

AGENDA



Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) Quarterly Tribal Consultation: March 12, 2014

Consulting Official: Arthur Neal
Deputy Administrator
AMS Transportation and Marketing Programs

Call Moderator: Kimberly Duncan
Outreach
AMS Transportation and Marketing Programs

Meeting Format: Conference Call
Toll Free: (800) 260-0719
Passcode: 321975

Meeting Time:
11:00am – 12:30pm Alaska
12:00pm – 1:30pm Pacific
1:00pm – 2:30pm Mountain
2:00pm – 3:30pm Central
3:00pm – 4:30pm Eastern

Meeting Materials:
AMS Tribal Consultation webpage: **Coming Soon**

Agenda Items:

3:00 p.m. Welcome
Arthur Neal, AMS Deputy Administrator (Transportation and Marketing Programs)

3:05 p.m. Introduction

3:10 p.m. Consultation Topics

1. **USDA Research and Promotion Board Openings**
2. **The Livestock, Poultry, and Seed Program (LPS)** will provide an update on Native American-owned companies, including most recently Kiva Sun, in need of assistance in becoming eligible vendors for AMS programs. LPS will discuss plans for hosting live webinars for the Native American community to discuss program requirements and how to become eligible suppliers. LPS develops purchase specifications used by the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) in procuring meat, poultry, egg products, and aquatic foods.

3. **The National Organic Program (NOP)** is preparing a proposed rule for the production and handling of organically raised farmed aquatic animals. The standards will supplement the existing USDA organic regulations, which currently cover crops, livestock, wild crop harvesting and handling. The proposed standards will include aquaculture operations conducted in ponds, raceways, closed recirculating water systems, and open water net pens. The standards will apply to farmed fin fish, crustaceans, bivalve mollusks and other vertebrate and invertebrate aquatic animals. When complete, the standards will provide aquaculture operations with a means to add value to their products by becoming certified as organic production or handling operations.

4. **AMS Grant Programs**

The Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP) will provide information on how to apply for grant funding through local State departments of agriculture. The purpose of the SCBGP is to solely enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops. Specialty crops are defined as “fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture, and nursery crops (including floriculture).” State departments of agriculture are encouraged to partner with specialty crop stakeholders, including socially disadvantaged and beginning farmers, in order to fulfill State specialty crop priorities.

The Farmers Market Promotion Program (FMPP) will provide information on how to apply for grant funding through a recent amendment of the Farmer-to-Consumer Direct Marketing Act of 1976. The grants, authorized by the FMPP, are targeted to help improve and expand domestic farmers markets, roadside stands, community-supported agriculture programs and other direct producer-to-consumer market opportunities.

Federal State Marketing Improvement Program (FSMIP) will provide information on a grant program which provides matching funds to State Departments of Agriculture and other appropriate State agencies to assist in exploring new market opportunities for food and agricultural products, and to encourage research and innovation aimed at improving the efficiency and performance of the marketing system.

Local Foods Program Update

5. **The Science and Technology Program** will discuss the benefits of Plant Variety Protection (PVP). PVP is a type of intellectual property protection (similar to patents) for new plant varieties that has benefits to both the seed developer and society as a whole. PVP creates an incentive and promotes progress in agriculture by providing protection in the form of intellectual property rights to developers of new and distinct seed-reproduced and tuber-propagated plants ranging from farm crops to flowers. AMS has issued more than 9,000 certificates of protection since 1970. Overall, PVP encourages the development of new varieties and makes them available to the public when the protection has expired.

4:00 p.m. Updates and Announcements

4:05 p.m. Questions/Open Discussion

4:25 p.m. Closing Remarks

4:30 p.m. Adjourn