



NEWS RELEASE

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USDA ANNOUNCES 2004 CROP SUGAR MARKETING ALLOTMENTS AND ALLOCATIONS

WASHINGTON, Sept. 28, 2004 -- USDA today announced marketing allotments and company allocations for the 2004 crop (FY 2005) for cane and beet sugar. This action follows the July 16, 2004, announcement of the overall allotment quantity (OAQ) of 8.1 million short tons, raw value (STRV). The 2002 Farm Bill requires allocation of the OAQ to cane-producing states and sugarcane and sugar beet processors. This announcement also eliminates the Puerto Rican sugarcane processors' allocations and reassigns Puerto Rico's allotment to other cane sugar states since production and processing ceased there more than two years ago.

Today's announcement also reflects the recent changes in the "ability to market" definition. This definition in the cane sugar allocation formula is now based on historical data and will not change throughout the year because of changing production estimates as it did in past years. Beginning with FY 2005, the cane processor allocations are fixed shares of the cane sugar allotment and will change only if the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) adjusts the OAQ or determines that a processor cannot fulfill its cane sugar allocation and reassigns the unused allocation to other processors.

CCC declared that Puerto Rican processors permanently terminated operations because no sugar had been produced and processed for two complete years. Consequently, the allotment of 6,356 STRV was permanently reassigned to the mainland cane-producing states. Hawaii received none of the Puerto Rican reassignment because it is not expected to use all of its current cane sugar allotment. For any Puerto Rican mills to resume processing in the future, request for an allocation as a new entrant would be required.

These actions apply to all domestic sugar marketed for human consumption in the United States from Oct. 1, 2004, through Sept. 30, 2005. USDA closely monitors stocks, consumption, imports, and all other program variables on an ongoing basis.

The 2004-crop sugar marketing allotments and allocations are as follows:

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	Initial FY 2005 Allocations (short tons, raw value)	Reassignment of Puerto Rican Allotment	Beginning FY 2005 Allotments/Allocations
Beet Sugar	4,402,350		
Cane Sugar	3,697,650		
TOTAL OAQ	8,100,000		
BEET PROCESSORS' MARKETING ALLOCATIONS:			
Amalgamated Sugar Co.	917,207		
American Crystal Sugar Co.	1,692,713		
Holly Sugar Corp.	295,372		
Michigan Sugar Co.	281,254		
Minn-Dak Farmers Co-op.	274,650		
Monitor Sugar Co.	161,164		
So. Minn Beet Sugar Co-op.	282,812		
Western Sugar Co.	438,449		
Wyoming Sugar Co.	58,729		
TOTAL BEET SUGAR	4,402,350		
STATE CANE SUGAR ALLOTMENTS:			
Florida	1,812,722	3,416	1,816,139
Louisiana	1,402,345	2,643	1,404,987
Texas	157,583	297	157,880
Hawaii	318,644	0	318,644
Puerto Rico	6,356	-6,356	0
TOTAL CANE SUGAR	3,697,650	0	3,697,650
CANE PROCESSORS' MARKETING ALLOCATIONS:			
Florida			
Atlantic Sugar Assoc.	152,198	287	152,485
Growers Co-op. of FL	326,082	615	326,697
Okeelanta Corp.	383,847	723	384,570
Osceola Farms Co.	210,300	396	210,697
U.S. Sugar Corp.	740,295	1,395	741,690
TOTAL	1,812,722	3,416	1,816,139

Louisiana			
Alma Plantation	76,478	144	76,622
Cajun Sugar Co-op.	106,225	200	106,426
Cora-Texas Mfg. Co.	130,258	245	130,504
Harry Laws & Co.	57,006	107	57,113
Iberia Sugar Co-op.	67,712	128	67,839
Jeanerette Sugar Co.	64,078	121	64,199
Lafourche Sugars Corp.	76,381	144	76,525
Louisiana Sugarcane Co-op.	87,247	164	87,411
Lula Westfield, LLC	165,601	312	165,913
M.A. Patout & Sons	368,356	694	369,051
St. Mary Sugar Co-op.	92,814	175	92,989
So. Louisiana Sugars Co-op.	110,189	208	110,396
TOTAL	1,402,345	2,643	1,404,987
Texas			
Rio Grande Valley	157,583	297	157,880
Hawaii			
Gay & Robinson, Inc.	73,145	0	73,145
Hawaiian Commercial & Sugar Company	245,499	0	245,499
TOTAL	318,644	0	318,644
Puerto Rico			
Agraso	4,076	-4,076	0
Roig	2,280	-2,280	0
TOTAL	6,356	-6,356	0

Some totals may not add exactly due to rounding.

More information on USDA programs are available at local USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices and on FSA's Web site at: www.fsa.usda.gov.