

July 11, 2003

VIA E-MAIL AND FIRST CLASS MAIL

Robert C. Keeney, Deputy Administrator
Fruit and Vegetables Programs
Agricultural Marketing Service
USDA
1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Room 2077-So.
Ag. Stop Code 0235
Washington, DC 20250-0235

Dear Mr. Keeney:

Pursuant to our discussions yesterday, the Proponent's Committee makes the following additional amendments to the proposed Hop Marketing Order:

New Sections

Definitions

§991.12 New Producer. The term "New Producer", means a Person who has not grown hops prior to 2003. The term "New Producer" specifically excludes any Person who has previously been granted a Hop Commission grower number or an allotment base in any capacity, either as an individual, or as an owner, officer or operator any business entity.

§991.53 (g)* Notwithstanding the foregoing, any person or entity who has entered the hop industry as a "New Producer" for the 2003 crop year shall be entitled to an Allotment Base as a matter of right. Such allotment base shall be calculated in the same manner as with any other Producer; Provided, however that the New Producer's Representative Base Period and Initial Allotment Base shall be limited exclusively to the 2003 crop year, and any such allotment shall be determined by the New Producer's Actual Production in 2003.

[*alternatively, this provision could supplement the language already appearing at 991.53 (a)]

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Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned if you have any further questions or concerns.

Very truly yours,

VELIKANJE, MOORE & SHORE, P.S.

Brendan V. Monahan

BVM/31609lb