

News Release

Farm Service Agency
Public Affairs Staff

1400 Independence Ave. SW
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Washington, DC 20250-0506

Release No. 1420.98

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USDA SEEKS COMMENTS ON 1998 MARKETING QUOTAS FOR 8 KINDS OF TOBACCO

WASHINGTON, January 30, 1998 -- The U.S. Department of Agriculture today asked for public comment on the 1998 marketing quotas for eight kinds of tobacco.

The tobaccos and principal growing States are: fire-cured, type 21 and Virginia sun-cured, type 37 (Virginia); cigar filler and binder, types 42-44 and 53-55 (Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin); fire-cured, types 22-23 (Kentucky and Tennessee); dark air-cured, types 35-36 (Indiana, Kentucky and Tennessee); Maryland, type 32 (Maryland); cigar filler, type 41 (Pennsylvania); and cigar binder, types 51 and 52 (Connecticut and Massachusetts).

Within 30 days of the quota announcement, USDA will poll producers of Maryland, Virginia sun-cured, cigar filler (type 41) and cigar binder (types 51-52) to determine if they approve of quotas for the next three marketing years, which begin Oct. 1, 1998, 1999 and 2000. If more than one-third of the producers vote against quotas for their kind of tobacco, quotas will not be in effect and price support loans from the Commodity Credit Corporation will not be available for that kind of tobacco. Except for Virginia sun-cured tobacco, producers of these tobaccos disapproved quotas for the previous three marketing years.

A notice of proposed determinations will be published in the Federal Register on February 2. Requests for further information can be directed to Robert L. Tarczy, USDA, Farm Service Agency, Tobacco and Peanuts Analysis Staff, Room 5750-South Building, STOP 0514, Washington DC 20250-0514, telephone 202-720-5346. Interested parties should plan to submit formal comments to Charles Hatcher, Director, USDA/FSA/TPD/STOP 0514, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20250-0514, by February 13, 1998.

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