

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service****7 CFR Part 301****[Docket No. 02-031-2]****Pink Bollworm Regulated Areas; Removal of Oklahoma****AGENCY:** Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.**ACTION:** Affirmation of interim rule as final rule.

SUMMARY: We are adopting as a final rule, without change, an interim rule that amended the pink bollworm regulations by removing the State of Oklahoma from the lists of quarantined States and regulated areas. Statewide trapping surveys conducted over the last 2 years have shown Oklahoma to be free of pink bollworm. The interim rule relieved restrictions on the interstate movement of regulated articles from Oklahoma that were no longer necessary.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The interim rule became effective on May 16, 2002.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. William J. Grefenstette, Assistant Director, Plant Health Programs, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 138, Riverdale, MD 20737-1231; (301) 734-8676.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Background**

The pink bollworm (*Pectinophora gossypiella* (Saunders)) is a destructive cotton pest found throughout many of the cotton-growing regions of the world. The larvae of the pink bollworm feed inside growing cotton bolls, destroying the cotton.

The regulations in Subpart—Pink Bollworm (7 CFR 301.52 through 301.52-10, referred to below as the regulations) contain quarantine restrictions aimed at preventing the spread of the pink bollworm. Section 301.52 contains, among other things, lists of quarantined States and regulated articles.

In an interim rule effective and published in the **Federal Register** on May 16, 2002 (67 FR 34817-34818, Docket No. 02-031-1), we amended the regulations by removing the State of Oklahoma from the lists of quarantined States and regulated areas. This interim rule also made nonsubstantive editorial changes to § 301.52-1 of the regulations.

Comments on the interim rule were required to be received on or before July 15, 2002. We did not receive any

comments. Therefore, for the reasons given in the interim rule, we are adopting the interim rule as a final rule.

This action also affirms the information contained in the interim rule concerning Executive Order 12866 and the Regulatory Flexibility Act, Executive Orders 12372 and 12988, and the Paperwork Reduction Act.

Further, for this action, the Office of Management and Budget has waived its review under Executive Order 12866.

List of Subjects in 7 CFR Part 301

Agricultural commodities, Plant diseases and pests, Quarantine, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Transportation.

PART 301—DOMESTIC QUARANTINE NOTICES

Accordingly, we are adopting as a final rule, without change, the interim rule that amended 7 CFR part 301 and that was published at 67 FR 34817-34818 on May 16, 2002.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 166, 7711, 7712, 7714, 7731, 7735, 7751, 7752, 7753, and 7754; 7 CFR 2.22, 2.80, and 371.3.

Section 301.75-15 also issued under Sec. 204, Title II, Pub. L. 106-113, 113 Stat. 1501A-293; sections 301.75-15 and 301.75-16 also issued under Sec. 203, Title II, Pub. L. 106-224, 114 Stat. 400 (7 U.S.C. 1421 note).

Done in Washington, DC, this 10th day of September 2002.

Bobby R. Acord,

Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Agricultural Marketing Service****7 CFR Part 1230****[No. LS-02-09]****Pork Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Order: Rules and Regulations—Decrease in Assessment Rate and Decrease of Importer Assessments****AGENCY:** Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.**ACTION:** Final rule.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Pork Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Act of 1985 (Act) and the Pork Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Order (Order) thereunder, this final rule decreases the current rate of assessment of 0.45 percent of the market value of porcine

animals to 0.40 percent, and decreases the amount of assessment per pound due on imported pork and pork products (two- to four-hundredths of a cent per pound) to reflect the combined effect of the increase in the 2001 average price for domestic barrows and gilts (about 7 percent) and the decrease in the assessment rate. The assessment decrease will decrease annual funding of the promotion, research, and consumer information program by an estimated \$5 million to \$6 million with an estimated \$290,000 decrease in importer assessments. The assessment decrease reflects the National Pork Producers Delegate Body's (Delegate Body) desire to lessen the assessment burden on producers and make such funds available to pork producers and the industry. The adjustment in importer assessments also brings the equivalent market value of live animals from which imported pork and pork products are derived in line with the market value of domestic porcine animals. A Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTS) number for prepared or preserved pork has also been added to the regulations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 30, 2002.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kenneth R. Payne, Chief, Marketing Programs Branch, 202/720-1115.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Executive Orders 12866 and 12988, the Regulatory Flexibility Act, and the Paperwork Reduction Act**

The Office of Management and Budget has waived the review process required by Executive Order 12866.

This final rule has been reviewed under Executive Order 12988, Civil Justice Reform. This rule is not intended to have a retroactive effect. The Act states that the statute is intended to occupy the field of promotion and consumer education involving pork and pork products and of obtaining funds thereof from pork producers and that the regulation of such activity (other than a regulation or requirement relating to a matter of public health or the provision of State or local funds for such activity) that is in addition to or different from the Act may not be imposed by a State.

The Act provides that administrative proceedings must be exhausted before parties may file suit in court. Under § 1625 of the Act, a person subject to an order may file a petition with the Department of Agriculture (USDA) stating that such order, a provision of such order or an obligation imposed in connection with such order is not in accordance with the law; and requesting