

AGENDA



Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) Quarterly Tribal Consultation: March 11, 2015

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

Meeting Format: Conference Call
Toll Free: (866) 216-6835
Participant Access Code: 249551

Meeting Time: 3:00pm – 4:30pm Eastern

Meeting Materials: AMS Tribal Consultation
Website <http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/OutreachTribalConsultations>

Agenda Items:

3:00 p.m.

Introduction

Arthur Neal, AMS Deputy Administrator (Transportation and Marketing Programs)

3:05 p.m.

Welcome

Ed Avalos, Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs

1. **AMS Grant Opportunities** - The 2014 Farm Bill makes over \$100 million available to support Local Food, Organic Operations, Ranchers, and Specialty Crop Growers. Learn more about upcoming grant opportunities.
2. **Bison Purchase Program** - The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) has announced plans to purchase lean ground bison for the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR).
3. **Food Safety Modernization Act Update and Produce Safety Alliance Update** - USDA AMS maintains a full-time position with primary responsibility to engage with the Food and Drug Administration on issues related to the Food Safety Modernization Act. Specifically, the work focuses on the produce safety regulation that is likely to become final later this calendar year. The Produce Safety Alliance (PSA) is a collaborative project between USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), both of which provided funding for its operation. The primary goal of the PSA is to increase the understanding of the principles of Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) and to facilitate the implementation of food safety practices on fresh

fruit and vegetable farms and in packinghouses.

4. **Potential California Federal Milk Marketing Order** - USDA is currently seeking alternative proposals before deciding to conduct a hearing to establish a Federal Milk Marketing Order (FMMO) in California.
5. **The National Organic Program** – NOP will introduce 3 organic standards rulemaking projects in the area of animal welfare for organic livestock, organic apiculture (beekeeping) and organic pet food.
6. **USDA Research and Promotion Boards** are authorized by Federal legislation. These programs are designed to strengthen the position of the industry in the marketplace and to maintain and expand domestic and foreign markets. Board members are nominated by industry and appointed officially by the Secretary of Agriculture. AMS oversees the activities of the boards or councils and approves budgets, in order to assure compliance with the legislation. We encourage everyone to apply based on requirements.

4:15 p.m. Questions/Open Discussion

4:25 p.m. Closing Remarks

4:30 p.m. Adjourn

NOTE: If you have questions about this meeting, please contact Kimberly Duncan at Kimberly.duncan@ams.usda.gov or (202) 260-8605.