** No**Small Entities Affected:** No**Federalism:** No**Energy Affected:** No**Agency Contact:** Shantelle Gordon

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Natural Resources Conservation Service ( NRCS )**

RIN: 0578-AA57

 [View Related Documents](#)
**Title:** Equitable Relief From Ineligibility Final Rule Amendment

**Abstract:** Section 1613 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 authorized the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to provide equitable relief from program ineligibility to participants in covered programs. This authority was effective May 12, 2002. NRCS published a final rule (69 FR 56345) on September 21, 2004, to implement the equitable relief provisions. In order for a participant to obtain equitable relief, NRCS, at 7 CFR 635.7 (b), provided that: "[P]articipants may request equitable relief from the Chief or the State Conservationist with respect to: (1) Reliance on the actions or advice of an authorized NRCS representative; or (2) Failure to fully comply with the program requirements but made a good faith effort to comply." The final rule made no distinction between the two bases for relief in providing regulatory guidance for obtaining such relief. NRCS is amending part of the equitable relief application procedure in 7 CFR 635.7 based on feedback received from participants and NRCS employees over the course of implementing equitable relief since rule publication in 2004. Participants were being required to initiate the request for equitable relief when the source of the violation or ineligibility was NRCS' erroneous advice or action even when the State Conservationist was fully aware of this fact. Participants and employees commented that NRCS was creating an additional burden by mandating that only a participant could request relief when an NRCS employee had provided incorrect information or actions detrimentally relied upon by a participant. NRCS is addressing this concern by amending the procedures for requesting equitable relief when a participant has, in good faith, detrimentally relied upon incorrect actions or advice from an NRCS employee. In particular, this rulemaking provides that the State Conservationist may initiate equitable relief in lieu of the participant when the State Conservationist finds that the NRCS action or advice has detrimentally harmed a participant in a covered program. This rulemaking does not change the participant's ability to originate such a relief request. Other minor revisions are being made to the rule in support of this change.

**Priority:** Info./Admin./Other**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Final Rule**Major:** No**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 635; 7 CFR 11; PL 107-171 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** 7 U.S.C. 7996

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Final Rule	05/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No

**Government Levels Affected:** No

**Small Entities Affected:** No

**Federalism:** No

**Energy Affected:** No

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)  
 Natural Resources Conservation Service ( NRCS )**

RIN: 0578-AA61

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**Title:** Agricultural Conservation Easement Program

**Abstract:**

The Agricultural Act of 2014 (the 2014 Act) consolidated the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), the Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP), and the Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) into a single Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP). The consolidated easement program has two components: an agricultural land easement component and a wetland reserve easement component. The agricultural land easement component is patterned after the former FRPP with GRP's land eligibility components merged into it. The wetland reserve easement component is patterned after WRP. Land previously enrolled in the three contributing programs is considered enrolled in the new ACEP.

**Priority:** Other Significant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Final Rule

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** Not Yet Determined (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** Pub. L. 113-79

**Legal Deadline:**

Action	Source	Description	Date
Other	Statutory	270 days from enactment of Pub. L. 113-79	11/04/2014

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Interim Final Rule	02/27/2015	80 FR 11032
Interim Final Rule Comment Period End	04/28/2015	
Interim Final Rule Comment Period Reopened	04/30/2015	80 FR 24191
Interim Final Rule Comment Period Reopened End	05/28/2015	
Final Rule	12/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No

**Government Levels Affected:** No

**Small Entities Affected:** No

**Federalism:** No

**Energy Affected:** No

**Agency Contact:** Leslie Deavers  
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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Natural Resources Conservation Service ( NRCS )**

RIN: 0578-AA62

 [View Related Documents](#)
**Title:** Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)**Abstract:**

NRCS promulgated the current EQIP regulation on January 15, 2009, through an interim rule. The interim rule incorporated programmatic changes authorized by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (the 2008 Act). NRCS published a correction to the interim rule on March 12, 2009, and an amendment to the interim rule on May 29, 2009. NRCS has implemented EQIP in FY 2009 through FY 2013 under the current regulation. The Agricultural Act of 2014 (2014 Act) amended chapter 4 of subtitle D of title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985 by making the following changes to EQIP program requirements: 1) eliminates requirement that contract must remain in place for a minimum of one year after last practice implemented, but keeps requirement that the contract term is not to exceed 10 years; 2) consolidates elements of Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) and repeals WHIP authority; 3) replaces rolling six-year payment limitation with payment limitation for FY 2014-FY 2018; 4) requires Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) reporting no later than December 31, 2014, and every two years thereafter; 5) establishes payment limitation at \$450,000 and eliminates waiver authority; 6) modifies the special rule for foregone income payments for certain associated management practices and resource concern priorities; 7) makes advance payments available up to 50 percent for eligible historically underserved participants to purchase material or contract services instead of the previous 30 percent; 8) provides flexibility for repayment of advance payment if not expended within 90 days; and 9) requires that for each fiscal year from of the FY 2014 to FY 2018, at least 5 percent of available EQIP funds shall be targeted for wildlife related conservation practices. The 2014 Act further identifies EQIP as a contributing program authorized to accomplish the purposes of the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCP) (subtitle I of title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended). RCP replaces the Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP), Chesapeake Bay Watershed Program (CBWP), Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative (CCPI), and the Great Lakes Basin Program for soil erosion and sediment control. Like the programs it replaces, RCP will operate through regulations in place for contributing programs. The other contributing programs include the Conservation Stewardship Program, the Healthy Forests Reserve Program, and the new Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP). NRCS seeks to publish an interim rule to incorporate the 2014 Act changes to EQIP program administration. This regulation action is pursuant to Section 1246 of the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended by section 2608 of the 2014 Act, which requires regulations necessary to implement title II of the 2014 Act be promulgated through the interim rule process.

**Priority:** Economically Significant**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Final Rule**Major:** Yes**Unfunded Mandates:** No**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 1466 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)**Legal Authority:** 15 U.S.C. 714b and 714c; 16 U.S.C. 3839AA-3839-8**Legal Deadline:**

Action	Source	Description	Date
Other	Statutory	270 days from enactment of Pub. L. 113-79	11/04/2014

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Interim Final Rule	12/12/2014	79 FR 73953
Interim Final Rule Effective	12/12/2014	
Interim Final Rule Comment Period End	02/10/2015	
Final Rule	09/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No**Government Levels Affected:** No**Small Entities Affected:** No**Federalism:** No**Energy Affected:** No**Agency Contact:** Leslie Deavers

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Natural Resources Conservation Service ( NRCS )**

RIN: 0578-AA63

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** Conservation Stewardship Program Interim Rule

**Abstract:**

NRCS seeks to publish an interim rule to incorporate the Agriculture Act of 2014 (the 2014 Act) changes to Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) program administration. This regulation action is pursuant to section 1246 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (1985 Act), as amended by the 2014 Act, which requires regulations necessary to implement title II of the 2014 Act through an interim rule with request for comments.

Background: The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 Act (2008 Act) amended the 1985 Act to establish CSP and authorize the program in fiscal years 2009 through 2013. The 2014 Act re-authorizes and revises CSP. The purpose of CSP is to encourage producers to address priority resource concerns and improve and conserve the quality and condition of the natural resources in a comprehensive manner by (1) undertaking additional conservation activities, and (2) improving, maintaining, and managing existing conservation activities. The Secretary of Agriculture delegated authority to the Chief, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), to administer CSP. Through CSP, NRCS provides financial and technical assistance to eligible producers to conserve and enhance soil, water, air, and related natural resources on their land. Eligible lands include private or tribal cropland, grassland, pastureland, rangeland, non-industrial private forest lands, and other land in agricultural areas (including cropped woodland, marshes, and agricultural land or capable of being used for the production of livestock) on which resource concerns related to agricultural production could be addressed. Participation in the program is voluntary. CSP encourages land stewards to improve their conservation performance by installing and adopting additional activities, and improving, maintaining, and managing existing activities on eligible land. NRCS makes funding for CSP available nationwide on a continuous application basis.

**Priority:** Other Significant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Final Rule

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 1470 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** 16 U.S.C. 3838d to 3838g

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Interim Final Rule	11/05/2014	79 FR 65835
Interim Final Rule Effective	11/05/2014	
Interim Final Rule Comment Period End	01/05/2015	
Final Rule	07/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No

**Government Levels Affected:** No

**Small Entities Affected:** No

**Federalism:** No

**Energy Affected:** No

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Natural Resources Conservation Service ( NRCS )**

RIN: 0578-AA60

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**Title:** Changes to Existing Conservation Program Regulations

**Abstract:**

The Agricultural Act of 2014 (the 2014 Act) made mandatory changes to several conservation programs, including: 1) requiring review of the operating procedures for the State Technical Committee (7 CFR part 610, subpart C); 2) authorizing the Secretary to use the authorities of the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (watershed operations), except for Watershed Rehabilitation Program, in the implementation of the new Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) (7 CFR part 622); 3) expanding the definition of "acreage owned by Indian tribes" under the Healthy Forests Reserve Program (HFRP) (7 CFR part 625); and 4) replacing minimum aggregate State allocation amounts of \$15 million with a 0.6 percent of aggregate program funding allocation amount under Regional Equity (7 CFR part 662) Additionally, NRCS was delegated authority for implementation of the Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program (VPA-HIP) (7 CFR part 1455). Internal NRCS administrative changes warrant updating the appropriate delegated official in the Technical Service Provider provisions (7 CFR part 652). Finally, NRCS administers the Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) (7 CFR part 1465) program consistent with the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) administrative requirements. Though the 2014 Act did not make any

changes to the AMA program, minor adjustments to the AMA program regulation are needed to maintain its consistency with EQIP.

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Completed Action

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 610; 7 CFR 625; 7 CFR 652; 7 CFR 1455; 7 CFR 1465; 7 CFR 1466; 7 CFR 1470 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#) )

**Legal Authority:** Pub. L. 113-79

**Legal Deadline:** Section 2712 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (2014 Act) and associated Manager's Report identifies that NRCS may implement the Farm Bill conservation provisions under their current regulations to the extent that such regulations are consistent with the 2014 Act provisions. This interim administration authority expires November 4, 2014. NRCS is publishing its Changes to Existing Conservation Program Regulations interim rule prior to this deadline.

Action	Source	Description	Date
Other	Statutory	270 days from enactment of Public Law 113-79	11/04/2014

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Interim Final Rule	08/01/2014	79 FR 44635
Interim Final Rule Effective	08/01/2014	
Interim Final Rule Comment Period End	09/30/2014	
Final Rule	04/09/2015	80 FR 19007
Final Rule Effective	04/09/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No

**Government Levels Affected:** No

**Small Entities Affected:** No

**Federalism:** No

**Energy Affected:** No

**Agency Contact:** Leslie Deavers  
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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)  
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service ( APHIS )**

RIN: 0579-AC92

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** Scrapie in Sheep and Goats

**Abstract:**

This rulemaking would amend the scrapie regulations by changing the risk groups and categories established for individual animals and for flocks. It would simplify, reduce, or remove certain recordkeeping requirements. This action would provide designated scrapie epidemiologists with more alternatives and flexibility when testing animals in order to determine flock designations under the regulations. It would also make the identification and recordkeeping requirements for goat owners consistent with those for sheep owners. These changes would affect sheep and goat producers and State governments.

**Priority:** Other Significant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Proposed Rule

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 9 CFR 54; 9 CFR 79 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#) )

**Legal Authority:** 7 U.S.C. 8301 to 8317

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	05/00/2015	
NPRM Comment Period End	07/00/2015	

**Additional Information:** Additional information about APHIS and its programs is available on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov>.

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** Business

**Government Levels Affected:** State

**Federalism:** No**Agency Contact:** Diane Sutton

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)  
 Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service ( APHIS )**

RIN: 0579-AC98

 [View Related Documents](#)
**Title:** Plant Pest Regulations; Update of General Provisions**Abstract:**

We are proposing to revise our regulations regarding the movement of plant pests. We are proposing criteria regarding the movement and environmental release of biological control organisms, and are proposing to establish regulations to allow the importation and movement in interstate commerce of certain types of plant pests without restriction by granting exceptions from permitting requirements for those pests. We are also proposing to revise our regulations regarding the movement of soil. This proposed rule replaces a previously published proposed rule, which we are withdrawing as part of this document. This proposal would clarify the factors that would be considered when assessing the risks associated with the movement of certain organisms and facilitate the movement of regulated organisms and articles in a manner that also protects U.S. agriculture.

**Priority:** Other Significant**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Proposed Rule**Major:** No**Unfunded Mandates:** No**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 318 and 319; 7 CFR 330; 7 CFR 352 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#) )**Legal Authority:** 7 U.S.C. 450; 7 U.S.C. 2260; 7 U.S.C. 7701 to 7772; 7 U.S.C. 7781 to 7786; 7 U.S.C. 8301 to 8817; 19 U.S.C. 136; 21 U.S.C. 111; 21 U.S.C. 114a; 21 U.S.C. 136 and 136a; 31 U.S.C. 9701; 42 U.S.C. 4331 and 4332**Legal Deadline:** None**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement	10/20/2009	74 FR 53673
Notice Comment Period End	11/19/2009	
NPRM	06/00/2015	
NPRM Comment Period End	08/00/2015	

**Additional Information:** Additional information about APHIS and its programs is available on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov>.**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** Business; Organizations**Government Levels Affected:** Local; State; Tribal**Federalism:** No**International Impacts:** This regulatory action will be likely to have international trade and investment effects, or otherwise be of international interest.**Agency Contact:** Shirley Wager-Page

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)  
 Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service ( APHIS )**

RIN: 0579-AD10

 [View Related Documents](#)
**Title:** Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy and Scrapie; Importation of Small Ruminants and Their Germplasm, Products, and

Byproducts

**Abstract:**

This rulemaking would amend the bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) and scrapie regulations regarding the importation of live sheep, goats, and wild ruminants and their embryos, semen, products, and byproducts. The proposed scrapie revisions regarding the importation of sheep, goats, and susceptible wild ruminants for other than immediate slaughter are similar to those recommended by the World Organization for Animal Health in restricting the importation of such animals to those from scrapie-free regions or certified scrapie-free flocks.

**Priority:** Other Significant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Proposed Rule

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 9 CFR 93 to 96; 9 CFR 98 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** 7 U.S.C. 450; 7 U.S.C. 1622; 7 U.S.C. 7701 to 7772; 7 U.S.C. 7781 to 7786; 7 U.S.C. 8301 to 8317; 21 U.S.C. 136 and 136a; 31 U.S.C. 9701

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	08/00/2015	
NPRM Comment Period End	10/00/2015	

**Additional Information:** Additional information about APHIS and its programs is available on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov>.

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** Business

**Government Levels Affected:** Federal

**Federalism:** No

**International Impacts:** This regulatory action will be likely to have international trade and investment effects, or otherwise be of international interest.

**Agency Contact:** Langston Hull

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 Phone: 301 851-3300

**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service ( APHIS )**

RIN: 0579-AD65

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** Brucellosis and Bovine Tuberculosis; Update of General Provisions

**Abstract:**

This rulemaking would consolidate the regulations governing bovine tuberculosis (TB), currently found in 9 CFR part 77, and those governing brucellosis, currently found in 9 CFR part 78. As part of this consolidation, we are proposing to transition the TB and brucellosis programs away from a State status system based on disease prevalence. Instead, States and tribes would implement an animal health plan that identifies sources of the diseases within the State or tribe and specifies mitigations to address the risk posed by these sources. The consolidated regulations also would set forth standards for surveillance, epidemiological investigations, and affected herd management that must be incorporated into each animal health plan, with certain limited exceptions; conditions for the interstate movement of cattle, bison, and captive cervids; and conditions for APHIS approval of tests for bovine TB or brucellosis. Finally, the rulemaking would revise the import requirements for cattle and bison to make these requirements clearer and ensure that they more effectively mitigate the risk of introduction of the diseases into the United States.

**Priority:** Other Significant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Proposed Rule

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 9 CFR 50 and 51; 9 CFR 71; 9 CFR 76 to 78; 9 CFR 86; 9 CFR 93; 9 CFR 161 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** 7 U.S.C. 1622; 7 U.S.C. 8301 to 8317; 15 U.S.C. 1828; 21 U.S.C. 136 and 136a; 31 U.S.C. 9701

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	05/00/2015	

NPRM Comment Period End

07/00/2015

**Additional Information:** Additional information about APHIS and its programs is available on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov>.

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** Business;  
Governmental Jurisdictions

**Government Levels Affected:** Local; State; Tribal

**Federalism:** No

**Agency Contact:** Langston Hull  
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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service ( APHIS )**

RIN: 0579-AD99

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** Animal Welfare; Establishing De Minimis Exemptions From Licensing

**Abstract:**

In the 2014 Farm Bill, Congress amended the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) to provide the Secretary of Agriculture with the authority to determine what facilities and activities involving AWA regulated animals are de minimis and therefore exempt from licensure and oversight. We are proposing to amend the AWA regulations to enact this new provision. This change would provide APHIS with the flexibility to exempt from licensing those dealers and exhibitors who provide adequate levels of humane care to their animals, allowing us to target our enforcement resources where they are most needed. Dealers and exhibitors operating at or below the threshold would be exempted from APHIS licensing and oversight under the AWA. Thresholds would be based primarily on business size. Our experience indicates that animal facilities operating at or below certain thresholds are generally capable of providing humane care to their animals. Animals posing a danger to public safety or security would have no de minimis exemption from licensing and regulation.

**Priority:** Other Significant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Proposed Rule

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 9 CFR 1 to 3 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** 7 U.S.C. 2131 to 2159

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	12/00/2015	
NPRM Comment Period End	02/00/2016	

**Additional Information:** Additional information about APHIS and its programs is available on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov>.

