USDA Announces Sugar Tariff Rate Quotas for Fiscal Year 2014

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WASHINGTON, Sept. 12, 2013 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today announced the Fiscal Year 2014 raw and refined sugar tariff-rate quotas.

USDA is establishing the FY 2014 TRQ for raw cane sugar at 1,231,497 short tons raw value (STRV) (1,117,195 metric tons raw value, MTRV*), the minimum to which the United States is committed under the World Trade Organization (WTO) Uruguay Round Agreement on Agriculture. Pursuant to Additional U.S. Note 5 to Chapter 17 of the U.S. Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTS) and Section 359k of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938, as amended, USDA published this decision in the Federal Register.

Raw cane sugar under this TRQ must be accompanied by a certificate of quota eligibility and may enter the United States until Sept. 30, 2014. The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) will allocate this TRQ among supplying countries and customs areas.

USDA is also establishing the FY 2014 refined sugar TRQ at 134,482 STRV (122,000 MTRV). Of this quantity, 112,057 STRV (101,656 MTRV) is reserved for the importation of specialty sugars as defined by the USTR. The total refined sugar TRQ includes the 24,251 STRV (22,000 MTRV) minimum to which the United States is committed under Uruguay Round Agreement on Agriculture, of which 1,825 STRV (1,656 MTRV) is reserved for specialty sugar.

Because the specialty sugar TRQ is first-come, first-served, tranches are needed to allow for orderly marketing throughout the year. The FY 2014 specialty sugar TRQ will be opened in five tranches. The first tranche, totaling 1,825 STRV (1,656 MTRV), will open Oct. 10, 2013. All specialty sugars are eligible for entry under this tranche. The second tranche will open on Oct. 24, 2013 and be equal to 40,786 STRV (37,000 MTRV). The remaining tranches will each be equal to 23,149 STRV (21,000 MTRV), with the third opening on Jan. 9, 2014; the

fourth, on April 10, 2014; and the fifth, on July 10, 2014. The second, third, fourth, and fifth tranches will be reserved for organic sugar and other specialty sugars not currently produced commercially in the United States or reasonably available from domestic sources.

The USTR will allocate the refined TRQ, other than the amount reserved for specialty sugar, among supplying countries and customs areas.

* Conversion factor: 1 metric ton = 1.10231125 short tons.

The Federal Register notice is viewable online here: