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Docket No. [AO-FV-09-0138;
AMS-FV-09-0029; FV09-970-1 E]
Leafy Green Vegetables Handled in the
United States; Extension of Time for First
Session of Hearing on Proposed Marketing
Agreement No. 970

I, Jimmie Turner, hereby certify that on the twenty-second day of September, 2009, by authority vested in me by the Administrator and in accordance with §900.4(b)(1)(iii) (23 F.R. 4027) of the applicable rules of practice and procedure (7 CFR Part 900), as amended, I made available a press release to such newspapers and television and radio stations in the area subject to regulation as reasonably will tend to bring to the attention of interested persons the notice of extension of time for a USDA hearing on a proposed national marketing agreement regulating the handling of leafy green vegetables.

Date:



Jimmie Turner
Public Affairs Specialist
Information Staff

Exhibit 18



PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

United States Department of Agriculture ♦ 1400 Independence Ave., SW ♦ Room 2632-S
Washington, DC 20250 ♦ (202) 720-8998 ♦ World Wide Web: <http://www.ams.usda.gov>

AMS No. 186-09

Jimmie Turner (202) 720-8998
jimmie.turner@usda.gov
Billy Cox (202) 720-8998
billy.cox@usda.gov

USDA EXTENDS DATES FOR HEARING ON PROPOSED NATIONAL MARKETING AGREEMENT FOR LEAFY GREEN VEGETABLES

WASHINGTON, Sept. 22, 2009 -- The U.S. Department of Agriculture today announced that it may allow an additional day for a public hearing related to a proposed national marketing agreement for leafy green vegetables.

A hearing session previously scheduled for Sept. 22 – 24, 2009, in Monterey, Calif., may be extended by adding a fourth day, Sept. 25, if deemed necessary by the presiding administrative law judge. This session is the first of seven hearings scheduled throughout the United States to consider a proposal from representatives of the fresh produce industry regarding the establishment of a national marketing agreement for handlers of leafy green vegetables.

The administrative law judge presiding at the hearing will determine whether an additional day for the receipt of testimony and evidence in Monterey is necessary. If extended, the Sept. 25 session, as with all other sessions of the hearing, would be open to the public and scheduled to begin at 8:30 a.m. and conclude at 5 p.m. PST, or as determined by the judge. The hearing will be held in the Hyatt Regency Monterey at 1 Old Golf Course Road.

Information about the proposal and the schedule of hearings were published in the Sept. 3, 2009, *Federal Register*.

Copies may be obtained in writing from Antoinette Carter, Marketing Order Administration Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, AMS, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Stop 0237, Washington, DC 20250-0237; by calling (202) 720-2491; or faxing (202) 720-8938; or Melissa Schmaedick, Marketing Order Administration Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Northwest Marketing Field Office, AMS, USDA, 1220 SW Third Avenue, Room 385, Portland, OR 97204; (503) 326-2724; fax, (503) 326-7440.

An electronic version of this news release can be obtained via the Internet at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/news/newsrel.html>.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Marketing Service
Fruit and Vegetable Programs
14th and Independence Ave., SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

CERTIFICATE OF)
OFFICIALS NOTIFIED)
_____)

Docket No. [AO-FV-09-0138; AMS-FV-09-0029; FV09-970-1 E]
Leafy Green Vegetables Handled in the United States;
Extension of Time for First Session of Hearing on Proposed
Marketing Agreement No. 970

I, Anne M. Dec, hereby certify that on the twenty-third day of September, 2009, by authority vested in me, and in accordance with the applicable rules of practice and procedure governing proceedings to formulate marketing agreements and marketing orders, as amended (7 CFR Part 900), I mailed a true copy of the notice of "Leafy Green Vegetables Handled in the United States; Extension of Time for First Session of Hearing on Proposed Marketing Agreement No. 970" (74 FR 48423) to the Governors and the Secretaries of the Department of Food and Agriculture of each state in the nation and the District of Columbia.

Dated:



Anne M. Dec
Assistant Branch Chief
Marketing Order Administration Branch
Fruit and Vegetable Programs

Exhibit 18