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No

**Government Levels Affected:** No

**Small Entities Affected:** Business

**Federalism:** No

**Agency Contact:** Johanna Briscoe  
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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service ( APHIS )**

RIN: 0579-AD28

 [View Related Documents](#)**Title:** Importation of Wood Packaging Material From Canada**Abstract:**

This rulemaking will amend the regulations for the importation of unmanufactured wood articles to remove the exemption that allows wood packaging material from Canada to enter the United States without first meeting the treatment and marking requirements of the regulations that apply to wood packaging material from all other countries. This action is necessary in order to prevent the dissemination and spread of pests via wood packaging material from Canada.

**Priority:** Other Significant**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Final Rule**Major:** No**Unfunded Mandates:** No**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 319 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)**Legal Authority:** 7 U.S.C. 450; 7 U.S.C. 7701 to 7772; 7 U.S.C. 7781 to 7786; 21 U.S.C. 136 and 136a**Legal Deadline:** None**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	12/02/2010	75 FR 75157
NPRM Comment Period End	01/31/2011	
Final Rule	05/00/2015	
Final Rule Effective	06/00/2015	

**Additional Information:** Additional information about APHIS and its programs is available on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov>.

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** Business**Government Levels Affected:** Federal**Federalism:** No

**International Impacts:** This regulatory action will be likely to have international trade and investment effects, or otherwise be of international interest.

**Agency Contact:** John Tyrone Jones

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service ( APHIS )**

RIN: 0579-AD41

 [View Related Documents](#)**Title:** Importation of Beef From a Region in Brazil**Abstract:**

This rulemaking will amend the regulations governing the importation of certain animals, meat, and other animal products by allowing, under certain conditions, the importation of fresh (chilled or frozen) beef from a region in Brazil (the States of Bahia, Distrito Federal, Espirito Santo, Goias, Mato Grosso, Mato Grosso do Sul, Minas Gerais, Parana, Rio Grande do Sul, Rio de Janeiro, Rondonia, Sao Paulo, Sergipe, and Tocantis). Based on the evidence in a recent risk assessment, we have determined that fresh (chilled or frozen) beef can be safely imported from those Brazilian States, provided certain conditions are met. This action will provide for the importation of beef from the designated region in Brazil into the United States while continuing to protect the United States against the introduction of foot-and-mouth disease.

**Priority:** Economically Significant**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Final Rule**Major:** Yes**Unfunded Mandates:** No**CFR Citation:** 9 CFR 94 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)**Legal Authority:** 7 U.S.C. 450; 7 U.S.C. 7701 to 7772; 7 U.S.C. 7781 to 7786; 7 U.S.C. 8301 to 8317; 21 U.S.C. 136 and 136a; 31 U.S.C. 9701**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	12/23/2013	78 FR 77370
NPRM Comment Period End	02/21/2014	
Final Rule	05/00/2015	
Final Rule Effective	06/00/2015	

**Additional Information:** Additional information about APHIS and its programs is available on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov>.

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** Business

**Government Levels Affected:** No

**Federalism:** No

**Energy Affected:** No

**International Impacts:** This regulatory action will be likely to have international trade and investment effects, or otherwise be of international interest.

**Agency Contact:** Dr. Silvia Kreindel

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**

**Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service ( APHIS )**

RIN: 0579-AD60

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** Treatment of Firewood and Spruce Logs Imported From Canada

**Abstract:**

This rulemaking will amend the regulations to require firewood of all species imported from Canada, including treated lumber (furniture scraps) sold as kindling, and all spruce logs imported from Nova Scotia to be heat-treated and to be accompanied by either a certificate of treatment or an attached commercial treatment label. This action is necessary on an immediate basis to prevent the artificial spread of pests, including emerald ash borer, Asian longhorned beetle, gypsy moth, European spruce bark beetle, and brown spruce longhorn beetle to noninfested areas of the United States, and to prevent further introduction of these pests into the United States.

**Priority:** Other Significant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Final Rule

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 319 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** 7 U.S.C. 450; 7 U.S.C. 7701 to 7772; 7 U.S.C. 7781 to 7786; 21 U.S.C. 136 and 136a

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Interim Final Rule	05/00/2015	
Interim Final Rule Comment Period End	07/00/2015	

**Additional Information:** Additional information about APHIS and its programs is available on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov>.

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** Business

**Government Levels Affected:** Federal

**Federalism:** No

**International Impacts:** This regulatory action will be likely to have international trade and investment effects, or otherwise be of international interest.

**Agency Contact:** John Tyrone Jones

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service ( APHIS )**

RIN: 0579-AD64

 [View Related Documents](#)**Title:** Viruses, Serums, Toxins, and Analogous Products; Single Label Claim for Veterinary Biological Products**Abstract:**

This rulemaking will amend the Virus-Serum-Toxin Act regulations to replace the current label format, which reflects any of four different levels of effectiveness, with a single, uniform label format. It also will require biologics licensees to provide a standardized summary, with confidential business information removed, of the efficacy and safety data submitted to the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service in support of the issuance of a full product license or conditional license. A single label format, along with publicly available safety and efficacy data, will help biologics producers to more clearly communicate product performance to their customers.

**Priority:** Other Significant**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Final Rule**Major:** No**Unfunded Mandates:** No**CFR Citation:** 9 CFR 112 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)**Legal Authority:** 21 U.S.C. 151 to 159**Legal Deadline:** None**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Notice	05/24/2011	76 FR 30093
Comment Period End	07/25/2011	
NPRM	04/21/2014	79 FR 22048
NPRM Comment Period End	06/20/2014	
Final Rule	05/00/2015	
Final Rule Effective	07/00/2015	

**Additional Information:** Additional information about APHIS and its programs is available on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov>.**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** Business**Government Levels Affected:** No**Federalism:** No**Agency Contact:** Donna L Malloy

Operational Support Section, Center for Veterinary Biologics, Policy, Evaluation, and Licensing, VS

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service ( APHIS )**

RIN: 0579-AD71

 [View Related Documents](#)**Title:** Establishing a Performance Standard for Authorizing the Importation and Interstate Movement of Fruits and Vegetables**Abstract:**

This rulemaking would amend our regulations governing the importations of fruits and vegetables by broadening our existing performance standard to provide for consideration of all new fruits and vegetables for importation into the United States using a notice-based process. Rather than authorizing new imports through proposed and final rules and specifying import conditions in the regulations, the notice-based process uses Federal Register notices to make risk analyses available to the public for review and comment, with authorized commodities and their conditions of entry subsequently being listed on the Internet. It also would remove the region- or commodity-specific phytosanitary requirements currently found in these regulations. Likewise, we are proposing an equivalent revision of the performance standard in our regulations governing the interstate movements of fruits and vegetables from Hawaii and the U.S. territories (Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands) and the removal of commodity-specific phytosanitary requirements from those regulations. This proposal would allow for the consideration of requests to authorize the importation or interstate movement of new fruits and vegetables in a manner that enables a more flexible and responsive regulatory approach to evolving pest situations in both the United States and exporting countries. It would not, however, alter the science-based process in which the risk associated with importation or interstate movement of a given fruit or vegetable is evaluated or the manner in which risks associated with the importation or interstate movement of a fruit or vegetable are mitigated.

**Priority:** Other Significant**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Final Rule**Major:** No**Unfunded Mandates:** No**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 318 and 319 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)**Legal Authority:** 7 U.S.C. 450; 7 U.S.C. 7701 to 7772; 7 U.S.C. 7781 to 7786; 21 U.S.C. 136 and 136a**Legal Deadline:** None**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	09/09/2014	79 FR 53346
NPRM Comment Period End	11/10/2014	
NPRM Comment Period Reopened	12/04/2014	79 FR 71973
NPRM Comment Period End	01/09/2015	
NPRM Comment Period Reopened	02/06/2015	80 FR 6665
NPRM Comment Period End	03/10/2015	
Final Rule	05/00/2015	
Final Rule Effective	07/00/2015	

**Additional Information:** Additional information about APHIS and its programs is available on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov>.**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** Business**Government Levels Affected:** Federal**Federalism:** No**International Impacts:** This regulatory action will be likely to have international trade and investment effects, or otherwise be of international interest.**Agency Contact:** Nicole Russo

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)**

RIN: 0579-AD77

 [View Related Documents](#)**Title:** User Fees for Agricultural Quarantine and Inspection Services**Abstract:**

This rulemaking will amend the user fee regulations by adding new fee categories and adjusting current fees charged for certain agricultural quarantine and inspection services that are provided in connection with certain commercial vessels, commercial trucks, commercial railroad cars, commercial aircraft, and international passengers arriving at ports in the customs territory of the United States. It also will adjust the fee caps associated with commercial vessels, commercial trucks, and commercial railcars. Based on the conclusions of a third party assessment of the user fee program and on other considerations, we have determined that revised user fee categories and revised user fees are necessary to recover the costs of the current level of activity, to account for actual and projected increases in the cost of doing business, and to more accurately align fees with the costs associated with each fee service.

**Priority:** Economically Significant**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Final Rule**Major:** Yes**Unfunded Mandates:** No**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 354 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)**Legal Authority:** 7 U.S.C. 7701 to 7772; 7 U.S.C. 7781 to 7786; 7 U.S.C. 8301 to 8317; 21 U.S.C. 136 and 136a; 49 U.S.C. 80503**Legal Deadline:** None**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	04/25/2014	79 FR 22895
NPRM Comment Period End	06/24/2014	
NPRM Comment Period Reopened	07/01/2014	79 FR 37231
NPRM Comment Period Reopened End	07/24/2014	
Final Rule	05/00/2015	
Final Rule Effective	07/00/2015	

**Additional Information:** Additional information about APHIS and its programs is available on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov>.

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** Business

**Government Levels Affected:** Federal

**Federalism:** No

**International Impacts:** This regulatory action will be likely to have international trade and investment effects, or otherwise be of international interest.

**Agency Contact:** William E Thomas

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service ( APHIS )**

RIN: 0579-AD92

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** Importation of Beef From a Region in Argentina

**Abstract:**

This rulemaking will amend the regulations governing the importation of certain animals, meat, and other animal products to allow, under certain conditions, the importation of fresh (chilled or frozen) beef from a region in Argentina located north of Patagonia South and Patagonia North B, referred to as Northern Argentina. Based on the evidence in a recent risk analysis, we have determined that fresh (chilled or frozen) beef can be safely imported from Northern Argentina, subject to certain conditions. This action provides for the importation of beef from Northern Argentina into the United States, while continuing to protect the United States against the introduction of foot-and-mouth disease.

**Priority:** Economically Significant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Final Rule

**Major:** Yes

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 9 CFR 94 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** 7 U.S.C. 450; 7 U.S.C. 7701 to 7772; 7 U.S.C. 7781 to 7786; 7 U.S.C. 8301 to 8317; 21 U.S.C. 136 abd 136a; 31 U.S.C. 9701

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	08/29/2014	79 FR 64687
NPRM Comment Period End	10/28/2014	
NPRM Comment Period Reopened	10/31/2014	79 FR 64687
NPRM Comment Period Reopened End	12/29/2014	
Final Rule	05/00/2015	
Final Rule Effective	06/00/2015	

**Additional Information:** Additional information about APHIS and its programs is available on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov>.

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** Business

**Government Levels Affected:** No

**Federalism:** No

**International Impacts:** This regulatory action will be likely to have international trade and investment effects, or otherwise be of international interest.

**Agency Contact:** Dr. Silvia Kreindel

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service ( APHIS )**

RIN: 0579-AC31

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** Introduction of Organisms and Products Altered or Produced Through Genetic Engineering

**Abstract:**

We are withdrawing a proposed rule that would have amended the regulations regarding the introduction (importation, interstate movement, and environmental release (field testing)) of certain genetically engineered organisms. We are doing this because of the experience we have gained over the past 28 years, continuing advances in biotechnology, and comments we received on the rule. We will begin a fresh stakeholder engagement to explore alternative policy approaches. This engagement will begin with a series of webinars that will provide the stakeholder community an opportunity to provide initial feedback. Information on these webinars will be announced in the coming month.

**Priority:** Other Significant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Long-term Action

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 340 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** 7 U.S.C. 7701 to 7772; 7 U.S.C. 7781 to 7786; 31 U.S.C. 9701

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Next Action Undetermined		
Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement	01/23/2004	69 FR 3271
Comment Period End	03/23/2004	
Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Impact Statement	07/17/2007	72 FR 39021
Comment Period End	09/11/2007	
NPRM	10/09/2008	73 FR 60007
Correction	11/10/2008	73 FR 66563
NPRM Comment Period End	11/24/2008	
NPRM Comment Period Reopened	01/16/2009	74 FR 2907
NPRM Comment Period End	03/17/2009	
NPRM; Notice of Public Scoping Session	03/11/2009	74 FR 10517
NPRM Comment Period Reopened	04/13/2009	74 FR 16797
NPRM Comment Period End	06/29/2009	
NPRM; Withdrawal	03/04/2015	80 FR 11598
NPRM; Withdrawal Effective	03/04/2015	80 FR 11598

**Additional Information:** Additional information about APHIS and its programs is available on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov>.

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** Business

**Government Levels Affected:** No

**Federalism:** No

**International Impacts:** This regulatory action will be likely to have international trade and investment effects, or otherwise be of international interest.

**Agency Contact:** Chessa Huff-Woodard  
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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service ( APHIS )**

RIN: 0579-AC36

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** Importation of Poultry and Poultry Products From Regions Affected With Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza

**Abstract:**

In a final rule published in the Federal Register on December 1, 2014, and effective on that date, we adopted, with changes, an interim rule that amended the regulations concerning the importation of live birds and poultry (including hatching eggs) and bird and poultry products from regions where any subtype of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) is considered to exist. As part of this action, we intended to clarify that table eggs from regions considered to have HPAI may only be imported under APHIS permit for scientific, educational, or research purposes to approved establishments, and only if the Administrator has determined that the importation can be made under conditions that will prevent the introduction of HPAI into the United States. However, we did not add references to HPAI to one of the table egg provisions of the final rule as we intended. This document corrects that oversight.

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Completed Action

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 9 CFR 93 to 95 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** 7 U.S.C. 450; 7 U.S.C. 1622; 7 U.S.C. 7701 to 7772; 7 U.S.C. 7781 to 7786; 7 U.S.C. 8301 to 8317; 21 U.S.C. 136 and 136a; 31 U.S.C. 9701

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Interim Final Rule	01/24/2011	76 FR 4046
Interim Final Rule Comment Period End	03/25/2011	
Interim Final Rule Comment Period Reopened	05/03/2011	76 FR 24793
Interim Final Rule Comment Period Reopened End	05/18/2011	
Interim Final Rule Comment Period Reopened	06/12/2012	77 FR 34783
Interim Final Rule Comment Period Reopened End	07/12/2012	
Final Rule	12/01/2014	79 FR 70997
Final Rule Effective	12/01/2014	
Final Rule; Technical Amendment	02/27/2015	80 FR 10575
Final Rule; Technical Amendment Effective	02/27/2015	

**Additional Information:** Additional information about APHIS and its programs is available on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov>.

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No

**Government Levels Affected:** Federal

**Small Entities Affected:** Business; Governmental Jurisdictions **Federalism:** No

**International Impacts:** This regulatory action will be likely to have international trade and investment effects, or otherwise be of international interest.

**Agency Contact:** Javier Vargas

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)**

RIN: 0579-AD47

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** Importation of Plants for Planting

**Abstract:**

We are amending the regulations on importing plants for planting to add Turkey to the list of countries from which the importation of restricted articles of *Chrysanthemum* spp., *Leucanthemella serotina*, and *Nipponanthemum nipponicum* into the United States is prohibited due to the presence of white rust of *Chrysanthemum*; to require permits for the importation of any seed that is coated, pelleted, or embedded in a substrate that obscures visibility; to provide for an alternate additional declaration on phytosanitary certificates that accompany articles imported from a country in which potato cyst nematodes are known to occur; to provide conditions for the importation of *Prunus* spp. articles from Canada that address the presence of plum pox potyvirus in that country; and to provide for the importation of *Dianthus* spp. (carnations) from the Netherlands. We are also making other changes to update and clarify the regulations and to improve their effectiveness. These changes are necessary to relieve restrictions that appear unnecessary, to update existing provisions, and to make the regulations easier to understand

and implement.

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Completed Action

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 319; 7 CFR 361 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** 7 U.S.C. 450; 7 U.S.C. 1581 to 1610; 7 U.S.C. 7701 to 7772; 7 U.S.C. 7781 to 7786; 21 U.S.C. 136 and 136a

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	02/12/2013	78 FR 9851
NPRM Comment Period End	04/15/2013	
Final Rule	12/16/2014	79 FR 74585
Final Rule Effective	01/15/2015	

**Additional Information:** Additional information about APHIS and its programs is available on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov>.

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No

**Government Levels Affected:** No

**Small Entities Affected:** Business

**Federalism:** No

**International Impacts:** This regulatory action will be likely to have international trade and investment effects, or otherwise be of international interest.

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**

**Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service ( APHIS )**

RIN: 0579-AD51

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** Importation of Litchi and Longan Fruit from Vietnam Into the Continental United States

**Abstract:**

This rulemaking amends the fruits and vegetables regulations to allow the importation of litchi and longan fruit from Vietnam into the continental United States. As a condition of entry, litchi and longan fruit from Vietnam will be subject to a systems approach that includes requirements for treatment and inspection and restrictions on the distribution of the fruit. This action allows for the importation of litchi and longan fruit from Vietnam into the United States while continuing to provide protection against the introduction of quarantine pests.

**Priority:** Routine and Frequent

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Completed Action

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 319 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** 7 U.S.C. 450; 7 U.S.C. 7701 to 7772; 7 U.S.C. 7781 to 7786; 21 U.S.C. 136 and 136a

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	10/25/2011	76 FR 65985
NPRM Comment Period End	12/27/2011	
Final Rule	09/04/2014	79 FR 52543
Final Rule Effective	10/06/2014	

**Additional Information:** Additional information about APHIS and its programs is available on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov>.

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No

**Government Levels Affected:** No

**Small Entities Affected:** Business

**Federalism:** No

**International Impacts:** This regulatory action will be likely to have international trade and investment effects, or otherwise be of

international interest.

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service ( APHIS )**

RIN: 0579-AD80

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** Importation of Mangoes From Jamaica Into the Continental United States

**Abstract:**

This rulemaking amends the regulations concerning the importation of fruits and vegetables to allow the importation of mangoes from Jamaica into the continental United States. As a condition of entry, the mangoes must be produced in accordance with a systems approach employing a combination of mitigation measures for certain fruit flies, soft scale insects, and diseases; must be inspected prior to exportation from Jamaica; and must be found free of these pests and diseases. The mangoes must be imported in commercial consignments only and be treated to mitigate the risk of fruit flies. The mangoes must also be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate. This action allows for the importation of mangoes from Jamaica while continuing to protect against the introduction of plant pests into the United States.

**Priority:** Routine and Frequent

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Completed Action

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 319 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations.](#))

**Legal Authority:** 7 U.S.C. 450; 7 U.S.C. 7701 to 7772; 7 U.S.C. 7781 to 7786; 21 U.S.C. 136 and 136a

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	04/15/2014	79 FR 21153
NPRM Comment Period End	06/16/2014	
Final Rule	09/18/2014	79 FR 55963
Final Rule Effective	10/20/2014	

**Additional Information:** Additional information about APHIS and its programs is available on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov>.

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No

**Government Levels Affected:** Federal

**Federalism:** No

**International Impacts:** This regulatory action will be likely to have international trade and investment effects, or otherwise be of international interest.

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service ( APHIS )**

RIN: 0579-AD81

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**Title:** Importation of Fresh Blueberry Fruit From Morocco Into the Continental United States

**Abstract:**

This rulemaking amends the regulations concerning the importation of fruits and vegetables to allow the importation of fresh blueberries from Morocco into the continental United States. As a condition of entry, the blueberries must be produced under a systems approach employing a combination of mitigation measures for two quarantine pests (Ceratitis capitata and Monilinia

fructigena), and must be inspected prior to exportation from Morocco and found free of these pests. The blueberries may be imported in commercial consignments only and must be treated with one of two approved postharvest treatments to mitigate *C. capitata*. The blueberries will have to be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate with an additional declaration stating that the conditions for importation have been met. This action allows for the importation of blueberries from Morocco while continuing to protect against the introduction of plant pests into the United States.

**Priority:** Routine and Frequent

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Completed Action

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 319 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** 7 U.S.C. 450; 7 U.S.C. 7701 to 7772; 7 U.S.C. 7781 to 7786; 21 U.S.C. 136 and 136a

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	12/31/2013	78 FR 79634
NPRM Comment Period End	03/03/2014	
Final Rule	07/30/2014	79 FR 44117
Final Rule Effective	08/29/2014	

**Additional Information:** Additional information about APHIS and its programs is available on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov>.

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No

**Government Levels Affected:** Federal

**Federalism:** No

**International Impacts:** This regulatory action will be likely to have international trade and investment effects, or otherwise be of international interest.

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service ( APHIS )**

RIN: 0579-AD82

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** Importation of Fresh Bananas From the Philippines Into Hawaii and U.S. Territories

**Abstract:**

This rulemaking amends the regulations concerning the importation of fruits and vegetables to allow the importation of fresh bananas from the Philippines into Guam, Hawaii, and the Northern Mariana Islands. As a condition of entry, the bananas will have to be produced in accordance with a systems approach that includes requirements for importation of commercial consignments, monitoring of fruit flies to establish low-prevalence places of production, harvesting only of hard green bananas, and inspecting for quarantine pests by the national plant protection organization of the Philippines. The bananas also will have to be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate with an additional declaration stating that they were grown, packed, and inspected and found to be free of quarantine pests in accordance with the proposed requirements. This action allows for the importation of bananas from the Philippines into Guam, Hawaii, and the Northern Mariana Islands while continuing to protect against the introduction of plant pests.

**Priority:** Routine and Frequent

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Completed Action

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 319 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** 7 U.S.C. 450; 7 U.S.C. 7701 to 7772; 7 U.S.C. 7781 to 7786; 21 U.S.C. 136 and 136a

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	01/28/2014	79 FR 4410
NPRM Comment Period End	03/31/2014	
Final Rule	10/10/2014	79 FR 61216

Final Rule Effective

11/10/2014

**Additional Information:** Additional information about APHIS and its programs is available on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov>.

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No

**Government Levels Affected:** Federal

**Federalism:** No

**International Impacts:** This regulatory action will be likely to have international trade and investment effects, or otherwise be of international interest.

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service ( APHIS )**

RIN: 0579-AD84

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**Title:** Expansion of Areas in the Philippines Considered Free of Mango Seed Weevil and Mango Pulp Weevil and Establishment of a Lower Irradiation Dose as a Treatment for Mango Pulp Weevil

**Abstract:**

This rulemaking amends the list of designated pest-free areas for mango seed weevil and mango pulp weevil within the Philippines. It also amends the Plant Protection and Quarantine Treatment Manual to establish a specific approved dose of irradiation as an authorized treatment for mango pulp weevil. These actions are necessary because surveys have determined that additional areas within the Philippines are free of mango seed weevil and mango pulp weevil. Additionally, we have determined that the mango pulp weevil can be neutralized with a lower dose of irradiation than the current generic dose for most plant pests of the class Insecta.

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Completed Action

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 319 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** 7 U.S.C. 450; 7 U.S.C. 7701 to 7772; 7 U.S.C. 7781 to 7786; 21 U.S.C. 136 and 136a

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	04/10/2014	79 FR 19838
NPRM Comment Period End	06/09/2014	
Final Rule	10/01/2014	79 FR 59087
Final Rule Effective	10/01/2014	

**Additional Information:** Additional information about APHIS and its programs is available on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov>.

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No

**Government Levels Affected:** Federal

**Federalism:** No

**International Impacts:** This regulatory action will be likely to have international trade and investment effects, or otherwise be of international interest.

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service ( APHIS )**

RIN: 0579-AD85

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** Importation of Fresh Unshu Oranges From Japan Into the United States

**Abstract:**

This rulemaking amends the regulations concerning the importation of citrus fruit to remove certain restrictions on the importation of Unshu oranges from Japan. Specifically, it removes requirements for the fruit to be grown in specified canker-free export areas with buffer zones and for joint inspection in the groves and packinghouses by the Government of Japan and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. It also clarifies that surface sterilization of the fruit must be conducted in accordance with our regulations. Finally, it requires that each shipment be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate containing an additional declaration stating that the fruit was given the required surface sterilization. These changes make the regulations concerning the importation of Unshu oranges from Japan consistent with our domestic regulations concerning the interstate movement of citrus fruit from areas quarantined because of citrus canker.

**Priority:** Routine and Frequent

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Completed Action

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 319 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** 7 U.S.C. 450; 7 U.S.C. 7701 to 7772; 7 U.S.C. 7781 to 7786; 21 U.S.C. 136 and 136a

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	04/10/2014	79 FR 19840
NPRM Comment Period End	06/09/2014	
Final Rule	10/27/2014	79 FR 63807
Final Rule Effective	11/26/2014	

**Additional Information:** Additional information about APHIS and its programs is available on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov>.

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No

**Government Levels Affected:** No

**Small Entities Affected:** Business

**Federalism:** No

**International Impacts:** This regulatory action will be likely to have international trade and investment effects, or otherwise be of international interest.

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service ( APHIS )**

RIN: 0579-AD86

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** Viruses, Serums, Toxins, and Analogous Products; Standard Requirements; Addition of Terminology to Define Veterinary Biologics Test Results

**Abstract:**

This rulemaking amends the veterinary biological product regulations by defining the terms used for reporting the results of tests performed on veterinary biological products. Licensees and permittees of veterinary biological products must conduct these tests and report the results to the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service so that the Agency can determine if the products are eligible for release. Defining these terms will clarify the circumstances under which the results of a prescribed test can be reported as satisfactory, unsatisfactory, inconclusive, or a "no test." It also removes several obsolete testing standard requirements from the regulations. These changes update our regulations and improve communication between regulators and product licensees and permittees with respect to reporting test results.

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Completed Action

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 9 CFR 101; 9 CFR 113 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** 21 U.S.C. 151 to 159

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	05/30/2014	79 FR 31054
NPRM Comment Period End	07/29/2014	
Final Rule	09/18/2014	79 FR 55968
Final Rule Effective	10/20/2014	

**Additional Information:** Additional information about APHIS and its programs is available on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov>.

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No

**Government Levels Affected:** Federal

**Federalism:** No

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**

**Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service ( APHIS )**

**RIN:** 0579-AD87

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** Importation of Two Hybrids of Unshu Orange From the Republic of Korea Into the Continental United States

**Abstract:**

This rulemaking amends the regulations concerning the importation of citrus fruit to allow the importation of commercial consignments of two Unshu orange hybrids from the Republic of Korea into the continental United States. These hybrids will be eligible for importation into the continental United States subject to the existing conditions for the importation of Unshu oranges from the Republic of Korea. It also makes one minor change to the existing regulations by adding an explicit statement that only commercial consignments of Unshu oranges will be eligible for importation into the continental United States. These changes will remove the prohibition on the importation of Unshu orange hybrids that can safely enter the United States, provided that certain conditions are met, and will codify an existing requirement.

**Priority:** Routine and Frequent

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Completed Action

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 319 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** 7 U.S.C. 450; 7 U.S.C. 7701 to 7772; 7 U.S.C. 7781 to 7786; 21 U.S.C. 136 and 136a

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	07/29/2014	79 FR 43972
NPRM Comment Period End	09/29/2014	
Final Rule	01/30/2015	80 FR 5003
Final Rule Effective	01/30/2015	

**Additional Information:** Additional information about APHIS and its programs is available on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov>.

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No

**Government Levels Affected:** Federal

**Small Entities Affected:** Business

**Federalism:** No

**International Impacts:** This regulatory action will be likely to have international trade and investment effects, or otherwise be of international interest.

**Agency Contact:** George Balady

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration ( GIPSA )**

RIN: 0580-AB11

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**Title:** Fees for Commodity Inspection Services (Excluding Rice)

**Abstract:** The Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) is proposing to revise the fee schedule for sampling, inspection, weighing, and certification of processed and graded commodities other than rice, performed under the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (AMA), as amended. The AMA provides GIPSA's Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) with the authority to charge and collect reasonable fees to cover the cost of performing official services. The fees also cover the costs associated with managing the program. After a financial review of GIPSA's Fees for certain Federal inspection services, including a comparison of the costs and revenues associated with official inspection and weighing services, GIPSA is proposing to revise hourly rates assessed, in addition to all other applicable fees, for all graded and processed commodities, other than rice, inspected by GIPSA's field offices or the Commodity Testing Laboratory. Additionally, GIPSA is proposing to revise two definitions in the regulations such that private (non-State) agencies providing official services under the AMA would be considered cooperators.

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Proposed Rule

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 868 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations.](#))

**Legal Authority:** 7 U.S.C. 1621 to 1627

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	05/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No

**Government Levels Affected:** No

**Small Entities Affected:** No

**Federalism:** No

**Energy Affected:** No

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration ( GIPSA )**

RIN: 0580-AB23

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**Title:** Suspension of Flock Delivery and Stages of Poultry Production

**Abstract:**

As directed by Congress in section 731, division A, of the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015, GIPSA is rescinding sections 201.2(o), 201.215(a), and 201.3(a) from the regulations issued under the Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act, 1921.

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Completed Action

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 9 CFR part 201 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations.](#))

**Legal Authority:** Pub. L. 113-235

**Legal Deadline:** The U.S. Congress declared these sections of the P&S regulations null and void and ordered their removal within 60 days of enactment of section 731, division A, of the Consolidated and Further Appropriates Act, 2015. This final rule provides compliance with that congressional mandate.

Action	Source	Description	Date
Other	Statutory		02/05/2015

**Timetable:**

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Action	Date	FR Cite
Final Rule	02/05/2015	80 FR 6430
Final Action Effective	02/05/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No**Government Levels Affected:** No**Federalism:** No**Energy Affected:** No

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Agricultural Marketing Service ( AMS )**

RIN: 0581-AD08

 [View Related Documents](#)
**Title:** National Organic Program, Origin of Livestock, NOP-11-0009**Abstract:**

The current regulations provide two tracks for replacing dairy animals which are tied to how dairy farmers transition to organic production. Farmers who transition an entire distinct herd must thereafter replace dairy animals with livestock that has been under organic management from the last third of gestation. Farmers who do not transition an entire distinct herd may perpetually obtain replacement animals that have been managed organically for 12 months prior to marketing milk or milk products as organic. The proposed action would eliminate the two-track system and require that upon transition, all existing and replacement dairy animals from which milk or milk products are intended to be sold, labeled, or represented as organic must be managed organically from the last third of gestation.

**Priority:** Other Significant**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Proposed Rule**Major:** No**Unfunded Mandates:** No**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 205 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)**Legal Authority:** 7 U.S.C. 6501**Legal Deadline:** None**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	04/28/2015	80 FR 23455
NPRM Comment Period End	07/27/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** Business;  
Organizations**Government Levels Affected:** No**Federalism:** No**Energy Affected:** No

**Agency Contact:** Miles McEvoy  
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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Agricultural Marketing Service ( AMS )**

RIN: 0581-AD20

 [View Related Documents](#)
**Title:** National Organic Program, Organic Pet Food Standards**Abstract:**

The National Organic Program (NOP) is establishing national standards governing the marketing of organically produced agricultural products. In 2004, the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) initiated the development of organic pet food standards, which had not been incorporated into the NOP regulations, by forming a task force which included pet food manufacturers, organic consultants, etc. Collectively, these experts drafted organic pet food standards consistent with the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990, Food and Drug Administration requirements, and the Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO) Model Regulations for Pet and Specialty Pet Food. The AAFCO regulations are scientifically based regulations for voluntary adoption by State jurisdictions to ensure the safety, quality, and effectiveness of feed. In November 2008, the NOSB approved a final recommendation for organic pet food standards incorporating the provisions drafted by the pet food task force.

**Priority:** Other Significant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Proposed Rule

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 205 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** 7 U.S.C. 6501

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	07/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** Business; Organizations

**Government Levels Affected:** Federal; Local; Tribal

**Federalism:** No

**Energy Affected:** No

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS)**

RIN: 0581-AD31

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**Title:** National Organic Program, Organic Apiculture Practice Standard, NOP-12-0063

**Abstract:**

This action proposes to amend the USDA organic regulations to reflect an October 2010 recommendation submitted to the Secretary by the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) concerning the production of organic apicultural (or beekeeping) products. Instead of continuing to allow certifying agents to certify apiculture to the organic livestock standards, this action would establish certification standards specifically for organic bees and bee products.

**Priority:** Other Significant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Proposed Rule

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 205 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** 7 U.S.C. 6501

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	07/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** Business; Governmental Jurisdictions; Organizations

**Government Levels Affected:** Federal

**Federalism:** No

**Energy Affected:** No

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Agricultural Marketing Service ( AMS )**

RIN: 0581-AD34

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**Title:** National Organic Program--Organic Aquaculture Standards

**Abstract:**

This action proposes to establish standards for organic production and certification of farmed aquatic animals and their products in the USDA organic regulations. This action would also add aquatic animals as a scope of certification and accreditation under the National Organic Program. This action is necessary to establish standards for organic farmed aquatic animals and their products which would allow U.S. producers to compete in the organic seafood market. This action is also necessary to address multiple recommendations provided by USDA by the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB). In 2007 through 2009, the NOSB made five recommendations to establish standards for the certification of organic farmed aquatic animals and their products. Finally, the U.S. currently has organic standards equivalence arrangements with Canada and the European Union (EU). Both Canada and the EU have recently established standards for organic aquaculture products. Because the U.S. does not have organic aquaculture standards, the U.S. is unable to include aquaculture in the scope of these arrangements. Establishing U.S. organic aquaculture may provide a basis for expanding those trade partnerships.

**Priority:** Other Significant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Proposed Rule

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 205 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations.](#))

**Legal Authority:** 7 U.S.C. 6501 to 6522

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	08/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** Business; Organizations

**Government Levels Affected:** Federal

**Federalism:** No

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Agricultural Marketing Service ( AMS )**

RIN: 0581-AD37

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** Exemption of Producers and Handlers of Organic Products From Assessment Under a Commodity Promotion Law

**Abstract:**

As a result of this action, certified "organic" commodities (those comprising at least 95 percent organic components) would no longer be subject to assessment for promotion activities conducted under marketing order or research and promotion programs. In addition, certified organic commodities that are produced, handled, marketed, or imported by operations that also deal in conventional products would be eligible for exemptions. Currently, only products that are certified "100 percent organic" and that are produced and handled by entities that deal exclusively with organic products are exempt from assessments. This action is expected to reduce the assessment obligation for organic industry operators by as much as \$13.7 million. Conversely, the impact on the marketing programs will be a loss of approximately \$13.7 million in funds for generic commodity promotions.

**Priority:** Other Significant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Final Rule

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 900 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations.](#))

**Legal Authority:** 7 U.S.C. 7401; Pub. L. 113-79

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	07/00/2015	
Final Action Effective	07/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No

**Government Levels Affected:** No

**Federalism:** No

**Energy Affected:** No

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Food Safety and Inspection Service ( FSIS )**

RIN: 0583-AD30

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** Product Labeling: Use of the Voluntary Claim "Natural" on the Labeling of Meat and Poultry Products

**Abstract:**

FSIS is proposing to amend the Federal meat and poultry products inspection regulations to define the conditions under which it will permit the voluntary claim "natural" to be used in the labeling of meat and poultry products. FSIS also is proposing that label approval requests for labels that contain "natural" claims include documentation to demonstrate that the products meet the criteria to bear a "natural" claim. FSIS is proposing to require that meat or poultry products meet these conditions to qualify for a "natural" claim to make the claim more meaningful to consumers.

