

# Rules and Regulations

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains regulatory documents having general applicability and legal effect, most of which are keyed to and codified in the Code of Federal Regulations, which is published under 50 titles pursuant to 44 U.S.C. 1510.

The Code of Federal Regulations is sold by the Superintendent of Documents.

## OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

### 5 CFR Part 532

[Docket ID: OPM–2024–0012]

RIN 3206–A070

### Prevailing Rate Systems; Abolishment of Calhoun, Alabama, as a Nonappropriated Fund Federal Wage System Wage Area

**AGENCY:** Office of Personnel Management.

**ACTION:** Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) is issuing a final rule to abolish the Calhoun, Alabama (AL), nonappropriated fund (NAF) Federal Wage System (FWS) wage area and define Calhoun County, AL, to the Cobb, Georgia, NAF FWS wage area, and Jefferson County, AL, to the Madison, AL, NAF FWS wage area. These changes are necessary because NAF FWS employment in the survey area is now below the minimum criterion of 26 wage employees to maintain a wage area, and the local activities no longer have the capability to conduct local wage surveys.

**DATES:**

*Effective date:* This regulation is effective December 26, 2024.

*Applicability date:* This change applies on the first day of the first applicable pay period beginning on or after December 26, 2024.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ana Paunoiu, by telephone at (202) 606–2858 or by email at [paypolicy@opm.gov](mailto:paypolicy@opm.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On May 30, 2024, OPM issued a proposed rule (89 FR 46830) to abolish the Calhoun, AL, NAF FWS wage area and define Calhoun County, AL, to the Cobb, GA, NAF FWS wage area, and Jefferson County, AL, to the Madison, AL, NAF FWS wage area. The Federal Prevailing Rate Advisory Committee, the national labor-management committee

responsible for advising OPM on matters concerning the pay of FWS employees, reviewed and recommended these changes by consensus.

The proposed rule had a 30-day comment period, during which OPM received no comments. Therefore, this final rule adopts the proposed rule at 89 FR 46830 without change.

### Expected Impact of This Rule

Section 5343 of title 5, U.S. Code, provides OPM with the authority and responsibility to define the boundaries of NAF FWS wage areas. Any changes in wage area definitions can have the long-term effect of increasing pay for Federal employees in affected locations. OPM expects this final rule to impact approximately 21 NAF FWS employees. Considering the small number of employees affected, OPM does not anticipate this rule will substantially impact local economies or have a large impact in local labor markets. As this and future wage area changes may impact higher volumes of employees in geographical areas and could rise to the level of impacting local labor markets, OPM will continue to study the implications of such impacts in this or future rules as needed.

### Regulatory Review

Executive Orders 13563, 12866, and 14094 direct agencies to assess all costs and benefits of available regulatory alternatives and, if regulation is necessary, to select regulatory approaches that maximize net benefits (including potential economic, environmental, public health and safety effects, distributive impacts, and equity). This rule is not a “significant regulatory action” under the provisions of Executive Order 14094 and, therefore, was not reviewed by OMB.

### Regulatory Flexibility Act

The Acting Director of OPM certifies that this rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.

### Federalism

OPM has examined this rule in accordance with Executive Order 13132, Federalism, and have determined that this rule will not have any negative impact on the rights, roles and responsibilities of State, local, or tribal governments.

### Civil Justice Reform

This rule meets the applicable standard set forth in Executive Order 12988.

### Unfunded Mandates Act of 1995

Section 202 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (UMRA) requires that agencies assess anticipated costs and benefits before issuing any rule that would impose spending costs on State, local, or tribal governments in the aggregate, or on the private sector, in any 1 year of \$100 million in 1995 dollars, updated annually for inflation. That threshold is currently approximately \$183 million. This rule will not result in the expenditure by State, local, or tribal governments, in the aggregate, or by the private sector, in excess of the threshold. Thus, no written assessment of unfunded mandates is required.

### Congressional Review Act

OMB’s Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs has determined this rule does not satisfy the criteria listed in 5 U.S.C. 804(2).

### Paperwork Reduction Act

This rule does not impose any reporting or record-keeping requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act.

### List of Subjects in 5 CFR Part 532

Administrative practice and procedure, Freedom of information, Government employees, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Wages.

Office of Personnel Management.

**Kayyonne Marston,**

*Federal Register Liaison.*

Accordingly, OPM is amending 5 CFR part 532 as follows:

### PART 532—PREVAILING RATE SYSTEMS

■ 1. The authority citation for part 532 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 5 U.S.C. 5343, 5346; § 532.707 also issued under 5 U.S.C. 552.

■ 2. In appendix D to subpart B, amend the table by revising the wage area listing for the States of Alabama and Georgia to read as follows:

