

AMS NoAMS No. 200-07

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USDA WITHDRAWS ADVANCE NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING TO REVISE U.S. STANDARDS FOR GRADES OF FLORIDA AVOCADOS

WASHINGTON, Nov. 2, 2007 -- The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) has announced the withdrawal of its proposal to revise the U.S. Standards for Grades of Florida Avocados.

On July 12, 2007, AMS published an advance notice of proposed rulemaking soliciting comments on possible revisions to the standards including deleting the word "Florida" to allow the standards to apply to all avocados. AMS has decided not to proceed further with this action based upon the comments received.

AMS works with industry representatives and others to establish or revise U.S. standards for nearly 240 agricultural products. The industry uses the standards in the marketplace to specify the quality of commodities. Standards facilitate commerce by providing a common language for trade and a means of measuring value in the marketing of agricultural products.

The notice of withdrawal will be published in the Nov. 5, 2007, Federal Register. More information is available from: Vincent J. Fusaro, Standardization Section, Fresh Products Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Room 1661 South Building, STOP 0240, Washington, DC 20250-0240, or by E-mail to Vinny.Fusaro@usda.gov.

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