**Priority:** Other Significant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Proposed Rule

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 9 CFR 317; 9 CFR 381 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** 21 U.S.C. 601 et seq.; 21 U.S.C. 451 et seq.

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
ANPRM	09/14/2009	74 FR 46951
ANPRM Comment Period End	11/13/2009	
NPRM	12/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No

**Government Levels Affected:** No

**Small Entities Affected:** Business

**Federalism:** No

**Energy Affected:** No

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Food Safety and Inspection Service ( FSIS )**

RIN: 0583-AD51

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** Addition of Namibia to the List of Countries Eligible to Export Meat Products to the United States

**Abstract:**

FSIS is proposing to amend its meat products inspection regulations to add Namibia to the list of countries eligible to export meat products to the United States (9 CFR 327.2). Namibia is not currently listed as eligible to export such products to the United States. If this proposed rule is adopted, any meat and meat products exported to the United States from Namibia will be subject to reinspection at the ports-of-entry for transportation damage, labeling, proper certification, general condition, and accurate box count. FSIS will also conduct other types of inspection, including examination of products for defects and sampling and laboratory analysis of products' chemical residues, or for microbiological contamination. Products that pass reinspection will be stamped with the official United States mark of inspection, and allowed to enter United States commerce. If they do not meet United States requirements, they will be refused entry and must be re-exported, destroyed, or converted to animal food.

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Proposed Rule

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 9 CFR 327.2(b) (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** The Federal Meat Inspection Act (FMIA); 21 U.S.C. 620

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	12/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No

**Government Levels Affected:** Federal

**Small Entities Affected:** Business

**Federalism:** No

**Energy Affected:** No

**International Impacts:** This regulatory action will be likely to have international trade and investment effects, or otherwise be of international interest.

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Food Safety and Inspection Service ( FSIS )**

RIN: 0583-AD52

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** New Requirements for Contamination Control in Slaughter Operations for Cattle of Any Age

**Abstract:**

The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is proposing to amend its regulations to require that all establishments that slaughter cattle (including calves) develop implement and maintain written procedures to prevent contamination of carcasses and parts by enteric pathogens (e.g. Salmonella and Shiga toxin-producing Escherichia coli (STEC)) and fecal material throughout the entire slaughter and dressing operation and that they incorporate their procedures into their Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point plans or sanitation standard operating procedures (sanitation SOPs) or other pre-requisite programs (also referred to collectively as the HACCP system).

FSIS is also proposing to remove the current regulatory Salmonella performance standards for beef carcasses and ground beef from the regulations and the generic Escherichia coli (E. coli) testing requirements for cattle.

**Priority:** Other Significant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Proposed Rule

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 9 CFR 310.18 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** 21 U.S.C. 601 et seq.

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	12/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No

**Government Levels Affected:** No

**Small Entities Affected:** No

**Federalism:** No

**Energy Affected:** No

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)  
Food Safety and Inspection Service ( FSIS )**

**RIN:** 0583-AD53

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** Affirmation of Interim Final Rule With Amendments: Control of Listeria Monocytogenes in Ready-to-Eat Meat and Poultry Products

**Abstract:**

FSIS is affirming, with changes, the interim final rule "Control of Listeria monocytogenes in Ready-to-Eat Meat and Poultry Products," which was published in the Federal Register on June 6, 2003, (68 FR 34208). The interim final rule requires establishments that produce certain ready-to-eat (RTE) meat and poultry products that are exposed to the processing environment after undergoing treatments lethal to Listeria monocytogenes (Lm) to have in their hazard analysis and critical control point (HACCP) plans, or in their sanitation standard operating procedures (Sanitation SOPs), or other prerequisite programs, controls that prevent product adulteration by Lm. Establishments must share with FSIS data and information relevant to their controls for Lm. Establishments also must furnish FSIS with information on the production volume of products affected by the regulations. Establishments may make claims on the labels of their RTE products regarding the processes they use to eliminate or reduce Lm, or suppress, or limit its growth in the products. FSIS is proposing to make minor changes to regulatory provisions in response to comments that the Agency received and on the basis of experience in implementing the interim final rule. Specific Lm references would be removed from hold-and-test provisions to clarify that establishments may not release product that has been in contact with Lm-contaminated surfaces without reprocessing. In addition, FSIS would reduce the reporting frequency for establishments that maintain essentially the same processing methods, Listeria controls, and production volumes from year to year. FSIS will request comments on these minor changes.

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Proposed Rule

**Major:** Undetermined

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 9 CFR 430 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 601 et seq.); Poultry Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 451 et seq.)

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	09/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No

**Government Levels Affected:** No

**Federalism:** No

**Energy Affected:** No

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)  
Food Safety and Inspection Service ( FSIS )**

**RIN:** 0583-AD54

 [View Related Documents](#)**Title:** Requirements for the Disposition of Non-Ambulatory Disabled Veal Calves**Abstract:**

FSIS is proposing to amend the ante-mortem inspection regulations to remove a provision that permits establishments to set apart and hold for treatment veal calves that are unable to rise from a recumbent position and walk because they are tired or cold (9 CFR 309.13(b)). The regulations permit such calves to proceed to slaughter if they are able to rise and walk after being warmed or rested. FSIS is proposing to require that non-ambulatory disabled (NAD) veal calves that are offered for slaughter be condemned and promptly euthanized. The existing regulations require that NAD mature cattle be condemned on ante-mortem inspection and that they be promptly euthanized (9 CFR 309.3(e)). FSIS believes that prohibiting the slaughter of all NAD veal calves would improve compliance with the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act of 1978 (HMSA), and the humane slaughter implementing regulations. It also would improve the Agency's inspection efficiency by eliminating the time that FSIS inspection program personnel (IPP) spend assessing and supervising the treatment of NAD veal calves.

**Priority:** Other Significant**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Proposed Rule**Major:** No**Unfunded Mandates:** No**CFR Citation:** 9 CFR 309 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)**Legal Authority:** Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 601 et seq.)**Legal Deadline:** None**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	05/13/2015	80 FR 27269
NPRM Comment Period End	07/13/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No**Government Levels Affected:** No**Federalism:** No**Energy Affected:** No**Agency Contact:** Dr. Daniel L Engeljohn

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E-Mail: [daniel.engeljohn@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:daniel.engeljohn@fsis.usda.gov)**Department of Agriculture (USDA)****Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS)****RIN:** 0583-AD56 [View Related Documents](#)**Title:** Revision of the Nutrition Facts Panels for Meat and Poultry Products and Updating Certain Reference Amounts Customarily Consumed**Abstract:**

Consistent with the recent changes that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) proposed, the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is proposing to amend the Federal meat and poultry products inspection regulations to update and revise the nutrition labeling requirements for meat and poultry products to reflect recent scientific research and dietary recommendations and to improve the presentation of nutrition information to assist consumers in maintaining healthy dietary practices. FSIS is proposing to (1) update the list of nutrients that are required or permitted to be declared; (2) provide updated Daily Reference Values (DRV) and Reference Daily Intake (RDI) values that are based on current dietary recommendations from consensus reports; and (3) amend the requirements for foods represented or purported to be specifically for children under the age of four years and pregnant and lactating women and establish nutrient reference values specifically for these population subgroups. FSIS is also proposing to revise the format and appearance of the Nutrition Facts Panel; amend the definition of a single-serving container; require dual-column labeling for certain containers; and update and modify several reference amounts customarily consumed (RACCs or reference amounts). FSIS also is proposing to consolidate the nutrition labeling regulations for meat and poultry products into a new Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) part.

**Priority:** Other Significant**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Proposed Rule**Major:** No**Unfunded Mandates:** No**CFR Citation:** 9 CFR 317; 9 CFR 381; 9 CFR 413 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)**Legal Authority:** Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 601 et seq.); Poultry Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 451 et seq.)

**Legal Deadline:** None**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	12/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** Undetermined**Government Levels Affected:** No**Small Entities Affected:** Business**Federalism:** No**Energy Affected:** No**Agency Contact:** Dr. Daniel L Engeljohn

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Food Safety and Inspection Service ( FSIS )**

RIN: 0583-AD36

 [View Related Documents](#)
**Title:** Mandatory Inspection of Fish of the Order Siluriformes and Products Derived From Such Fish**Abstract:**

The 2008 Farm Bill (Pub. L. 110-246, sec. 11016), amended the Federal Meat Inspection Act (FMIA) to make "catfish" a species amenable to the FMIA and, therefore, subject to FSIS inspection. In addition, the 2008 Farm Bill gave FSIS the authority to define the term "catfish." On February 24, 2011, FSIS published a proposed rule that outlined a mandatory catfish inspection program and presented two options for defining "catfish." The 2014 Farm Bill (Pub. L. 113-79, sec. 12106), amended the FMIA to remove the term "catfish" and to make "all fish of the order Siluriformes" subject to FSIS jurisdiction and inspection. As a result, FSIS inspection of Siluriformes is mandated by law and non-discretionary.

**Priority:** Economically Significant**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Final Rule**Major:** Yes**Unfunded Mandates:** No**CFR Citation:** 9 CFR ch III, subchapter F (new) (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)**Legal Authority:** Federal Meat Inspection Act (FMIA) (21 U.S.C. 601 to 695); Pub. L. 110-246, sec 11016; Pub. L. 113-79, sec 12106**Legal Deadline:** The Agriculture Act of 2014 directs the Department to publish final regulations not later than 60 days after the date of enactment.

Action	Source	Description	Date
Other	Statutory	Regulations not later than 60 days after enactment of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Pub. L. 113-79).	

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	02/24/2011	76 FR 10434
NPRM Comment Period End	06/24/2011	
Final Action	07/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** Business**Government Levels Affected:** No**Federalism:** No**Energy Affected:** No**International Impacts:** This regulatory action will be likely to have international trade and investment effects, or otherwise be of international interest.**Agency Contact:** Dr. Daniel L Engeljohn

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)  
Food Safety and Inspection Service ( FSIS )**

RIN: 0583-AD41

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** Electronic Export Application and Certification as a Reimbursable Service and Flexibility in the Requirements for Official Export Inspection Marks, Devices, and Certificates

**Abstract:**

FSIS is developing final regulations to amend the meat, poultry, and egg product inspection regulations to provide for an electronic export application and certification system. The electronic export application and certification system will be a component of the Agency's Public Health Information System (PHIS). The export component of PHIS will be available as an alternative to the paper-based application and certification process. FSIS intends to charge users for the use of the system. FSIS is establishing a formula for calculating the fee. FSIS also is providing establishments that export meat, poultry, and egg products with flexibility in the official export inspection marks, devices, and certificates. In addition, FSIS is amending the egg product export regulations to parallel the meat and poultry export regulations.

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Final Rule

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 9 CFR 312.8; 9 CFR 322.1 and 322.2; 9 CFR 350.7; 9 CFR 362.5; 9 CFR 381.104 to 381.106; 9 CFR 590.407; 9 CFR 592.20 and 592.500 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** Federal Meat Inspection Act (FMIA) (21 U.S.C. 601 to 695); Poultry Products Inspection Act (PPIA) (21 U.S.C. 451 to 470); Egg Products Inspection Act (EPIA) (21 U.S.C. 1031 to 1056); Agricultural Marketing Act (AMA) (7 U.S.C. 1622(h))

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	01/23/2012	77 FR 3159
NPRM Comment Period End	03/23/2012	
Final Action	12/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No

**Government Levels Affected:** No

**Small Entities Affected:** Business

**Federalism:** No

**Energy Affected:** No

**International Impacts:** This regulatory action will be likely to have international trade and investment effects, or otherwise be of international interest.

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)  
Food Safety and Inspection Service ( FSIS )**

RIN: 0583-AD45

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** Descriptive Designation for Needle- or Blade-Tenderized (Mechanically Tenderized) Beef Products

**Abstract:**

FSIS is finalizing regulations to require the use of the descriptive designation "mechanically tenderized" on the labels of raw or partially cooked needle- or blade-tenderized beef products, including beef products injected with marinade or solution, unless such products are destined to be fully cooked at an official establishment. Beef products that have been needle- or blade-tenderized are referred to as "mechanically tenderized" products. This rule would require that the product name for such beef products include the descriptive designation "mechanically tenderized," and an accurate description of the beef component. The rule would also require that the print for all words in the descriptive designation and the product name appear in a single, easy-to-read type style and color and on a single-color contrasting background. The print may appear in upper and lowercase letters with the lowercase letters not smaller than one-third (1/3) the size of the largest letter. In addition, this rule would require that

labels of raw and partially-cooked needle- or blade-tenderized beef products destined for household consumers, hotels, restaurants, or similar institutions include validated cooking instructions stating that these products need to be cooked to a specified minimum internal temperature, and whether they need to be held at that minimum internal temperature for a specified time before consumption (in other words, dwell time or rest time) to ensure that they are thoroughly cooked.

**Priority:** Other Significant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Final Rule

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 9 CFR 317.2(e)(3) (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** 21 U.S.C. 601 to 695

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	06/10/2013	78 FR 34589
NPRM Comment Period End	08/09/2013	
NPRM Comment Period Extended	08/09/2013	78 FR 48631
NPRM Comment Period Reopened	12/03/2013	78 FR 72597
Final Action	05/18/2015	80 FR 28153
Final Action Effective	05/17/2016	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No

**Government Levels Affected:** No

**Federalism:** No

**Energy Affected:** No

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Food Safety and Inspection Service ( FSIS )**

RIN: 0583-AD46

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**Title:** Records to be Kept by Official Establishments and Retail Stores That Grind Raw Beef Products

**Abstract:**

FSIS proposed to amend its recordkeeping regulations to specify that all official establishments and retail stores that grind raw beef products for sale in commerce must keep records that disclose the identity of the supplier of all source materials that they use in the preparation of each lot of raw ground product, and identify the names of those source materials.

**Priority:** Other Significant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Final Rule

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 9 CFR 320 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** 21 U.S.C. 601 et seq.

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	07/22/2014	79 FR 42464
NPRM Comment Period End	10/22/2014	
Final Action	12/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No

**Government Levels Affected:** No

**Federalism:** No

**Energy Affected:** No

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Food Safety and Inspection Service ( FSIS )**

RIN: 0583-AD57

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** Eligibility of Lithuania to Export Meat and Meat Products to the United States

**Abstract:**

FSIS is proposing to add Lithuania to the list of countries eligible to export meat and meat products to the United States. Under this proposal, meat from cattle, sheep, swine, and goats slaughtered in Lithuania, or parts or other products thereof, processed in certified Lithuanian establishments, would be eligible for export to the United States. All such products would be subject to reinspection at United States ports-of-entry by FSIS inspectors.

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Final Rule

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 9 CFR 327.2 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** Federal Meat Inspection Act (FMIA) (21 U.S.C. 601 to 695).

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	12/17/2014	79 FR 75073
NPRM Comment Period End	02/17/2015	
Final Action	12/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No

**Government Levels Affected:** No

**Federalism:** No

**International Impacts:** This regulatory action will be likely to have international trade and investment effects, or otherwise be of international interest.

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Food Safety and Inspection Service ( FSIS )**

RIN: 0583-AD43

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** Descriptive Designation for Raw Meat and Poultry Products Containing Added Solutions

**Abstract:**

FSIS amended its regulations to require the use of a descriptive designation as part of the product name on the labels of raw meat and poultry products that contain added solutions and that do not meet a standard of identity. The descriptive designation must include the percentage of added solution, and the individual ingredients or multi-ingredient components in the solution listed in descending order of predominance by weight. The print for all words in the product name, including the descriptive designation, must appear in a single easy-to-read type style and color and on a single-color contrasting background. The print may appear in upper and lower case letters, with the lower case letters no smaller than one-third (1/3) the size of the largest letter. The percent solution must appear as a number (e.g., 15, 20, 30) with the percentage sign (%) and may be declared with the word "containing" or "contains." Under this final rule, the word "enhanced" is not allowed in the product name. The Agency also removed the standard of identity regulation for "ready-to-cook poultry products to which solutions are added" (9 CFR 381.169).

**Priority:** Other Significant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Completed Action

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 9 CFR 317.2(e); 9 CFR 381.117(h) (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations.](#))

**Legal Authority:** 21 U.S.C. 601 to 695; 21 U.S.C. 451 to 470

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	07/27/2011	76 FR 44855
NPRM Comment Period End	09/26/2011	
NPRM Comment Period Reopened	11/08/2011	76 FR 69146
NPRM Comment Period Reopened End	01/09/2012	
Final Action	12/31/2014	79 FR 79044
Final Action Effective	01/01/2016	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No

**Government Levels Affected:** No

**Small Entities Affected:** Business

**Federalism:** No

**Energy Affected:** No

**International Impacts:** This regulatory action will be likely to have international trade and investment effects, or otherwise be of international interest.

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Food and Nutrition Service ( FNS )**

**RIN:** 0584-AE00

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**Title:** Emergency Supplemental Nutrition Assistance for Victims of Disasters Procedures

**Abstract:**

The Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (FNA) provides authority for the Secretary of Agriculture to establish temporary emergency standards of eligibility for the duration of an emergency for households who are victims of a disaster that disrupts commercial channels of food distribution. FNS plans to publish a Proposed Rule for D-SNAP that will codify longstanding policies disseminated through previous guidance.

**Priority:** Other Significant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Proposed Rule

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 280 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations.](#))

**Legal Authority:** Pub. L. 113-79

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	08/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No

**Government Levels Affected:** Local; State

**Federalism:** No

**Energy Affected:** No

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Food and Nutrition Service ( FNS )**

RIN: 0584-AE02

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**Title:** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: 2008 Farm Bill Provisions on Clarification of Split Issuance; Accrual of Benefits; Interchange Fees and Definition Changes

**Abstract:**

This rulemaking will propose to implement sections 4113 (Split Issuance), 4114 (Accrual of Benefits), and part of 4115 (Interchange Fees) of the 2008 Farm Bill, which pertain to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefit issuance and redemption. The provisions of section 4115 to de-obligate coupons and make Electronic Benefit Transfer cards the sole method of benefit delivery will be addressed in a separate rulemaking.

**Priority:** Other Significant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Proposed Rule

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 271; 7 CFR 274 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** Pub. L. 110-246

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	09/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No

**Government Levels Affected:** State

**Federalism:** No

**Energy Affected:** No

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Food and Nutrition Service ( FNS )**

RIN: 0584-AE18

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** Child and Adult Care Food Program: Meal Pattern Revisions Related to the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010

**Abstract:**

This final rule will implement section 221 of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (Pub. L. 111-296; the Act). It requires USDA to review and update, no less frequently than once every 10 years, requirements for meals served under the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) to ensure those meals are consistent with the most recent Dietary Guidelines for Americans

and relevant nutrition science.

**Priority:** Other Significant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Proposed Rule

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 210; 7 CFR 215; 7 CFR 220; 7 CFR 226 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** Pub. L. 111-296

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	01/15/2015	80 FR 2037
NPRM Comment Period End	04/15/2015	
NPRM Comment Period Extended	04/27/2015	80 FR 23243
NPRM Comment Period Extended End	05/27/2015	
Final Action	01/00/2016	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** Governmental Jurisdictions

**Government Levels Affected:** Local; State

**Federalism:** No

**Energy Affected:** No

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**

**Food and Nutrition Service ( FNS )**

RIN: 0584-AE27

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** Enhancing Retailer Eligibility Standards in SNAP

**Abstract:**

This rulemaking will address the criteria used to authorize redemption of SNAP benefits (especially by restaurant-type operations).

**Priority:** Other Significant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Proposed Rule

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 271.2; 7 CFR 278.1 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** 3 U.S.C. 2012; 9 U.S.C. 2018

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	06/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No

**Government Levels Affected:** State

**Federalism:** No

**Energy Affected:** No

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Food and Nutrition Service ( FNS )**

RIN: 0584-AE30

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** Administrative Reviews in the School Nutrition Programs

**Abstract:**

This rule proposes to amend National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program regulations to implement section 207 of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (Pub. L. 111-296). Section 207 of the Act requires the Secretary to establish a unified system of reviews to ensure local school food authorities participating in the lunch and breakfast programs comply with program requirements. This rule will propose to amend existing regulations found at 7 CFR parts 210 and 220 to revise, update, and streamline the administrative review requirements consistent with the provisions of section 207 of the Act.

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Proposed Rule

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 210; 7 CFR 220 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** Pub. L. 111-296

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	05/11/2015	80 FR 26846
NPRM Comment Period End	07/10/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No

**Government Levels Affected:** No

**Federalism:** No

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Food and Nutrition Service ( FNS )**

RIN: 0584-AE37

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** Modernizing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Benefit Redemption Systems

**Abstract:**

The Agricultural Act of 2014 (Pub. L. 113-79, the Farm Bill) amended the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (the FNA) to include new requirements regarding the acceptance and processing of SNAP client benefits by all non-exempt retailers participating in SNAP. Statutory changes will modernize EBT systems and ensure greater program integrity. The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) also plans to revise certain SNAP regulations for which multiple State agencies have sought and received approval of waivers. The revisions will streamline program administration, offer greater flexibility to State agencies, and improve customer service.

**Priority:** Economically Significant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Proposed Rule

**Major:** Yes

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 274; 7 CFR 278 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** Pub. L. 113-79

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	09/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** Business

**Government Levels Affected:** Federal; State

**Federalism:** No

**Energy Affected:** No

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**

**Food and Nutrition Service ( FNS )**

**RIN:** 0584-AE38

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** Processing of Donated Foods for Use in the NSLP and Other Food Assistance Programs: Implementation of the Agricultural Act of 2014, and Further Revisions and Clarifications in Processing Requirements

**Abstract:**

FNS proposes to implement provisions of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Pub. L. 113-79, the Farm Bill) with regard to the processing of donated foods, and to amend current regulations further to provide more efficient and effective service to State distributing and recipient agencies, including School Food Authorities (SFA).

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Proposed Rule

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 250 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** Pub. L. 113-79

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	07/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No

**Government Levels Affected:** No

**Federalism:** No

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**

**Food and Nutrition Service ( FNS )**

**RIN:** 0584-AE39

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP): Electronic Benefits Transfer Requirements for Scanning and Product-Lookup Technology

**Abstract:**

This rule will align program regulations with changes made by section 4002 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Pub. L. 113-79, the Farm Bill), which introduces new technical requirements for point-of-sale (POS) devices in the Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) system in section 7(h)(2)(C) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (the FNA). The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) will propose to revise existing regulations both to codify these statutory requirements as well as to provide for their effective implementation and enforcement through the clarification of the technical specifications and capabilities required of this equipment and by addressing methods for ensuring compliance. In addition, the Department will define what constitutes an area that has significantly limited access to food to determine who is exempt from this requirement.

**Priority:** Economically Significant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Proposed Rule

**Major:** Yes

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 274; 7 CFR 278 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** Pub. L. 113-79

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	01/00/2016	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** Business

**Government Levels Affected:** No

**Federalism:** No

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Food and Nutrition Service ( FNS )**

RIN: 0584-AE40

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP): Implementation of the Agricultural Act of 2014 Purchasing and Delivery Services for the Elderly and Disabled

**Abstract:**

This rule proposes to revise program regulations to implement changes made by section 4003 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Pub. L. 113-79, the Farm Bill), which amends the definition of retail food store in section 3(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (the FNA) to include governmental or private nonprofit food purchasing and delivery services (P&D Services) that purchase and deliver food to individuals who are unable to shop if they are 60 years of age or older or physically or mentally handicapped or otherwise disabled. The Farm Bill requires that the participating household be notified, at the time of the food order, of any fee associated with the P&D Service and that the fee cannot be paid with SNAP benefits. The Farm Bill requires the Secretary to issue regulations establishing criteria to identify P&D Services that may qualify as a retail food store in SNAP.

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Proposed Rule**Major:** No**Unfunded Mandates:** No**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 271; 7 CFR 278 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)**Legal Authority:** Pub. L. 113-79**Legal Deadline:** None**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	05/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No**Government Levels Affected:** Local; State**Federalism:** No**Agency Contact:** Charles H Watford

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Food and Nutrition Service ( FNS )**

RIN: 0584-AE41

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP): Student Eligibility, Convicted Felons, Lottery and Gambling, and State Immigration Verification Provisions of the Agricultural Act of 2014

**Abstract:**

The proposed action will address sections 4007, 4008, 4009 and 4015 of the Agricultural Act of 2014. Section 4007, Eligibility Disqualifications, will address student eligibility for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. Section 4008, Eligibility Disqualifications for Certain Convicted Felons, will address SNAP eligibility of certain convicted felons who are not in compliance with the terms of their sentence. Section 4009, Lottery and Gambling Winners, will address ineligibility for SNAP beneficiaries with substantial gambling or lottery winnings. Section 4015, Mandating State Immigration Verification, will address the procedures States must have in place to verify immigration status.

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Proposed Rule

**Major:** No **Unfunded Mandates:** No  
**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 272; 7 CFR 273 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)  
**Legal Authority:** Pub. L. 113-79  
**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	05/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No **Government Levels Affected:** Federal; Local; State  
**Federalism:** No

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Food and Nutrition Service ( FNS )**

RIN: 0584-AE42

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** Food and Nutrition Service Regulatory Implementation of Office of Management and Budget's Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards

**Abstract:**

This proposed regulation will implement the final guidance Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards published by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) on December 26, 2013. USDA implementation of the guidance will occur in December 2014 with the OMB joint interim final rule. This FNS rule will update references to the OMB final guidance throughout the FNS rules.

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant **Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Proposed Rule  
**Major:** No **Unfunded Mandates:** No  
**CFR Citation:** Ch II, title 7 of the CFR (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)  
**Legal Authority:** OMB Guidance, "Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards"  
**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	05/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** Governmental Jurisdictions **Government Levels Affected:** No

**Federalism:** No  
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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Food and Nutrition Service ( FNS )**

RIN: 0584-AE43

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: Standard Utility Allowances Based on the Receipt of Energy Assistance Payments

**Abstract:**

The proposed action would implement section 4006, Standard Utility Allowances Based on the Receipt of Energy Assistance Payments, of the Agricultural Act of 2014. Under section 4006, the Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is instructed to promulgate regulations establishing that those States electing to use a heating or cooling standard utility allowance (HCSUA) in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) eligibility determinations must make the HCSUA available to households that receive a Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) or other similar energy assistance program payment greater than \$20 annually in the current month or in the immediately preceding 12 months.

**Priority:** Economically Significant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Proposed Rule

**Major:** Undetermined

**Unfunded Mandates:** Undetermined

**CFR Citation:** Not Yet Determined (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** Pub. L. 113-79

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	08/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** Undetermined

**Government Levels Affected:** Undetermined

**Federalism:** Undetermined

**Energy Affected:** Undetermined

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Food and Nutrition Service ( FNS )**

RIN: 0584-AE44

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Promotion

**Abstract:**

This rule proposes to implement section 4018 of the Agricultural Act of 2014. This section created new limitations on the use of Federal funds authorized in the Food and Nutrition Act for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) promotion and outreach activities. These changes will affect the type of outreach activities eligible for 50 percent Federal reimbursement conducted by State agencies and their community partners. This regulation will codify section 4018 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 which establishes new parameters regarding how funds authorized by the Food and Nutrition Act may be spent to promote SNAP. The Agricultural Act of 2014 makes these changes by amending sections 16(a)(4) and 18 of the Food and Nutrition Act.

**Priority:** Other Significant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Proposed Rule

**Major:** Undetermined

**Unfunded Mandates:** Undetermined

**CFR Citation:** Not Yet Determined (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** Pub. L. 113-79

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	10/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** Undetermined **Government Levels Affected:** Undetermined

**Small Entities Affected:** Business; Governmental Jurisdictions **Federalism:** Undetermined

**Energy Affected:** Undetermined

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**

**Food and Nutrition Service ( FNS )**

RIN: 0584-AE45

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Photo Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) Card Implementation Requirements

**Abstract:**

Under section 7(h)(9) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (the Act), as amended [7 U.S.C. 2016(h)(9)], States have the option to require that SNAP Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card contain a photo of one or more household members. This rule would incorporate into regulation and provide additional clarity on the FNS guidance developed for State agencies wishing to implement the photo EBT card option.

**Priority:** Other Significant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Proposed Rule

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 273; 7 CFR 274; 7 CFR 278 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** Pub L. 104-193

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	08/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No

**Government Levels Affected:** Local; State

**Small Entities Affected:** No

**Federalism:** No

**Energy Affected:** No

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**

**Food and Nutrition Service ( FNS )**

RIN: 0584-AD60

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** Direct Certification of Children in SNAP Households and Certification of Homeless, Migrant, and Runaway Children for

Free Meals in the NSLP, SBP, and SMP

**Abstract:**

In response to Public Law 108-265, which amended the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, 7 CFR part 245, Determining Eligibility for Free and Reduced Price Meals and Free Milk in Schools, is amended to establish categorical (automatic) eligibility for free meals and free milk upon documentation that a child is (1) homeless as defined by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act; (2) a runaway served by grant programs under the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act; or (3) migratory as defined in section 1309(2) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. The rule also requires phase-in of mandatory direct certification for children who are members of households receiving benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and continues discretionary direct certification for other categorically eligible children.

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Final Rule

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 210; 7 CFR 215; 7 CFR 220; 7 CFR 225; 7 CFR 226; 7 CFR 245 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#) )

**Legal Authority:** Pub. L. 108-265, sec 104

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Interim Final Rule	04/25/2011	76 FR 22785
Interim Final Rule Effective	06/24/2011	
Interim Final Rule Comment Period End	10/24/2011	
Final Action	07/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No

**Government Levels Affected:** Local; State

**Federalism:** No

**Energy Affected:** No

**Related RINs:** Merge with 0584-AD62

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)  
Food and Nutrition Service ( FNS )**

**RIN:** 0584-AD70

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** Implementing Provisions From the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004: Seamless Summer Option for Schools Participating in the National School Lunch Program

**Abstract:**

This interim final rule will amend 7 CFR parts 210 and 220 to codify section 116 of the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004 (Pub. L. 108-265) amending section 13(a) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (NSLA) to authorize a Seamless Summer Option for public or private nonprofit school food authorities to participate in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP).

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Final Rule

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 210; 7 CFR 220 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#) )

**Legal Authority:** Pub. L. 108-265

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Interim Final Rule	11/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No**Government Levels Affected:** Local; State**Federalism:** No**Energy Affected:** No

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Food and Nutrition Service ( FNS )**

RIN: 0584-AD84

 [View Related Documents](#)
**Title:** Simplified Cost Accounting and Other Actions To Reduce Paperwork in the Summer Food Service Program**Abstract:**

Section 738 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2008, (Pub. L. 110-161) extends simplified cost accounting procedures to Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) sponsors in all States. Beginning on January 1, 2008, sponsors received the maximum rates of reimbursement for the eligible meals they served. The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) proposes to amend 7 CFR part 225 to eliminate the program assistance requirements that no longer apply and to implement a number of other actions that would further streamline SFSP administration.

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Final Rule**Major:** No**Unfunded Mandates:** No**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 225 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)**Legal Authority:** Pub. L. 110-161**Legal Deadline:** None**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	07/12/2013	78 FR 41857
NPRM Comment Period End	10/10/2013	
Final Action	09/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No**Government Levels Affected:** Local; State**Federalism:** No**Energy Affected:** No

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Food and Nutrition Service ( FNS )**

RIN: 0584-AD86

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** Review of Major Changes in Program Design and Management Evaluation Systems

**Abstract:**

The final rule will amend 7 CFR parts 271, 272, and 275 to codify section 4116 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008. This section, Review of Major Changes in Program Design, requires the Secretary to develop standards for identifying major changes in the operations of a State agency that administers SNAP. Once FNS has determined that a State reported operational change is considered major, the State will be required to report to FNS, on a regular basis, information related to the impact of the change on program integrity and program access.

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Final Rule

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 275 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** Pub. L. 110-234

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	05/03/2011	76 FR 24820
NPRM Comment Period End	07/05/2011	
Final Action	05/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No

**Government Levels Affected:** State

**Federalism:** No

**Energy Affected:** No

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Food and Nutrition Service ( FNS )**

RIN: 0584-AD87

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** Eligibility, Certification, and Employment and Training Provisions

**Abstract:**

This final rule amends the regulations governing the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to codify provisions from the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Pub. L. 110-246) (FCEA) concerning the eligibility and certification of SNAP applicants and participants and SNAP employment and training.

**Priority:** Economically Significant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Final Rule

**Major:** Yes

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 273 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** Pub. L. 110-246; Pub. L. 104-121

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	05/04/2011	76 FR 25414
NPRM Comment Period End	07/05/2011	
Final Action	08/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No

**Government Levels Affected:** Local; State

**Federalism:** No

**Energy Affected:** No

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**

**Food and Nutrition Service ( FNS )**

**RIN: 0584-AD88**

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: Farm Bill of 2008 Retailer Sanctions

**Abstract:**

This final rule would implement provisions under section 4132 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, giving the Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) the authority to assess a civil penalty and to disqualify a retail or wholesale food store authorized to participate in SNAP.

**Priority:** Economically Significant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Final Rule

**Major:** Yes

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 276 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** Pub. L. 110-246

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	08/14/2012	77 FR 48461
NPRM Comment Period End	10/15/2012	
Final Action	09/00/2015	

**Additional Information:** Note: This RIN replaces the previously issued RIN 0584-AD78.

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No

**Government Levels Affected:** State

**Federalism:** No

**Energy Affected:** No

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)  
 Food and Nutrition Service ( FNS )**

RIN: 0584-AD96

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program

**Abstract:**

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 amended the National School Lunch Act (NSLA) to add section 19, the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP). Section 19 establishes the FFVP as a permanent national program in a select number of schools in each State, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. Schools in all States must apply annually in order to receive FFVP funding. This rule would codify statutory requirements currently established and implemented through program policy and guidance for operators at the State and local level.

**Priority:** Other Significant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Final Rule

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 211 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008; National School Lunch Act (NSLA); 42 U.S.C. 1769(a)

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	02/24/2012	77 FR 10982
NPRM Comment Period End	04/24/2012	
Final Action	07/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No

**Government Levels Affected:** Local; State

**Federalism:** No

**Energy Affected:** No

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)  
 Food and Nutrition Service ( FNS )**

RIN: 0584-AD98

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**Title:** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Provision Major System Failures

**Abstract:**

Title IV, part III: Program Operations, section 4133 (Major System Failures) provision allows USDA to prohibit State agencies from collecting claims from a household, and to assert a claim against a State in cases of major systemic error resulting in substantial overpayments of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. This rule will regulate what procedures and processes are to be followed if a State experiences such a failure. It will define what a major system failure is and explain under what circumstances a State agency will be held liable for an overpayment, rather than the client household.

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Final Rule

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 273 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** Pub. L. 110-246

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	08/18/2011	76 FR 51274
NPRM Comment Period End	10/17/2011	
Final Action	06/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No

**Government Levels Affected:** State

**Federalism:** No

**Energy Affected:** No

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**

**Food and Nutrition Service ( FNS )**

**RIN:** 0584-AE01

[View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** Clarification of Eligibility of Fleeing Felons

**Abstract:**

Section 4112 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Pub. L. 110-246) amended section 6(k) of the FNA to require the Secretary to amend SNAP regulations to clarify and define certain terminology that affects the SNAP eligibility of fleeing felons.

