



STATE OF IDAHO



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ISDA SUSPENDS CULL ONION DISPOSAL DEADLINE

Severe winter weather prompted the Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) to issue a temporary rule suspending the statewide March 15th deadline for cull onion disposal.

Under the temporary rule – which goes into effect immediately – onions must be disposed of through an approved method as soon as reasonably possible. The temporary rule only changes the disposition deadline. All other portions of the rule, including approved methods for disposal, remain in effect.

The temporary rule was issued in light of heavy snowfall in southwestern Idaho, resulting in widespread destruction of onion storage sheds and processing facilities. Disposal of facility debris and large quantities of onions will be a significant challenge for operators.

“Agricultural operators across the state have been hit particularly hard by this winter’s devastating storms,” ISDA Director Celia Gould said. “This temporary rule is meant to give the onion community some flexibility in the timing of the massive disposal they will have to undertake this year. Many facilities are reporting total losses.”

The ISDA will rescind the temporary rule on April 15, 2017. All cull onions will need to be disposed of by that date.

Agricultural operators with questions about proper disposal may contact the ISDA office directly at (208) 332-8620 or info@isda.idaho.gov.

Background on ISDA’s Cull Onion Rule

The ISDA Cull Onion Rule was first promulgated to prevent the spread of plant pests, like the onion maggot, which may propagate when onions are amassed without cover and in warmer temperatures. Plant pests can cause significant crop damage, so pest control measures embodied in the rule are important mitigation strategies.