

AGENDA



Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) Quarterly Tribal Consultation: June 11, 2014

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

Meeting Format: Conference Call
Toll Free: (800) 260-0712
Passcode: 326360

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

3:05 p.m. Introduction

3:10 p.m. **USDA Research and Promotion Board Openings:**

1. USDA is seeking nominations for the **Christmas Tree Promotion Board** under the newly established Christmas Tree Promotion, Research and Information Order. Programs such as this allow producers within a particular agriculture sector to come together to fund research and jointly market their products.
2. USDA is seeking nominees for the **Cotton Board** to fill 12 member and 12 alternate member positions for vacancies in Arkansas, California/Nevada, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Texas and for importers and one consumer advisor position.

Updates:

3. **The Organic Certification Cost Share Program** is aimed at strengthening market support for U.S. agriculture by offering two noncompetitive Organic Certification Cost Share Program grants that reduce the cost of organic certification by reimbursing organic operators for 75% of their certification costs up to a maximum of \$750 per certification category per year. Producers and handlers in all fifty states, the District of Columbia, and 5 territories (American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Marina

Islands, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, and the United States Virgin Islands) are eligible to participate in and receive a portion of the \$11.5M allocated to the National Organic Certification Cost Share Program in FY14 which is authorized by the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (The Farm Bill).

Overviews:

4. **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. Specifically, the primary goal of the PSA is to develop a nationwide curriculum 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. The curriculum is being designed so that growers and packers subject to the FDA Produce Safety Regulation can meet the training requirement; and, so growers and packers NOT subject to the regulation have access to fundamental education in on-farm produce safety.
5. **The Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act (PACA)** establishes a code of fair trading practices covering the marketing of fresh and frozen fruits and vegetables in interstate and foreign commerce. It protects growers, shippers, distributors, retailers, and others who deal in those commodities by prohibiting unfair and fraudulent practices.
6. **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.

4:00 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.