**Appendix D to Subpart B of Part 532—  
Nonappropriated Fund Wage and  
Survey Areas**

**DEFINITIONS OF WAGE AREAS AND  
WAGE AREA SURVEY AREAS**

\* \* \* \* \*

**ALABAMA**  
**Madison**  
*Survey Area*

Alabama:  
Madison  
*Area of Application. Survey area plus:*

Alabama:  
Jefferson

Tennessee:  
Coffee  
Davidson  
Hamilton  
Rutherford

**Montgomery**  
*Survey Area*

Alabama:  
Montgomery  
*Area of Application. Survey area plus:*

Alabama:  
Dale  
Dallas  
Macon

\* \* \* \* \*

**GEORGIA**  
**Chatham**  
*Survey Area*

Georgia:  
Chatham  
*Area of Application. Survey area plus:*

Georgia:  
Glynn  
Liberty

South Carolina:  
Beaufort

**Cobb**  
*Survey Area*

Georgia:  
Cobb  
*Area of Application. Survey area plus:*

Alabama:  
Calhoun

Georgia:  
Bartow  
De Kalb  
Fulton

**Columbus**  
*Survey Area*

Georgia:  
Columbus  
*Area of Application. Survey area plus:*

Georgia:  
Chattahoochee

**DOUGHERTY**  
*Survey Area*

Georgia:  
Dougherty  
*Area of Application. Survey area.*

**HOUSTON**  
*Survey Area*

Georgia:  
Houston  
*Area of Application. Survey area plus:*

Georgia:  
Laurens

**Lowndes**  
*Survey Area*

Georgia:

**DEFINITIONS OF WAGE AREAS AND  
WAGE AREA SURVEY AREAS—Con-  
tinued**

Lowndes  
*Area of Application. Survey area plus:*

Florida:  
Leon

**Richmond**  
*Survey Area*

Georgia:  
Richmond  
*Area of Application. Survey area plus:*

South Carolina:  
Aiken

\* \* \* \* \*

[FR Doc. 2024–27662 Filed 11–25–24; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6325–39–P**

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**Agricultural Marketing Service**

**7 CFR Part 984**

[Doc. No. AMS–SC–24–0039]

**Walnuts Grown in California; Increased  
Assessment Rate**

**AGENCY:** Agricultural Marketing Service,  
Department of Agriculture (USDA).

**ACTION:** Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** This final rule implements a  
recommendation from the California  
Walnut Board (Board) to increase the  
assessment rate established for the  
2024–2025 and subsequent marketing  
years from \$0.011 to \$0.0125 per inshell  
pound of California walnuts. The  
assessment rate will remain in effect  
indefinitely unless modified,  
suspended, or terminated.

**DATES:** Effective December 26, 2024.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**  
Joshua R. Wilde, Marketing Specialist,  
or Barry Broadbent, Chief, Northwest  
Region Branch, Market Development  
Division, Specialty Crops Program,  
AMS, USDA; Telephone: (503) 326–  
2724, or Email: [Joshua.R.Wilde@usda.gov](mailto:Joshua.R.Wilde@usda.gov)  
or [Barry.Broadbent@usda.gov](mailto:Barry.Broadbent@usda.gov).

Small businesses may request  
information on complying with this  
regulation by contacting Richard Lower,  
Market Development Division, Specialty  
Crops Program, AMS, USDA, 1400  
Independence Avenue SW, STOP 0237,  
Washington, DC 20250–0237;  
Telephone: (202) 720–8085, or Email:  
[Richard.Lower@usda.gov](mailto:Richard.Lower@usda.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This  
action, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553,  
amends regulations issued to carry out  
a marketing order as defined in 7 CFR  
900.2(j). This rule is issued under  
Marketing Order No. 984, as amended (7  
CFR part 984), regulating the handling  
of walnuts grown in California. Part 984

(referred to as the “Order”) is effective  
under the Agricultural Marketing  
Agreement Act of 1937, as amended (7  
U.S.C. 601–674), hereinafter referred to  
as the “Act.” The Board locally  
administers the Order and comprises  
growers and handlers of California  
walnuts operating within the area of  
production, and a public member.

The Agricultural Marketing Service  
(AMS) is issuing this final rule in  
conformance with Executive Orders  
12866, 13563, and 14094. Executive  
Orders 12866 and 13563 direct agencies  
to assess all costs and benefits of  
available regulatory alternatives and, if  
regulation is necessary, to select  
regulatory approaches that maximize  
net benefits (including potential  
economic, environmental, public health  
and safety effects, distributive impacts  
and equity). Executive Order 13563  
emphasizes the importance of  
quantifying both costs and benefits,  
reducing costs, harmonizing rules, and  
promoting flexibility. Executive Order  
14094 reaffirms, supplements, and  
updates Executive Orders 12866 and  
further directs agencies to solicit *and  
consider input from a wide range of  
affected and interested parties through  
a variety of means*. This action falls  
within a category of regulatory actions  
that the Office of Management and  
Budget (OMB) exempted from Executive  
Order 12866 review.

This final rule has been reviewed  
under Executive Order 13175—  
Consultation and Coordination with  
Indian Tribal Governments, which  
requires Federal agencies to consider  
whether their rulemaking actions would  
have Tribal implications. AMS has  
determined that this rule is unlikely to  
have substantial direct effects on one or  
more Indian Tribes, on the relationship  
between the Federal Government and  
Indian Tribes, or on the distribution of  
power and responsibilities between the  
Federal Government and Indian Tribes.

This final rule has been reviewed  
under Executive Order 12988—Civil  
Justice Reform. Under the Order now in  
effect, California walnut handlers are  
subject to assessments. Funds to  
administer the Order are derived from  
such assessments. It is intended that the  
assessment rate will be applicable to all  
assessable California walnuts for the  
2024–2025 marketing year, and  
continue until amended, suspended, or  
terminated.

The Act provides that administrative  
proceedings must be exhausted before  
parties may file suit in court. Under  
section 608c(15)(A) of the Act, any  
handler subject to an order may file  
with USDA a petition stating that the  
order, any provision of the order, or any