

This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Office of the Under Secretary, Research, Education, and Economics; Notice of the Advisory Committee on Biotechnology and 21st Century Agriculture Meeting

AGENCY: Agricultural Research Service.

ACTION: Notice of Meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. 2, the United States Department of Agriculture announces a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Biotechnology and 21st Century Agriculture (AC21).

DATES: The meeting dates are March 5, 2008, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and March 6, 2008, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

ADDRESSES: Room 107A, USDA Jamie L. Whitten Building, 12th Street and Jefferson Drive, SW., Washington, DC 20250.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael Schechtman, Telephone (202) 720-3817.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The eighteenth meeting of the AC21 has been scheduled for March 5-6, 2008. The AC21 consists of members representing the biotechnology industry, farmers, food manufacturers, commodity processors and shippers, livestock handlers, environmental and consumer groups, and academic researchers. In addition, representatives from the Departments of Commerce, Health and Human Services, and State, and the Environmental Protection Agency, the Council on Environmental Quality, the Office of the United States Trade Representative, and the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture serve as "ex officio" members. At this meeting, there will be several objectives: (1) To introduce new members of the AC21; (2) to officially present a consensus paper to the Office of the Secretary, USDA, responding to

the question, "What issues should USDA consider regarding coexistence among diverse agricultural systems in a dynamic, evolving, and complex marketplace?"; (3) to provide an update to the AC21 on USDA's efforts to ensure a smooth marketplace transition for cloned livestock animals in the marketplace; and (4) to begin discussions related to potential USDA regulatory roles for transgenic animals. Background information regarding the work of the AC21 will be available on the USDA Web site at http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/_s.7_0_A/7_0_1OB?navid=BIOTECH&parentnav=AGRICULTURE&navtype=RT.

Requests to make oral presentations at the meeting may be sent to Michael Schechtman, Designated Federal Official, Office of the Deputy Secretary, USDA, 202 B Jamie L. Whitten Federal Building, 12th Street and Jefferson Drive, SW., Washington, DC 20250, Telephone (202) 720-3817; Fax (202) 690-4265; E-mail Michael.schechtman@ars.usda.gov. On March 5, 2008, if time permits, reasonable provision will be made for oral presentations of no more than five minutes each in duration. Written requests to make oral presentations at the meeting must be received by the contact person identified herein at least three business days before the meeting. The meeting will be open to the public, but space is limited. If you would like to attend the meetings, you must register by contacting Ms. Dianne Harmon at (202) 720-4074, by fax at (202) 720-3191 or by E-mail at Dianne.harmon@ars.usda.gov at least five business days prior to the meeting. Please provide your name, title, business affiliation, address, and telephone and fax numbers when you register. If you require a sign language interpreter or other special accommodation due to disability, please indicate those needs at the time of registration.

Dated: February 11, 2008.

Jeremy Stump,

Senior Advisor for International and Homeland Security Affairs and Biotechnology.

[FR Doc. E8-3001 Filed 2-15-08; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Docket # AMS-FV-07-0142]

United States Standards for Grades of Beet Greens

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), prior to undertaking research and other work associated with revising official grade standards, is soliciting comments on the possible revisions to the United States Standards for Grades of Beet Greens. AMS has been reviewing the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable grade standards for usefulness in fostering commerce. As a result, AMS has identified the United States Standards for Grades of Beet Greens for possible revisions.

AMS is considering removing the "Unclassified" category from the standards. AMS is seeking comments regarding this change as well as any other possible revisions that may be necessary to better serve the industry.

DATES: Comments must be received by April 21, 2008.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments on the Internet at: <http://www.regulations.gov> or to the Standardization Section, Fresh Products Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Room 1661 South Building, Stop 0240, Washington, DC 20250-0240; Fax (202) 720-8871. Comments should make reference to the dates and page number of this issue of the **Federal Register** and will be made available for public inspection in the above office during regular business hours.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Vincent J. Fusaro, Standardization Section, Fresh Products Branch, (202) 720-2185. The United States Standards for Grades of Beet Greens are available by accessing the Fresh Products Branch Web site at: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/standards/stanfrfv.htm>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 203(c) of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1621-1627), as amended, directs and authorizes the

Secretary of Agriculture "To develop and improve standards of quality, condition, quantity, grade and packaging and recommend and demonstrate such standards in order to encourage uniformity and consistency in commercial practices." AMS is committed to carrying out this authority in a manner that facilitates the marketing of agricultural commodities. AMS makes copies of official standards available upon request. The United States Standards for Grades of Fruits and Vegetables not connected with Federal Marketing Orders or U.S. Import Requirements no longer appear in the Code of Federal Regulations, but are maintained by USDA, AMS, Fruit and Vegetable Programs.

AMS is considering revisions to the voluntary United States Standards for Grades of Beet Greens using procedures that appear in Part 36, Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations (7 CFR part 36). These standards were last revised on June 1, 1959.

Background

AMS has been reviewing the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable grade standards for usefulness in serving the industry. AMS has identified the United States Standards for Grades of Beet Greens for possible revision. Prior to undertaking detailed work developing the proposed revisions in the standards, AMS is soliciting comments on the proposed revision and any other comments regarding revisions to the United States Standards for Grades of Beet Greens to better serve the industry.

AMS would eliminate the "Unclassified" category. AMS is removing this section in all standards as they are revised. This category is not a grade and only serves to show that no grade has been applied to the lot. It is no longer considered necessary due to current marketing practices.

This notice provides for a 60-day comment period for interested parties to comment on the proposed changes to the United States Standards for Grades of Beet Greens. Should AMS go forward with the revisions, it will develop the proposed revised standards that will be published in the **Federal Register** with a request for comments in accordance with 7 CFR part 36.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 1621-1627.

Dated: February 12, 2008.

Lloyd C. Day,

Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. E8-2961 Filed 2-15-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Economic Development Administration

[Docket No.: 080131110-8112-01]

Solicitation of Proposals and Applications for Economic Development Assistance Programs

AGENCY: Economic Development Administration (EDA), Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice and request for proposals and applications.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965, as amended (42 U.S.C. 3121, *et seq.*) (PWEDA), EDA announces general policies and application procedures for grant-based investments under the Public Works, Planning, Local Technical Assistance, and Economic Adjustment Assistance Programs to promote comprehensive, entrepreneurial and innovation-based economic development efforts to enhance the competitiveness of regions, resulting in increased private investment and higher-skill, higher-wage jobs in regions experiencing substantial and persistent economic distress.

DATES: Proposals are accepted on a continuing basis and applications are invited and processed as received. Generally, two months are required for EDA to reach a final decision after receipt of a complete application that meets all requirements. Proposals or applications (as appropriate) received after the date of this notice will be processed in accordance with the requirements set forth herein and in the related federal funding opportunity (FFO) announcement, until the next annual FFO is posted on www.grants.gov and related notice and request for proposals and applications is published in the **Federal Register**.

Pre-Application and Application Submission Requirements

Proponents are advised to carefully read the instructions contained in the both complete FFO announcement for this request for proposals and applications, and in the *Pre-Application for Investment Assistance* (Form ED-900P) and *Application for Investment Assistance* (Form ED-900A). Please note that the requirements for the pre-application are different from the requirements for the application. The content of the pre-application and the application (as appropriate) is the same for paper submissions as it is for electronic submissions. EDA will not

accept facsimile transmissions of pre-applications and applications.

For projects under EDA's Public Works Program (CFDA No. 11.300) or Economic Adjustment Assistance Program (CFDA No. 11.307), applicants must submit a pre-application on Form ED-900P and the *Application for Federal Assistance* (Form SF-424), both of which are available at www.eda.gov/InvestmentsGrants/Application.xml. The applicant must complete Parts I, II and III of Form ED-900P and all of Form SF-424. In addition, the applicant must attach a project narrative, as stated in section IV.B.1. of the FFO announcement for this request for proposals and applications. Forms ED-900P and SF-424 may be submitted either (i) in paper (hardcopy) format at the applicable regional office address provided below, or (ii) electronically in accordance with the procedures provided on www.grants.gov.

For projects under EDA's Planning Program (CFDA No. 11.302) or Local Technical Assistance Program (CFDA No. 11.303), please contact the appropriate EDA regional office listed below for instructions as to whether you should complete a pre-application or an application. For example, in the case of a continuation award for a Planning grant, a pre-application is not required. However, for short-term Planning or Local Technical Assistance investments, EDA may provide assistance to develop the economic development capacity of States, cities and other eligible applicants experiencing economic distress or to assist in institutional capacity building, in which circumstances Form ED-900P may be necessary. The applicable EDA regional office will determine which form you must complete.

The following forms may be accessed and downloaded as follows: (i) Forms ED-900P and ED-900A at <http://www.eda.gov/InvestmentsGrants/Application.xml>; (ii) Standard Forms (SF) at either www.grants.gov or at <http://www.eda.gov/InvestmentsGrants/Application.xml>; and (iii) Department of Commerce (CD) forms at http://ocio.os.doc.gov/ITPolicyandPrograms/Electronic_Forms/index.htm. All forms referenced above may be submitted either: (i) In paper (hardcopy) format at the applicable regional office address provided below; or (ii) electronically in accordance with the procedures provided on www.grants.gov.

Addresses and Telephone Numbers for EDA's Regional Offices

Applicants in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee,