

## **AGRICULTURE DECISIONS**

*Agriculture Decisions* is an official publication by the Secretary of Agriculture that consists of decisions and orders issued in adjudicatory proceedings conducted for the Department under various statutes and regulations. Selected court decisions concerning the Department's regulatory programs are also included. The Department is required to publish its rules and regulations in the Federal Register; therefore, rules and regulations are not included in *Agriculture Decisions*.

### **FORMAT**

The Office of Administrative Law Judges (OALJ) publishes a comprehensive volume of *Agriculture Decisions* for each calendar year. Two books comprise the annual volume: Book One, which contains the decisions and orders issued from January through June; and Book Two, which contains decisions and orders issued from July through December.

Each *Agriculture Decisions* book is divided into four sections, or "Parts." Part One is organized alphabetically, by statute, and contains general decisions and orders (*i.e.*, all decisions and orders other than those that pertain to the Packers & Stockyards Act or to the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act). Part Two covers decisions and orders relating to the Packers & Stockyards Act. Part Three contains decisions and orders that involve the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act, including reparation decisions. Part Four includes an alphabetical list of decisions and orders reported and a subject-matter index.

Parts One, Two, and Three of *Agriculture Decisions* incorporate the following: (1) initial decisions issued by the Administrative Law Judges, decisions and orders issued by the Judicial Officer on appeal, and selected court decisions; (2) a list of miscellaneous orders and dismissals entered by the Administrative Law Judges and full texts of any miscellaneous orders entered by the Judicial Officer; (3) a list of default decisions issued by the Administrative Law Judges; and (4) a list of consent decisions. While *Agriculture Decisions* generally does not include full texts of miscellaneous orders, default decisions, or consent decisions, those rulings are available in their entirety, in portable document format (PDF), via the OALJ website: <https://oalj.oha.usda.gov/current>.

### **PUBLICATION**

Beginning with Volume 72 (circa 2013), *Agriculture Decisions* is published exclusively online. Volume 71 (circa 2012) was the publication's final print edition. All *Agriculture Decisions* books, including those from older volumes, are available for electronic download at <https://oalj.oha.usda.gov/agriculture-decisions-publication>.<sup>1</sup>

In addition to uploading the *Agriculture Decisions* publication, OALJ also posts "current" decisions and orders, posting them individually as they are issued. These decisions and orders are displayed in PDF format on the OALJ website and are listed in reverse chronological order. Decisions and orders issued prior to the current year are also available in PDF archives, arranged by calendar year.

Published decisions and orders (*i.e.*, those that appear in *Agriculture Decisions*) may be cited by providing the volume number, page number, and year [*e.g.*, 1 Agric. Dec. 472 (U.S.D.A. 1942)].

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<sup>1</sup> As of November 2018, Volumes 55 (circa 1996) through 76 (circa 2017) are available online. Volumes 39 through 54 have been scanned but, due to privacy concerns, do not yet appear online. The Editor of *Agriculture Decisions* is in the process of redacting personally identifiable information (PII) from these books. Once the appropriate redactions have been made, Volumes 39 through 54 will be uploaded to the OALJ website and made available on the *Agriculture Decisions* Archives page.

Further, decisions and orders posted on the OALJ website may also be cited as primary sources. When citing to a decision or order that appears on the OALJ website but has not yet been published in *Agriculture Decisions*, the docket number and date of decision or order should be included [*e.g.*, *Smith*, Docket No. 15-0123 (U.S.D.A. Oct. 1, 2015)].

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