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Final Rule

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 273.11 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** Pub. L. 110-246

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	08/19/2011	76 FR 51907
NPRM Comment Period End	10/18/2011	

Final Action	05/00/2015
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**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No

**Government Levels Affected:** State

**Federalism:** No

**Energy Affected:** No

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**

**Food and Nutrition Service ( FNS )**

RIN: 0584-AE07

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: Nutrition Education and Obesity Prevention Grant

**Abstract:**

This rule finalizes regulations to implement section 28 of the Food and Nutrition Act (FNA) of 2008, as added by section 241 of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act (HHFKA) of 2010. The rule provides State agencies with requirements for implementing section 28, including the grant award process and describes the process for allocating the 100 percent Federal grant funding authorized under the Act to carry out nutrition education and obesity prevention services each fiscal year. This final rule codifies section 4028 of the Agricultural Act of 2014, which authorizes physical activity as a nutrition education activity. This final rule also codifies a provision of the FNA as section 28(b) which adds physical activity choices to the healthy food choices consistent with the most recent Dietary Guidelines for Americans that are promoted through State nutrition education and obesity prevention programs.

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Final Rule

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 272 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** Pub. L. 111-296

**Legal Deadline:** A legal deadline of 01/01/2012 was placed on this action by Public Law 111-296.

Action	Source	Description	Date
Other	Statutory	Public Law 111-296	01/01/2012

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Interim Final Rule	04/05/2013	78 FR 20411
Interim Final Rule Comment Period End	06/04/2013	
Final Action	05/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No

**Government Levels Affected:** State

**Federalism:** No

**Energy Affected:** No

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Food and Nutrition Service ( FNS )**

RIN: 0584-AE09

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs: Nutrition Standards for All Foods Sold in School, as Required by the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010

**Abstract:**

This rule codifies the two provisions of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act (Pub. L. 111-296; the Act) under 7 CFR parts 210 and 220. Section 203 requires schools participating in the National School Lunch Program to make available to children free of charge, as nutritionally appropriate, potable water for consumption in the place where meals are served during meal service. Section 208 requires the Secretary to promulgate regulations to establish science-based nutrition standards for all foods sold in schools. The nutrition standards apply to all food sold outside the school meal programs, on the school campus, and at any time during the school day.

**Priority:** Economically Significant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Final Rule

**Major:** Yes

**Unfunded Mandates:** State, Local, Or Tribal Governments;  
 Private Sector

**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 210; 7 CFR 220 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** Pub. L. 111-296

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	02/08/2013	78 FR 9530
NPRM Comment Period End	04/09/2013	
Interim Final Rule	06/28/2013	78 FR 39067
Interim Final Rule Effective	08/27/2013	
Interim Final Rule Comment Period End	10/28/2013	
Final Action	12/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** Governmental Jurisdictions

**Government Levels Affected:** Local; State

**Federalism:** Yes

**Energy Affected:** No

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Food and Nutrition Service ( FNS )**

RIN: 0584-AE11

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**Title:** National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs: School Food Service Account Revenue Amendments Related to the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010

**Abstract:**

This rule amends National School Lunch Program (NSLP) regulations to conform to requirements contained in the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 regarding equity in school lunch pricing and revenue from non-program foods sold in schools. This rule requires school food authorities (SFAs) participating in the NSLP to provide the same level of financial support for lunches served to students who are not eligible for free or reduced price lunches as is provided for lunches served to students eligible for free lunches. This rule also requires that all food sold in a school and purchased with funds from the nonprofit school food service account other than meals and supplements reimbursed by the Department of Agriculture must generate revenue at least proportionate to the cost of such foods.

**Priority:** Economically Significant**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Final Rule**Major:** Yes**Unfunded Mandates:** No**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 210 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)**Legal Authority:** Pub. L. 111-296**Legal Deadline:** None**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Interim Final Rule	06/17/2011	76 FR 35301
Interim Final Rule Effective	07/01/2011	
Interim Final Rule Comment Period End	09/15/2011	
Final Action	03/00/2016	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** Governmental Jurisdictions; Organizations**Government Levels Affected:** Federal; Local; State; Tribal**Federalism:** No**Energy Affected:** No

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Food and Nutrition Service ( FNS )**

RIN: 0584-AE12

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** Child and Adult Care Food Program: Amendments Related to the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010

**Abstract:**

This rule will codify several provisions of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (Pub. L. 111-296; the Act) that affect management of the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), including (1) developing policies under which institutions submit an initial CACFP application to the State agency; (2) allowing day care homes to assist families in transmitting program forms which contain household income information to the sponsoring organization; (3) modifying the structure and formula for determining administrative payments to sponsoring organizations of family day care homes; and (4) allowing sponsoring organizations to carry over up to 10 percent of their administrative funding from the previous fiscal year into the next fiscal year.

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Final Rule**Major:** No**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 226 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** Pub. L. 111-296

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	04/09/2012	77 FR 21018
NPRM Comment Period End	06/08/2012	
Final Action	02/00/2016	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No

**Government Levels Affected:** State

**Federalism:** No

**Energy Affected:** No

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**

**Food and Nutrition Service ( FNS )**

**RIN:** 0584-AE16

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**Title:** National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program: Eliminating Applications Through Community Eligibility as Required by the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010

**Abstract:**

The rule will codify section 104(a) of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (Pub. L. 111-296; the Act), which allows eligible local educational agencies (LEA) and schools to receive special assistance payments under procedures set forth in this section in lieu of the special assistance payments normally made available for free and reduced price meals if they serve all enrolled students free meals for four successive years in lieu of collecting applications.

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Final Rule

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 245 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** Pub. L. 111-296

**Legal Deadline:**

Action	Source	Description	Date
NPRM	Statutory		12/31/2013

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	11/04/2013	78 FR 65890
NPRM Comment Period End	01/03/2014	
Final Action	01/00/2016	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No

**Government Levels Affected:** Local; State

**Federalism:** No

**Energy Affected:** No

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)  
 Food and Nutrition Service ( FNS )**

RIN: 0584-AE21

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** WIC: Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) Implementation

**Abstract:**

This rule will revise and expand regulations regarding WIC EBT at 7 CFR 246 and implement statutory provisions related to EBT as defined in the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, Public Law 11-296. The EBT requirements addressed in the rule will help standardize EBT operations, and establish implementation guidelines and timeframes.

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Final Rule

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 246 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** Pub. L. 111-296

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	02/28/2013	78 FR 13549
NPRM Comment Period End	05/29/2013	
Final Action	07/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No

**Government Levels Affected:** Local; State

**Federalism:** No

**Energy Affected:** No

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)  
 Food and Nutrition Service ( FNS )**

RIN: 0584-AE25

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** Child Nutrition Programs: Local School Wellness Policy Implementation Under the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010

**Abstract:**

This final rule codifies a provision of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act (Pub. L. 111-296; the Act) under 7 CFR parts 210 and 220. Section 204 of the Act requires each local educational agency (LEA) to establish, for all schools under its jurisdiction, a local school wellness policy. The Act requires that the wellness policy include goals for nutrition, nutrition education, physical activity, and other school-based activities that promote student wellness. In addition, the Act requires that local educational agencies ensure stakeholder participation in development of their local school wellness policies, and periodically assess compliance with the policies, and disclose information about the policies to the public.

**Priority:** Other Significant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Final Rule

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 210; 7 CFR 220 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** Pub. L. 111-296

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	02/26/2014	79 FR 10693
NPRM Comment Period End	04/28/2014	
Final Action	06/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** Governmental Jurisdictions

**Government Levels Affected:** Local; State

**Federalism:** No

**Energy Affected:** No

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**

**Food and Nutrition Service ( FNS )**

**RIN:** 0584-AE29

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** Requirements for the Distribution and Control of Donated Foods; and the Emergency Food Assistance Program: Implementation of the Agricultural Act of 2014

**Abstract:**

This rule revises and clarifies requirements in 7 CFR part 250 to ensure that USDA-donated foods are distributed, stored, and managed in the safest, most efficient, and cost-effective manner at State and recipient agency levels.

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Final Rule

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 250 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** 5 U.S.C. 301; 7 U.S.C. 612(c); 15 U.S.C. 713(c); 22 U.S.C. 1922; 42 U.S.C. 1751

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	10/22/2014	79 FR 63223

NPRM Comment Period End	01/20/2015	
Final Action	08/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No**Government Levels Affected:** State**Federalism:** No**Energy Affected:** No

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Food and Nutrition Service ( FNS )**

RIN: 0584-AE33

 [View Related Documents](#)
**Title:** SNAP: Employment and Training Program Monitoring, Oversight and Reporting Measures**Abstract:**

This rule implements the employment and training (E&T) provisions of section 4022 (a)(2) of the Agricultural Act of 2014. Section 4022 (a)(2) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 requires the Department to develop national reporting measures and for State agencies to report outcome data to the Department. It also requires that the Department monitor and assess State agencies' E&T programs, and provides the Department with the authority to require State agencies to make improvements to their programs as necessary. Finally, State agencies are required to submit reports on the impact of certain E&T components and, in certain States, the E&T services provided to able-bodied adults without dependents.

**Priority:** Other Significant**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Final Rule**Major:** No**Unfunded Mandates:** No**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 273 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)**Legal Authority:** Pub. L. 113-79**Legal Deadline:** None**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Interim Final Rule	08/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No**Government Levels Affected:** Local; State**Federalism:** No**Energy Affected:** No

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Food and Nutrition Service ( FNS )**

RIN: 0584-AE36

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** SNAP Requirement for National Directory of New Hires Wage Verification

**Abstract:**

Pursuant to changes in the Agricultural Act of 2014, Section 4013, States are required to verify applicant wage data through the National Directory of New Hires (NDNH) for the determination of eligibility and correct amount of benefits at the time of certification.

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Final Rule

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR part 273 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** Pub. L. 113-79

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Interim Final Rule	09/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No

**Government Levels Affected:** Local; State

**Federalism:** No

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Food and Nutrition Service ( FNS )**

RIN: 0584-AE19

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** Professional Standards for State and Local School Nutrition Programs Personnel as Required By the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010

**Abstract:**

This final rule codifies section 306 of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act (Pub. L. 111-296; the Act) under 7 CFR parts 210 and 220, which requires the Secretary to establish a program of required education, training, and certification for all school food service directors responsible for the management of a school food authority; and criteria and standards for States to use in the selection of State agency directors with responsibility for the school lunch program and the school breakfast program.

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Completed Action

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 210; 7 CFR 220 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** Pub. L. 111-296

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	02/04/2014	79 FR 6488
NPRM Comment Period End	04/07/2014	
Final Action	03/02/2015	80 FR 11077
Final Action Effective	07/01/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No**Government Levels Affected:** Local; State**Federalism:** No**Energy Affected:** No**Agency Contact:** James F Herbert

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)****Forest Service ( FS )**

RIN: 0596-AC46

 [View Related Documents](#)**Title:** Small Business Administration Timber Sale Set-Aside Program

**Abstract:** The Forest Service is proposing a revision of its policy procedures in Forest Service Handbook 2409.18, Timber Sale Preparation Handbook, chapter 90, Programs With Small Business Administration, to drop structural changes in the Forest Service Directives. This proposed revision would better reflect the current timber sale program, make the recomputation process as fair as possible, and simplify the process by which market share is determined. This proposed policy change would not affect scheduled and special recomputations.

**Priority:** Other Significant**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Proposed Rule**Major:** No**Unfunded Mandates:** No**CFR Citation:** None (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)**Legal Authority:** 36 CFR 223.118**Legal Deadline:** None**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Proposed Directive	08/01/2006	71 FR 43435
Proposed Directive Comment Period Extended	09/29/2006	71 FR 57462
Proposed Directive Comment Period End	10/02/2006	
Proposed Directive Comment Period Extended End	12/11/2006	
Proposed Directive	08/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No**Government Levels Affected:** No**Small Entities Affected:** Business**Federalism:** No**Energy Affected:** No**Agency Contact:** LaRenda C King

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Forest Service ( FS )**

RIN: 0596-AC65

 [View Related Documents](#)
**Title:** Administrative Issuances; Involving the Public in the Formulation of Forest Service Directives**Abstract:**

The Forest Service Directive System codifies the Agency's policy, practice, and procedure. It is the primary administrative basis for the internal management and control of all Agency programs and the primary source of administrative direction to Forest Service employees. In accordance with Executive Order 12866 on regulatory planning and review, as well as recent litigation regarding the publication of Forest Service directives for comment prior to issuance, the Forest Service plans to revise its regulation at title 36, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), at section 200.4, which describes the Forest Service administrative issuance system (the Directive System), its use and availability, and other types of permissible guidance. Title 36 CFR, part 216 also would be revised to clarify when and how to involve the public in the formulation of Forest Service directives.

**Priority:** Other Significant**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Proposed Rule**Major:** No**Unfunded Mandates:** No**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 2.7; 36 CFR 200.4; 36 CFR 216 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)**Legal Authority:** 16 U.S.C. 1612(a)**Legal Deadline:** None**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	10/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No**Government Levels Affected:** No**Small Entities Affected:** No**Federalism:** No**Energy Affected:** No**Agency Contact:** LaRenda C King

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Forest Service ( FS )**

RIN: 0596-AC96

 [View Related Documents](#)
**Title:** Wilderness Management Policy**Abstract:**

The agency is proposing to update the Wilderness Management Policy, FSM 2320, that was revised in 1990, as a result of the accumulations of cultural, technological, and demographic changes, affecting all aspects of wilderness administration. With the passage of numerous bills designating additional wilderness areas in the past 20 years, Forest Service wilderness makes up about 18 percent of the National Forest System, over 36 million acres, and encompasses a broad spectrum of ecological communities, some of which were not represented before 1990, and which bring new complexity and management challenges not currently addressed in policy.

Current directives do not take into account provisions from recent legislation and legislation that have occurred since 1990 (for example, Americans with Disabilities Act). Significant court rulings have prompted the Agency to update and refine its policy. Inconsistent interpretations also have resulted from lack of clarity in policy.

The FS proposes to update existing wilderness policy. Wilderness is an integrated resource that contains multiple resource areas requiring specific management to adhere to the legal framework of the Wilderness Act. Proposed directives would refine current policy direction in a number of program areas including wildlife, fish and rare plants, planning, heritage resources, recreation, and fire. Revised policy will provide both our internal organization and our external audiences a clear understanding of Forest Service wilderness management direction.

**Priority:** Other Significant**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Proposed Rule

**Major:** No **Unfunded Mandates:** No  
**CFR Citation:** None (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)  
**Legal Authority:** FSM 2320  
**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Proposed Directive	12/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No**Government Levels Affected:** No**Small Entities Affected:** No**Federalism:** No**Energy Affected:** No**Agency Contact:** LaRenda C King

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E-Mail: [larendacking@fs.fed.us](mailto:larendacking@fs.fed.us)**Department of Agriculture (USDA)****Forest Service ( FS )**

RIN: 0596-AD03

 [View Related Documents](#)**Title:** Management of Surface Activities Associated With Outstanding Mineral Rights on National Forest System Lands**Abstract:**

Close to 11,000,000 acres (approximately 6 percent) of National Forest System (NFS) lands overlie severed (split) mineral estates owned by a party other than the Federal Government. More than 75 percent of these lands are in the Eastern Region (Forest Service Regions 8 and 9). There are two kinds of severed mineral estates, generally known as "private rights": reserved and outstanding. Reserved mineral rights are those retained by a grantor in a deed conveying land to the United States. Outstanding mineral rights are those owned by a party other than the surface owner at the time the surface was conveyed to the United States. Because these are non-Federal mineral interests, the U.S. Department of Interior's Bureau of Land Management has no authority for or role in managing development activities associated with such interests. States have the authority and responsibility for regulating development of the private mineral estate.

Various Secretary's Rules and Regulations (years of 1911, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1947, 1950, and 1963) and Forest Service regulations at 36 CFR 251.15 provide direction for the use of NFS lands for mineral development activities associated with the exercise of reserved mineral rights. These existing rules for reserved minerals development activities also include requirements for protection of NFS resources.

Currently, there are no formal regulations governing the use of NFS lands for activities associated with the exercise of outstanding mineral rights underlying those lands. The Energy Policy Act of 1992, section 2508, directed the Secretary of Agriculture to apply specified terms and conditions to surface-disturbing activities related to development of oil and gas on certain lands with outstanding mineral rights on the Allegheny National Forest, and promulgate regulations implementing that section.

The Forest Service initiated rulemaking for the use of NFS lands for development activities associated with both reserved and outstanding minerals rights with an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM) in the Federal Register on December 29, 2008. Comments from the public in response to the ANPRM conveyed a high level of concern about the broad scope of the rule, along with a high level of concern about effects of a broad rule on small businesses and local economies.

**Priority:** Other Significant**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Proposed Rule**Major:** No**Unfunded Mandates:** No**CFR Citation:** 36 CFR 251 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)**Legal Authority:** EPA 1992**Legal Deadline:** None**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
ANPRM	12/29/2008	73 FR 79424
ANPRM Comment Period End	02/27/2009	
NPRM	08/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** Governmental Jurisdictions

**Government Levels Affected:** State

**Federalism:** No

**Energy Affected:** Undetermined

**Related RINs:** Merge with 0596-AC87

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Forest Service ( FS )**

RIN: 0596-AD05

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** National Forest System Invasive Species Management Handbook

**Abstract:**

Management activities to address the threats and impacts of invasive species across the National Forest System (NFS) are guided by a general, broad policy articulated in the proposed Forest Service Manual 2900 (NFS Invasive Species Management). The specific requirements, standards, criteria, rules, and guidelines for Forest Service staff to manage invasive species on NFS lands effectively will be provided in a handbook which will tier to FSM 2900. The proposed handbook will be issued through the Directives system.

**Priority:** Other Significant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Proposed Rule

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 36 CFR 222 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** 16 U.S.C. 473 et seq; 16 U.S.C. 528 et seq; 16 U.S.C. 1600 et seq

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Proposed Directive	01/00/2016	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No

**Government Levels Affected:** No

**Small Entities Affected:** No

**Federalism:** No

**Energy Affected:** No

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Forest Service ( FS )**

RIN: 0596-AD15

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** American Indian and Alaska Native Relations

**Abstract:**

The proposed revisions are to Forest Service Manual 1560, State, Tribal, County and Local Agencies, and Forest Service Handbook 1509.13, American Indian and Alaska Native Relations Handbook, chapter 10--Consultation with Tribes and Alaska Native Cooperation. The proposed rule revises the directives due to changes in authorities and regulations, the need to implement the U.S. Department of Agriculture Sacred Sites Report, and the pending expiration of the interim directive on tribal consultation. The proposed changes provide a logical opportunity to further clarify requirements for staff in the field who are responsible for implementing the Culture and Heritage Cooperative Authority (initiated by the 2008 Farm Bill and found at 25

U.S. Code 32A) and incorporate new regulations such as the USDA Departmental Regulation on Tribal Consultation, Cooperation, and Collaboration into Agency directives. The revised directives provide expanded detail to help Forest Service staff more clearly understand the mandates required and complexities of tribal relations. Complete revision of both the Tribal Relations Manual and Handbook provide an opportunity to align both documents to locate information more easily. The proposed revisions have been out for Tribal Consultation since June 6, 2013. A 60-day public comment period will conclude all public engagement before finalizing directives.

**Priority:** Other Significant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Proposed Rule

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** None (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** FSM 1563; FSH 1509.13

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Proposed Directive	06/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No

**Government Levels Affected:** No

**Small Entities Affected:** No

**Federalism:** No

**Energy Affected:** No

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**

**Forest Service ( FS )**

RIN: 0596-AD16

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** FSM 2358 National Saw Program--Sawyer Evaluation and Certification

**Abstract:**

The Forest Service plans to publish a proposed directive to establish national saw programmatic direction and address this policy void. This proposed directive is necessary to ensure the safe use of saws on national forests and grasslands throughout the country. Chain saws and crosscut saws are dangerous tools that can inflict severe and sometimes critical injuries if not used properly. Once the proposed directive is published in the Federal Register, the public will be given an opportunity to comment and help refine the proposed policy directives prior to final implementation.

**Priority:** Other Significant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Proposed Rule

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** None (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** FSM 2300; FSH 6709.11

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Proposed Directive	07/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No

**Government Levels Affected:** No

**Small Entities Affected:** No

**Federalism:** No

**Energy Affected:** No

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Forest Service ( FS )**

RIN: 0596-AD22

 [View Related Documents](#)
**Title:** Idaho Roadless Rule--Caribou-Targhee National Forest Modification**Abstract:**

Pursuant to 36 CFR section 294.27(b) of the Idaho Roadless Rule, the Chief of the Forest Service may modify Idaho Roadless Areas after a 45-day public notice and opportunity to comment. The Caribou-Targhee National Forest needs to modify the boundary of the West Mink Roadless Area to relocate and expand the Gibson Jack trailhead. The Gibson Jack Trail on the Caribou-Targhee National Forest is used heavily by the public. This trailhead is the closest access for Pocatello, Idaho, residents to National Forest land. The existing trailhead does not provide adequate parking to accommodate the trail's high level of use. This has resulted in impacts to adjacent private land from vehicles being parked along the access road to the trailhead and has caused erosion and sedimentation impacts on a nearby stream. The boundary of the West Mink Roadless Area surrounds the trailhead on three sides. Expansion of the trailhead in its existing location is not feasible because of the presence of steep, erodible slopes. A closed Forest Service Road, which currently serves as a non-motorized trail, provides access to a bench approximately 700 feet west of the existing trailhead that is within the roadless area. This flat bench, just inside the roadless area, would provide adequate space to accommodate trailhead parking and for vehicles pulling ATV and horse trailers.

Proposed Action: The Forest Service proposes to modify the boundary of the West Mink Roadless Area pursuant to 36 CFR section 294.27(b) of the Idaho Roadless Rule to allow for the construction of a new, expanded trailhead. A closed Forest Service road, which currently serves as a non-motorized trail, provides access to a bench approximately 700 feet west of the existing trailhead. This flat bench, just inside the roadless area, would provide adequate space to accommodate trailhead parking and for vehicles pulling ATV and horse trailers. This modification would remove 11.4 acres from the roadless area. The Forest Service also proposes to eliminate an 18.8-acre "cherry-stem" that has been carved out of the same roadless area. This "cherry-stem" follows a closed Forest Service road, which has since been converted to a motorized trail. Incorporating these 18.8 acres into the roadless area and carving 11.4 acres out of the roadless area to accommodate the new trailhead would result in a net increase of 7.4 acres in the roadless area. These modifications would improve the area's manageability for the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. The trailhead relocation would provide improved access and safety for trail users and meet current and projected recreational use.

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Proposed Rule**Major:** No**Unfunded Mandates:** No**CFR Citation:** 36 CFR 294.27(b) of the Idaho Rule (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)**Legal Authority:** none**Legal Deadline:** None**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Proposed Rule	05/00/2015	

**Additional Information:** This will modify the boundaries of the West Mink Idaho Roadless Area in the maps of record. There are no other feasible locations on National Forest lands to relocate the trailhead and parking lot. The Forest Service and local community planners discussed the possibility of building the trailhead down canyon on private lands. The current landowners were not interested in selling or providing an easement for a public trailhead on their lands. After completing the rule modification and completing environmental review for the trailhead relocation project, the area will be easier to manage. "Cherry-stems" within roadless areas reduce the "core" acres that contain the highest quality of roadless values. Depending on the size of a roadless area, eliminating "cherry-stems" enhances roadless area characteristics of solitude and remoteness.

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No**Government Levels Affected:** No**Small Entities Affected:** No**Federalism:** No**Agency Contact:** LaRenda King Department of Agriculture  
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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)  
Forest Service ( FS )**

RIN: 0596-AD23

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program

**Abstract:**

The Forest Service is proposing to revise the final rule implementing the Community Forest and Open Space Program (Community Forest Program). After selecting and awarding the first round of grants using the initial rule, the Agency realized the current regulation (36 CFR 230 Subpart A) had some inconsistencies and lacked in efficiency, hindering the Agency from fully meeting the intent and purposes of the Community Forest Program.

One of the critical inconsistencies can be found in section 230.8, which specifies the acquisition requirements that grant recipients must follow. Subpart 230.8(a) (5) lists the documents and statements that must be recorded with the deed as part of the Notice of Grant Requirement. The particular item of concern is 230.8(a)(5)(vii), which states that "...the grant recipient will not convey or encumber the interest in real property, in whole or in part, to another party...". This language is overly restrictive and inconsistent with the grant assurances (OPM Form 424D), preventing eligible entities from using funding mechanisms that may require a conservation easement that are compatible with CFP requirements. It also prevents the transfer of ownership to another eligible entity if the recipient becomes unable to hold or maintain the Community Forest. While unlikely in the short-term, in the long-term there could be a need to transfer ownership. We propose to change this section to provide clear and consistent guidance to partners and future applicants, greater flexibility in meeting funding requirements, and access to other conservation tools consistent with CFP.

Additionally, the Agency seeks to reduce the amount of paperwork and information collected during the application phase. Currently the Agency requests an eight-page application, a map, all forms required for issuing a grant, and a draft community forest plan. We have determined that the current application process is more burdensome on applicants than is necessary and all elements of the current process are not necessary to select quality community forest projects that meet the intent of the program.

Lastly, the Agency seeks to clarify definitions and the use of technical assistance funds. Some of the definitions in the final rule were unclear and confused the intention of the program. The Agency seeks to provide clarification and reduce the amount of confusion caused by the unclear definitions.

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Proposed Rule

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 36 CFR 230.8(a)(5)(vii) (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** sec 8003 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Pub. L.110-234; 122 Stat 2043), which amends the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2103d)

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	07/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No

**Government Levels Affected:** No

**Small Entities Affected:** No

**Federalism:** No

**Energy Affected:** No

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)  
Forest Service ( FS )**

RIN: 0596-AD24

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** Prohibitions in Region 8, Southern Region

**Abstract:**

In 1974, Congress designated the 57-mile Chattooga River (and its 15,432-acre corridor) as a component of the National Wild and Scenic River System. The uppermost portion of the Chattooga Wild and Scenic River (W&SR) is located in the Nantahala National Forest (NF) in North Carolina. The river flows in a southerly, southwesterly direction to form the boundary between the Chattahoochee National Forest (in Georgia) and the Sumter National Forest (in South Carolina). In the initial 1976 river

management plan for the Chattooga River, the U.S. Forest Service used zoning to manage the upper and lower segments of the river for different recreational opportunities. As a part of that initial zoning effort, management direction prohibited floating on the upper segment above GA/SC Highway 28 (which includes a section of the river in the Sumter NF, a section of the river in the Chattahoochee NF, and all of the sections of the river in the Nantahala NF). Under the authority of 36 CFR 261.70(a)(7), these prohibitions were codified at 36 CFR 261.77 (in January 1978). In general terms, 36 CFR 261.77 prohibits floating activities on the Chattooga W&SR unless authorized by a permit. Consistent with the river management plan that was incorporated into the forest plans, the original terms and conditions of the permits issued pursuant to 36 CFR 261.77 allowed floating on the Chattooga W&SR, but only on that portion of the river located downstream of GA/SC Highway 28. On January 31, 2012, the Chattahoochee, Nantahala and Sumter NFs issued Decision Notices that amended their Forest Plans to incorporate new management direction for the Chattooga W&SR. Generally, these new decisions allow floating above GA/SC Highway 28 with certain restrictions. To be consistent with this new management direction, the Agency is proposing to amend 36 CFR 261.77.

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant **Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Proposed Rule  
**Major:** Undetermined **Unfunded Mandates:** No  
**CFR Citation:** None (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)  
**Legal Authority:** 7 U.S.C. 1011(f); 16 U.S.C. 472, 551, 620(f), 1133(c),&(d)(1), 1246(i)  
**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Proposed Rule	05/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No **Government Levels Affected:** No  
**Small Entities Affected:** No **Federalism:** No  
**Energy Affected:** No  
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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Forest Service ( FS )**

RIN: 0596-AC42

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** Resource Agency Procedures for Conditions and Prescriptions in Hydropower Licenses

**Abstract:**

This rule establishes procedures for trial-type hearings on disputed issues of material fact with respect to conditions and prescriptions developed for inclusion in hydropower licenses issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. It also establishes procedures to submit and consider alternative conditions and prescriptions. We will publish a revised interim rule with request for comments that responds to comments received on the 2005 interim rule. The timing of the final action will depend upon the nature and extent of the comments we receive.

**Priority:** Other Significant **Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Final Rule  
**Major:** No **Unfunded Mandates:** No  
**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 1 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)  
**Legal Authority:** Pub. L. 109-58

**Legal Deadline:** Public Law 109-58 charges agencies requiring mandatory conditions and prescriptions with the promulgation of new regulations by November 7, 2005, to provide the regulatory framework to implement a trial-type hearing process.

Action	Source	Description	Date
Other	Statutory		11/07/2005

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	09/09/2004	69 FR 54602
NPRM Comment Period End	11/08/2004	
Interim Final Rule	11/17/2005	70 FR 69804
Interim Final Rule Comment Period End	01/17/2006	
Second Interim Final Rule	03/31/2015	80 FR 17156
Second Interim Final Rule Effective	04/30/2015	
Second Interim Final Rule Comment Period End	06/01/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No**Small Entities Affected:** No**Energy Affected:** No**Related Agencies:** Joint : DOI; Joint : DOJ; Joint : DOC**Agency Contact:** LaRenda C King

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**Government Levels Affected:** No**Federalism:** No**Department of Agriculture (USDA)****Forest Service ( FS )**

RIN: 0596-AC71

 [View Related Documents](#)**Title:** Water Quality Management and Best Management Practices for Water and Soil Conservation**Abstract:**

A new servicewide handbook, Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Water and Soil Conservation, is proposed to provide consistent national guidance for implementing the Agency's nonpoint source pollution control program in accordance with the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (commonly referred to as Clean Water Act; 33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.), Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 311f et seq.), Department regulation (9500-007), and agency policy (FSM 2532). Minor revisions to Agency policy to acknowledge and institutionalize the new handbook also are expected.

This handbook and guidance will formalize this program. Existing regional BMPs, soil and water conservation practices, and monitoring programs that have proven to be successful are the foundation of the policy. Common aspects of these programs are being combined to standardize and streamline current Forest Service nonpoint source water pollution prevention programs for improved efficiency, consistency, and reporting.

The Forest Service National BMP Program has two parts: a set of BMPs that will encompass water resource protection measures for a full range of National Forest System land management activities; and a monitoring program to determine if practices are implemented and effective at meeting water resource and beneficial use protection objectives.

Consolidating the many existing field-issued handbooks into one national servicewide handbook is prompting both extensive internal review and broad external review with interested stakeholders. These reviews, which have not yet been initiated, are critical to the success of implementing a consistent national program.

**Priority:** Other Significant**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Final Rule**Major:** No**Unfunded Mandates:** No**CFR Citation:** None (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)**Legal Authority:** 33 U.S.C. 1251; 42 U.S.C. 311f**Legal Deadline:** None**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	05/06/2014	79 FR 25824
NPRM Comment Period End	07/07/2014	
NPRM Comment Period Reopened	07/22/2014	79 FR 42500
NPRM Comment Period Reopened End	08/21/2014	
Final Directive	12/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No**Government Levels Affected:** No**Federalism:** No**Energy Affected:** No**Agency Contact:** LaRenda C King

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)  
Forest Service ( FS )**

RIN: 0596-AC82

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** Forest Service Manual 2020--Ecological Restoration and Resilience Policy

**Abstract:**

This policy establishes a common definition for ecological restoration and resilience that is consistent with the 2012 Land Planning rule. The directive provides additional guidance to implement the definition throughout Forest Service program areas by incorporating it into the Forest Service Manual. Restoration objectives span a number of initiatives in various program areas, including the invasive species strategy; recovery of areas affected by high-severity fires, hurricanes, and other catastrophic disturbances; fish habitat restoration and remediation; riparian area restoration; conservation of threatened and endangered species; and restoration of impaired watersheds and large-scale watershed restoration projects. The restoration policy allows agency employees to communicate Forest Service work more effectively in meeting restoration needs at the local, regional, and national levels. Currently an internal Forest Service interim policy for this final directive has been implemented in the field units, without any problems. This final directive aligns the Forest Service policy with current ecological restoration science and with congressional and Forest Service authorizations and initiatives.

**Priority:** Other Significant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Final Rule

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** None (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** FSM 2020

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Proposed Directive	09/12/2013	78 FR 56202
Proposed Directive Comment Period End	11/12/2013	
Final Directive	07/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No

**Government Levels Affected:** No

**Small Entities Affected:** No

**Federalism:** No

**Energy Affected:** No

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)  
Forest Service ( FS )**

RIN: 0596-AD00

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** Forest Products for Traditional and Cultural Purposes

**Abstract:**

The current regulations at 36 CFR part 223, subpart A, do not include the authority to grant trees, portions of trees, or forest products, to federally recognized Indian tribes, free of charge, for non-commercial traditional and cultural purposes (pursuant to sections 8102 and 8105, Public Law 110-246, 122 Stat. 1651 (2008)). However, during the regulation promulgation process, Forest Service officials currently are providing such products, subject to their delegation of authority under 36 CFR 223.8 (per an interim directive issued on December 2, 2009, to FSH 2409.18, chapter 80 (ID-2409.18-2009-2)). The delegation of authority under 36 CFR 223.8 does not limit the quantity or value of what the federally recognized Indian tribe may request; it simply states which Forest Service official may actually authorize the Indian tribe's request (based on product value).

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Final Rule

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 36 CFR 220.6 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** Pub. L. 110-246

**Legal Deadline: None****Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	07/31/2014	79 FR 44327
NPRM Comment Period End	09/29/2014	
Final Rule	06/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No**Government Levels Affected:** Tribal**Small Entities Affected:** No**Federalism:** No**Energy Affected:** No**Agency Contact:** LaRenda C King

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)****Forest Service ( FS )****RIN:** 0596-AD12 [View Related Documents](#)**Title:** Ski Area Definition--Land Uses, Special Uses**Abstract:**

This final rule codifies a nondiscretionary provision of the Ski Area Recreational Opportunities Act (Pub. L. 112-46). This final rule amends the definition of a ski area at 36 CFR 251.51 to note that other natural resource-based, seasonal and year-round recreational uses and facilities may be authorized, provided that the primary purpose of the site remains skiing and other snow sports.

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Final Rule**Major:** No**Unfunded Mandates:** No**CFR Citation:** 36 CFR 251 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)**Legal Authority:** Pub. L. 112-46**Legal Deadline:** None**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Interim Final Rule	06/28/2013	78 FR 38842
Interim Final Rule Effective	07/29/2013	
Final Rule	07/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No**Government Levels Affected:** No**Small Entities Affected:** No**Federalism:** No**Energy Affected:** No**Agency Contact:** LaRenda C King

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)****Forest Service ( FS )****RIN:** 0596-AD14 [View Related Documents](#)**Title:** Ski Area--D Clauses: Resource and Improvement Protection, Water Facilities, and Water Rights

**Abstract:**

On November 8, 2011, the Forest Service issued an interim directive (FSH 2709.11-2011-3) including a revised clause to address the ownership of water rights developed on National Forest System (NFS) lands for use by ski area permit holders. On March 6, 2012, a second interim directive (FSH 2709.11-2012-1) for the revised ski area water rights clause was issued, superseding the 2011 version. The National Ski Areas Association filed a lawsuit in the United States District Court for the District of Colorado on March 12, 2012, opposing use of the revised clause. On December 19, 2012, the court ruled that the Forest Service had erred in not providing an opportunity for notice and comment on the interim directive and that the agency needed to conduct a Regulatory Flexibility Act analysis of the impact of the directive on small business entities that hold ski area permits. The court vacated the interim directive and enjoined enforcement of the 2011 and 2012 clauses in permits containing them. The proposed directive would address the development of water facilities on NFS lands; the ownership of preexisting and future water rights; mechanisms to ensure sufficient water remains for ski areas on NFS lands; and measures necessary to protect NFS lands and resources. The Forest Service published the proposed ski area water rights clause in the Federal Register for public notice and comment. To identify interests and views from a diverse group of stakeholders regarding a revised water rights clause for ski areas, the Forest Service held four stakeholder meetings in April 2013. The input from the stakeholder sessions will be considered in the development of a final water rights clause for ski areas.

