

AGENDA



Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) Quarterly Tribal Consultation: September 10, 2014

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

Meeting Format: Conference Call
Toll Free: (800) 683-4564
Access Code: 760798

Meeting Time: 3:00pm – 4:00pm Eastern

Meeting Materials: [AMS Tribal Consultation Webpage](#)

Agenda Items:

3:00 p.m. Welcome/introduction

3:05 p.m. Consultation Topics

1. **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.
2. **The Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP)** will provide information on how prepare for grant funding for the next grant season 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.

3. Food Value Chains: Creating Shared Value to Enhance Marketing Success

AMS has created a new book based on food value chain research and development. AMS worked with American University, The Wallace Center at Winrock International and Regional Food Solutions on this project. The book provides guidance on how food value chains are initiated and structured, how they function, and the benefits they provide to participants. Please contact AMS for a FREE copy.

3:45 p.m. Questions/Open Discussion

4:00 p.m. Closing Remarks/ Adjourn

NOTE: If you have topics that you would like discussed in future consultations, please submit your requests to Kimberly.duncan@ams.usda.gov for consideration.