



1400 Independence Avenue, SW.  
Room 1575-S, STOP 0235  
Washington, D.C. 20250-0235

South Texas Onion producers, handlers and importers:

The Agricultural Marketing Service is issuing a clarification on the Notice to Trade that was issued on March 9, 2021, announcing the suspension of enforcement provisions of the Federal marketing order for onions grown in South Texas.

AMS is initiating a rulemaking process to provide the public with an opportunity to comment on a proposed rule to terminate the marketing order. Enforcement of the obligation on the part of regulated handlers to pay assessments to the South Texas Onion Committee remains suspended. In order to provide for a smooth transition and because the Texas onion season has already started, the requirement for grading and certification services performed by the Federal and Federal-State Inspection Service remain in effect until the rulemaking process concludes.

Between March 10 and June 4, mandatory grading and certification services will be performed for onions produced in the South Texas onion region and for onions imported in the United States.

USDA is coordinating with the South Texas Onion Committee and with industry groups to ensure clarity on the handling regulations going forward. Questions can be directed to Christian Nissen at (863) 324-3375.

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