**Priority:** Other Significant**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Final Rule**Major:** No**Unfunded Mandates:** No**CFR Citation:** None (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)**Legal Authority:** FSH 2709.11**Legal Deadline:** None**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Proposed Directive	06/23/2014	79 FR 35513
Proposed Directive Comment Period End	08/22/2014	
Final Directive	07/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** Business**Government Levels Affected:** No**Federalism:** No**Energy Affected:** No**Agency Contact:** LaRenda C King

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E-Mail: [larendacking@fs.fed.us](mailto:larendacking@fs.fed.us)**Department of Agriculture (USDA)****Forest Service ( FS )**

RIN: 0596-AD20

 [View Related Documents](#)**Title:** Commercial Filming in Wilderness**Abstract:**

The Agency published a proposed directive that would establish consistent national guidance and criteria for evaluating special use permit proposals for still photography and commercial filming in congressionally designated wilderness areas on national forests. The Agency will consider comments received from proposed directive and decide if moving forward with a final directive on Commercial Filming in the Wilderness is feasible at this time. The final directive will set national criteria for evaluating special use permit proposals for still photography and commercial filming in congressionally designated wilderness areas on national forests.

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Final Rule**Major:** No**Unfunded Mandates:** No**CFR Citation:** None (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)**Legal Authority:** Pub. L. 88-577; FSM 2700; FSM 2320**Legal Deadline:** None**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Proposed Directive	09/04/2014	79 FR 52626

Proposed Directive Comment Period End	12/03/2014	
Final Directive	08/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No  
**Small Entities Affected:** No  
**Energy Affected:** No

**Government Levels Affected:** No  
**Federalism:** No

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Forest Service ( FS )**

RIN: 0596-AD25

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** Stewardship End Result Contracting

**Abstract:**

Background: Section 8205 of Public Law 113-79, the Agricultural Act of 2014, provided permanent authority for Stewardship End Result Contracting and Agreements. This Final Rule will codify the regulations implementing the stewardship permanent authority. The permanent authority supersedes and is nearly identical to the temporary 10-year authority that was authorized under Consolidated Appropriations Resolutions Act of 1999 (as amended by sec. 323 of Pub. L. 108-7; 16 U.S.C 2104 Note). In general, the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management may enter into stewardship contracting projects with private persons or other public entities to perform services to achieve land management goals for the national forests and the public lands that meet local and rural community needs.

Proposed Action: To codify existing policy (see Specifics) to provide greater uniformity in the administration of the various contract and agreement mechanisms used by the Forest Service to implement stewardship end result contracting projects.

Specifics: Adds new subpart I to the 36 CFR 223, Sale and Disposal of National Forest System Timber, Special Forest Products, and Forest Botanical Products regulation.

- Notes the applicable Act that provides permanent authority for stewardship end results contracting.
- Explains the approaches to providing timber and exchanging goods for services through procurement services contracts, sale of public property (timber sales), and agreements.
- Provides method to determine the type of contract or agreement.
- Notes that the selection of source for performance of a stewardship agreement or contract be on a best-value basis.
- Notes that stewardship end result procurement contracts are administrated under the Federal Acquisition Regulation.
- Provides for a fire liability provision in line with the requirements in the 2014 Farm Bill.
- Identifies the provisions of subparts of A and B of 36 CFR 223 that apply to procurement contracts utilizing the stewardship end result contracting authority.
- Identifies the provisions of subparts of A and B of 36 CFR 223 that do not apply to property contracts utilizing the stewardship end result contracting authority.
- Notes that the Forest Service may enter into an agreement in lieu of a contract and that Federal Financial relationships are not applicable to such agreements.

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Final Rule

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 36 CFR 233 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** Pub. L. 113-79, Section 8205 of the Agricultural Act of 2014

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Final Rule	06/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No  
**Small Entities Affected:** No  
**Energy Affected:** No

**Government Levels Affected:** No  
**Federalism:** No

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Forest Service ( FS )**

RIN: 0596-AC73

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER)

**Abstract:**

The Forest Service published in the Federal Register a Notice of Interim Directive on June 6, 2013 (78 FR 34031), which proposed revisions to Forest Service Manual (FSM) 2523, Burned Area Emergency Response. These revisions clarify the objective of the BAER program; provide clear policy for regions or forests to conduct post-fire emergency stabilization while applying appropriate cost constraints in order to avoid fire transfer of funds; assign approval authority to the regional foresters (currently the Washington Office director of Watershed, Fish, Wildlife, Air and Rare Plants); provide a definition of a BAER emergency; define several other key terms; enumerate the program constraints; clarifies the distinction between the BAER and post-fire rehabilitation programs; establish a new process for the BAER program; and establish oversight for program accountability.

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Long-term Action

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** None (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** FSM 2523

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Notice of Interim Directive	06/06/2013	78 FR 34031
Notice of Interim Directive Comment Period End	07/08/2013	
Comment Period End	08/23/2013	
Final Rule	05/00/2016	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No

**Government Levels Affected:** Federal

**Federalism:** No

**Energy Affected:** No

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Forest Service ( FS )**

RIN: 0596-AC92

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive (TES) Plant and Animals; TES Habitat Management; and Biodiversity Conservation Guidance

**Abstract:**

The Forest Service is proposing modifications to FSM 2670, Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive (TES) Plant and Animals. The proposed directive would set forth direction to ensure compliance with existing laws, regulations, and agency policies; and to reflect current conservation biology, knowledge, management practices, and emerging ecosystem and TES species-related topics and issues. The changes to FSM 2670 are expected to provide more effective guidance to agency personnel regarding

the Endangered Species Act and its regulations, the 2000 National Forest Management Act planning regulations, and agency strategies and policies on all aspects of conservation management for at-risk species and their habitats.

**Priority:** Other Significant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Long-term Action

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** None (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** FSM 2670

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Proposed Directive	07/00/2016	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No

**Government Levels Affected:** No

**Small Entities Affected:** No

**Federalism:** No

**Energy Affected:** No

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**

**Forest Service ( FS )**

RIN: 0596-AC51

 [View Related Documents](#)

**Title:** Groundwater Resource Management Policy Direction (Forest Service Manual, Chapter 2560 and Forest Service Handbook 2709.11)

**Abstract:**

In recent years, the USDA Forest Service has been receiving an increasing number of inquiries and applications to access ground water resources on National Forest System lands nationwide. With the demand for water expected to increase across the country, the Forest Service anticipates an increase in applications for ground water resources. As a consequence, a need for direction to ensure consistent and informed responses nationwide to ground-water-related projects and proposals has been identified.

This direction would amend the Forest Service Manual by adding chapter 2560 and adding provisions to the Forest Service Special Uses Handbook 2709.11, chapters 10, 40, and 50. The new manual section: clarifies agency responsibilities with respect to ground water issues; provides direction for consideration of ground water resources in decision-making, including water-well and water-pipeline applications, siting of public water supplies, and implementation of source water protection programs on NFS lands; initiates a policy of quantifying groundwater withdrawals from NFS lands; establishes groundwater data management requirements; and promotes sustainable use of ground water resources. The new handbook provisions clarify implementation of the new manual direction for special use activities involving ground water.

**Priority:** Other Significant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Completed Action

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** None (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** 16 U.S.C. 475; 16 U.S.C. 526

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Proposed Directive	05/06/2014	79 FR 25815
Proposed Directive Comment Period End	08/04/2014	
Proposed Directive Comment Period Extended	08/01/2014	79 FR 44738
Proposed Directive Comment Period Extended End	09/03/2014	
Withdrawn	05/06/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No

**Government Levels Affected:** No

**Small Entities Affected:** No

**Federalism:** No

**Energy Affected:** No**Agency Contact:** LaRenda C King

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)****Forest Service ( FS )**

RIN: 0596-AC95

 [View Related Documents](#)**Title:** Paleontological Resources Preservation**Abstract:**

On May 23, 2013, the Forest Service proposed regulations to preserve and manage paleontological resources. The Forest Service has been relying on either the Organic Administration Act (Act of June 4, 1897) or the American Antiquities Act (Act of June 8, 1906) as the statutory authority to manage its paleontological resources under a permit system with penalties under 36 CFR 261.9 for excavating, damaging, or removing any vertebrate fossil or removing any paleontological resource for commercial purposes without a special use authorization.

On March 30, 2009, Congress passed Public Law 111-11 (123 Stat. 991) cited as the "Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009." Public Law 111-011 at title VI, subtitle D lays out statutory requirements for paleontological resources preservation (PRP). PRP provides definitions, but requires the definition of some terms, and uses other terms and concepts that need further definition or details to clarify intent or enforcement. PRP identifies management requirements, collection requirements, curation requirements needed for both criminal and civil penalties, rewards and forfeiture, and the need for confidentiality of some significant resource locations. PRP at section 6310 also states that "As soon as practical after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall issue such regulations as are appropriate to carry out this subtitle, providing opportunities for public notice and comment."

These final regulations will provide for the preservation, management, and protection of paleontological resources on National Forest System lands. Currently, the USDA-Forest Service does not have specific regulations to preserve and manage paleontological resources. The Forest Service has been relying on either the Organic Administration Act (Act of June 4, 1897) or the American Antiquities Act (Act of June 8, 1906) as the statutory authority to manage its paleontological resources under a permit system with penalties under 36 CFR 261.9 for excavating, damaging, or removing any vertebrate fossil or removing any paleontological resource for commercial purposes without a special use authorization.

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Completed Action**Major:** No**Unfunded Mandates:** No**CFR Citation:** 36 CFR 291 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)**Legal Authority:** Pub. L. 111-011, title VI, subtitle D, sec 6310**Legal Deadline:** None**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	05/23/2013	78 FR 30810
NPRM Comment Period End	07/22/2013	
Final Rule	04/17/2015	80 FR 21588
Final Rule Effective	05/18/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No**Government Levels Affected:** No**Small Entities Affected:** No**Federalism:** No**Energy Affected:** No**Agency Contact:** LaRenda C King

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Forest Service ( FS )**

RIN: 0596-AD06

 [View Related Documents](#)**Title:** Land Management Planning Rule Policy**Abstract:**

The Forest Service issued proposed planning directives on February 27, 2013 (RIN # 0596-AD06), which would provide guidance to agency staff to implement the recently revised land management planning regulation at 36 CFR 219 (RIN 0596-AC94) (the 2012 Planning Rule), which was effective May 9, 2012. A 60-day period (extended for an additional 15 days) for the public to comment on the proposed directives concluded on May 24, 2013. The proposed directives have been revised, based on public comment, and the Agency seeks to publish a Notice of Availability of the final Directives.

The National Forest Management Act (NFMA) requires that the Forest Service develop land management plans for each unit of the National Forest System, and the agency maintain regulations (Planning Rule) that guide the development and content of such plans. In addition to formal regulations, the Agency uses its system of directives to provide more detailed guidance on how to meet the requirements of the Planning Rule.

**Priority:** Other Significant**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Completed Action**Major:** No**Unfunded Mandates:** No**CFR Citation:** 36 CFR 219 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)**Legal Authority:** 5 U.S.C. 302; 16 U.S.C. 1604; 16 U.S.C. 1613**Legal Deadline:** None**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Proposed Directive	02/27/2013	78 FR 13316
Comment Period End	04/29/2013	
Final Directive	02/06/2015	80 FR 6683

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No**Government Levels Affected:** No**Small Entities Affected:** No**Federalism:** No**Energy Affected:** No**Agency Contact:** LaRenda C King

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Forest Service ( FS )**

RIN: 0596-AD17

 [View Related Documents](#)**Title:** Travel Management Rule**Abstract:**

The proposed rule would revise subpart C of the TMR consistent with the Executive orders and the court's order by requiring the responsible official to identify NFS roads, NFS trails, and areas on NFS lands where over snow vehicle (OSV) use can occur. The current rule makes this identification discretionary. The proposed rule would retain the flexibility in subpart C to establish a system of routes and areas where OSVs may be used. The court-ordered deadline for a final rulemaking has been extended to January 31, 2015, by the District Court of Idaho.

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Completed Action**Major:** No**Unfunded Mandates:** No**CFR Citation:** 36 CFR 212; 36 CFR 261 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)**Legal Authority:** None**Legal Deadline:**

Action	Source	Description	Date
Other	Judicial	This is a court-ordered deadline.	01/31/2015

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	06/18/2014	79 FR 34678
NPRM Comment Period End	08/04/2014	
Final Rule	01/28/2015	80 FR 4500

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No**Government Levels Affected:** No**Small Entities Affected:** No**Federalism:** No**Energy Affected:** No**Agency Contact:** LaRenda King Department of Agriculture

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)****Forest Service ( FS )**

RIN: 0596-AD21

 [View Related Documents](#)**Title:** Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP)**Abstract:**

The Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP) was adopted in the 2002 Farm Bill (Pub. L. 107-171, sec. 8002) as an amendment to the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 (Pub. L. 95-313; 16 U.S.C. 2101 et seq.). FLEP replaced the Stewardship Incentives Program (SIP) and the Forestry Incentives Program (FIP). FLEP was optional in each State and was a voluntary program for non-industrial private forest (NIPF) landowners. It provided for technical, educational, and cost-share assistance to promote sustainability of the NIPF forests. The law provided FLEP with \$100 million from the CCC through FY07. However, half of these funds were diverted to wildfire control in 2003; \$40 million of those funds have not been replenished; and the spending authority was cancelled. Through section 8001 of the Agriculture Act of 2014, or the 2014 Farm Bill, Congress repealed FLEP.

Proposed Action: Remove subpart C from 36 CFR 230. Other programs, including the Forest Stewardship Program will continue to provide technical assistance to private forest landowners but with the repeal of FLEP, the Forest Service no longer has the authority to provide cost-share assistance to landowners for the implementation of forest management practices. Specifics: Remove subpart C from 36 CFR 230.

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Completed Action**Major:** No**Unfunded Mandates:** No**CFR Citation:** 36 CFR 230 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)**Legal Authority:** 16 U.S.C. 2101**Legal Deadline:** None**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Final Rule	01/06/2015	80 FR 402
Final Rule Comment Period End	02/05/2015	
Final Rule Effective	03/09/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No**Government Levels Affected:** No**Small Entities Affected:** No**Federalism:** No**Energy Affected:** No**Agency Contact:** LaRenda King Department of Agriculture

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**

**Office of Procurement and Property Management ( OPMP )**

RIN: 0599-AA21

 [View Related Documents](#)**Title:** Integrated Resource Service Contract Fire Liability Clause**Abstract:**

This rule regarding an acquisition regulation change is being implemented by the Office of Procurement and Property Management. The United States Department of Agriculture's Forest Service has three stewardship contracting instruments (the Integrated Resources Timber Contract, Integrated Resources Services Contract, and the Stewardship Agreement). The contractors currently apply a different methodology for fire liability. Section 8205 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 contains a requirement that the Agency use a fire liability provision in all stewardship contracts and agreements this is in substantially the same form as the fire liability provisions contract in the Integrated Resource Timber Contract in Forest Service Contract numbered 2400-13, part H, section H.4; as in effect on February 7, 2014; and Timber Sales Contracts conducted in pursuant to section 14 of the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (U.S.C. 472a).

**Priority:** Info./Admin./Other**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Final Rule**Major:** No**Unfunded Mandates:** No**CFR Citation:** 48 CFR 436 and 452 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)**Legal Authority:** sec 8205 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (2014 Act)**Legal Deadline:** None**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Interim Final Rule	05/22/2014	79 FR 29369
Interim Final Rule Effective	05/22/2014	
Interim Final Rule Comment Period End	06/23/2014	
Final Action	05/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No**Government Levels Affected:** No**Federalism:** No

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)****Office of Procurement and Property Management ( OPMP )**

RIN: 0599-AA22

 [View Related Documents](#)**Title:** Voluntary Labeling Program for Biobased Products: Mature Market Products**Abstract:**

Amendments to provide the framework for implementing the requirement that USDA include innovative products (including forest, pulp, and paper) in the "USDA Certified Biobased Product" voluntary labeling program, thus overriding current regulatory provisions excluding "mature market" products from the labeling program should be published in July 2015.

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Final Rule**Major:** No**Unfunded Mandates:** No**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 3202 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)**Legal Authority:** 7 U.S.C. 8102**Legal Deadline:** None**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	10/27/2014	79 FR 63846
NPRM Comment Period End	12/26/2014	
Final Rule	07/00/2015	
Final Action Effective	08/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No**Government Levels Affected:** No**Federalism:** No

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**Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**Office of Procurement and Property Management ( OPMP )**

RIN: 0599-AA23

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**Title:** Guidelines for Designating Biobased Products for Federal Procurement: Mature Market Products

**Abstract:**

Amendments to provide the framework for implementing the requirement that USDA include innovative products (including forest, pulp, and paper) in the Federal procurement preference program, thus overriding current regulatory provisions excluding "mature market" products should be published in July 2015.

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Agenda Stage of Rulemaking:** Final Rule

**Major:** No

**Unfunded Mandates:** No

**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 3201 (To search for a specific CFR, visit the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).)

**Legal Authority:** 7 U.S.C. 8102

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	10/27/2014	79 FR 63841
NPRM Comment Period End	12/26/2014	
Final Rule	07/00/2015	
Final Action Effective	08/00/2015	

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** No

**Government Levels Affected:** No

**Federalism:** No

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