Digital Imaging Inspection Services

The Agricultural Marketing Service offers digital images as an additional inspection service. The produce industry can request digital images of fresh fruits and vegetables depicting the appearance of produce, defects, shifted loads, brands and container markings, and the condition of the containers.

Digital images are optically formed pictures produced using a digital camera. A digital camera uses a computer chip instead of film to capture an image. Digital images are created with a series of data digits (computer bits and bytes) which compose an optically formed duplicate, reproduction, or likeness of something or someone.

The following are some of the benefits of using digital imaging services:

• Applicants can receive digital images of the product or situation in question;
• Shippers can see the defects that are scored by inspection staff;
• Digital images can provide photo documentation to accompany the traditional written documentation;
• Digital images can assist produce growers, shippers, brokers, buyers, and distributors in making better business decisions;
• Digital images may be used to assist all parties involved in settling disputes;
• Several people at different locations can view digital images simultaneously; and
• Applicants can use digital imaging technology to assist in quality control, product procurement, and marketing efforts.

Any financially interested party may request digital images, with or without an inspection, by calling or faxing a request to the nearest market inspection office. Inspectors will take several images of the product or situation in question. Fees for the service are based on an hourly rate, with a 1-hour minimum.

For additional information;

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