



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service • Legislative and Public Affairs
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USDA Seeks Comment on Interim Rule Regarding Plum Pox Compensation

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3, 2012--The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is amending its plum pox regulations to provide for or increase compensation payments to owners of certain commercial orchards and nurseries that are economically affected by plum pox quarantine and eradication efforts.

This action provides for the payment of compensation to eligible owners of non-fruit-bearing ornamental tree nurseries. In addition, this action increases the amount of compensation that may be paid to eligible owners of commercial stone fruit orchards and fruit tree nurseries. APHIS provides compensation payments to eligible orchard owners in order to mitigate losses from tree destruction or movement restrictions associated with plum pox control activities.

This action is published in today's *Federal Register*. This interim rule is effective upon publication.

Consideration will be given to comments received on or before April 3, 2012. You may submit comments by either of the following methods:

- Federal eRulemaking Portal: Go to www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=APHIS-2011-0004-0001.
- Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery: Send your comment to Docket No. APHIS-2011-0004, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3A-03.8, 4700 River Road, Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238.

Supporting documents and any comments we receive on this docket may be viewed at www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=APHIS-2011-0004 or in our reading room, which is located in room 1141 of the USDA South Building, 14th Street and Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. To facilitate entry into the comment reading room, please call (202) 690-2817.

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