

# AGENDA



## Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) Quarterly Tribal Consultation: December 3, 2014

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

Meeting Format: Conference Call  
Toll Free: (800) 260-0719  
Passcode: 345198

Meeting Time: 3:00pm – 4:00pm Eastern

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

### Agenda Items:

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

1. **The Organic Origin of Livestock** – The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Agricultural Marketing Service (USDA AMS) proposes to amend the origin of livestock requirements for dairy animals under the USDA organic regulations. This proposed action would specify that a producer can transition dairy animals into organic production once. This proposed action would clarify that, after completion of this one-time transition, any new dairy animals that a producer adds to a dairy farm would need to be managed organically from the last third of gestation or sourced from dairy animals that already completed their transition into organic production.
2. **The Organic Cost Share Program** – AMS administers two organic certification cost share programs. Each program provides cost share assistance, through participating States, to organic producers and/or organic handlers. Recipients must receive initial certification or continuation of certification from a USDA accredited certifying agent (ACA).
3. **The Commodity Procurement Staff (CPS)** is committed to providing contracting opportunities to a variety of large and small business

concerns. Annually, CPS has an established goal to increase the number of opportunities for all small businesses, but especially for small disadvantaged businesses, women-owned small businesses, service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses, hub-zone small businesses and 8(a) firms. Our intent is to provide opportunities for all small businesses to grow their enterprises utilizing Federal contracting opportunities. CPS purchases fruits, vegetables, nuts, specialty crops, beef, pork, fish, chicken, eggs and turkey products for distribution to the National School Lunch Program and other domestic nutrition assistance programs.

4. **Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) 102 Webinar, Audit Preparation on January 22, 2015 from 2-3pm eastern** – If you grow, pack, ship, or buy and sell fruits and vegetables, you won't want to miss this live, interactive discussion via webinar! The webinar is free and available to anyone with Internet access. Registration is required and space is limited.
  
5. **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. The programs are all fully funded by industry assessments. 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.

3:45 p.m. Questions/Open Discussion

3:55 p.m. Closing Remarks

4:00 p.m. Adjourn

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