

FOR INFORMATION

DA-2007-24

July 23, 2007

SUBJECT: Extension of the Comment Period for the Proposed Citrus Canker Rule
Regulating the Interstate Movement of Fresh Citrus Fruit from Florida

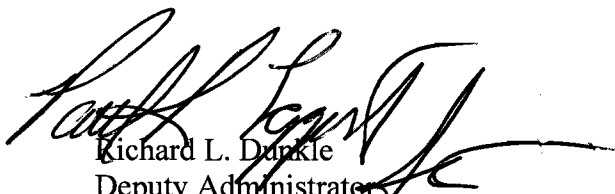
TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

The USDA announced today that it is extending the comment period for the proposed rule to amend its citrus canker regulations that apply to the interstate movement of fresh citrus fruit from Florida. The 15-day extension will allow interested parties additional time to prepare and submit their comments. Comments on the proposal are now due by August 7, 2007.

The proposed rule would eliminate the requirement for inspections in the citrus grove and instead focus on sampling each lot of citrus at the packinghouse level to ensure the fruit is disease free. APHIS is proposing this regulatory action because a recently completed risk management analysis (RMA) concluded that mandatory packinghouse inspection of commercially packed fruit provides an effective safeguard to prevent the spread of citrus canker to other citrus-producing States.

Notice of the extension of the comment period will be published in the *Federal Register* at a future date. Regardless of the date on which the notice of the extension of the comment period is published, the 15 day extension will begin on July 24, 2007, the first day following what would otherwise have been the close of the 30 day comment period. The proposed rule was published in the June 21, 2007, *Federal Register* as Docket No. APHIS-2007-0022.

Information concerning the submission of comments to the Proposed Rule as well as access to comments that have already been submitted can be found at the Regulations.gov website, searching on the docket information provided above.



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