

Under current U.S. standards, producers include a grade statement and color descriptor on labels of maple syrup. Syrup with a rich bold flavor is currently labeled as Grade B syrup, which is not intended for retail sale. However, consumers are increasingly seeking the darkest color class of maple syrup for cooking and table use. The proposed revisions to the U.S. standards would categorize Grade B syrup (containing no damage or off flavors/odors) as Grade A to allow the darker syrup to be sold at the retail level. According to the petitioner, a basic description of taste intensity on the product label would help consumers and ingredient users more consistently purchase syrup in accordance with their taste preferences and needs.

The proposed revision to the Grade A classification includes four color and flavor classes of maple syrup determined: (1) Using a spectrophotometer, which provides a measure of percent of light transmission through the syrup expressed as percent of light transmission and symbolized by %Tc values; or (2) by any method that provides equivalent results. The new grade classifications would be: U.S. Grade A Golden (delicate taste, $\geq 75.0\%$ Tc), U.S. Grade A Amber (rich taste, 50.0–74.9%Tc), U.S. Grade A Dark (robust taste, 25.0–49.9%Tc), and U.S. Grade A Very Dark (strong taste, $< 25.0\%$ Tc). The proposed grade standards would remove references to the USDA permanent glass color standards for maple sirup (syrup).

The petitioner also requested a limit to the brix range of 66 percent minimum to 68.9 percent maximum soluble solids. After submitting the petition, IMSI additionally requested that the standards include definitions for mold and yeast. AMS did not include separate definitions for mold and yeast, but the terms were incorporated within the definition of fermentation. The proposed revision to the Grade A classification includes, free from off flavors, odors, and fermentation, and is free from turbidity or sediment. Fermentation is caused by the presence of mold and yeast. Off flavor and odor can also indicate the presence of mold and yeast. Fermentation, off flavor and odor are classified as damage and are not permitted in Grade A. AMS retained the Substandard grade which was not included in the petition. The Substandard Grade allows a category of products that are not fit for human consumption or do not meet the requirements for "Processing Grade." Additional requests by the petitioner was establishing a maximum solids level at 68.9%, and using the term

"Pure" maple syrup in the product description. AMS did not include this in the product definition, because it would not be consistent with the current Food and Drug Administration (FDA) standard of identity for maple syrup (21 CFR 168.140). However, the Brix limit is included in the Grade A classification.

AMS is also proposing to change the spelling of "sirup" to the more current commonly used term "syrup" to align it with the FDA standard of identity for Maple Syrup 21 CFR 168.140 (c) and commercial practices.

IMSI also requested that the standards include the flavor and color descriptors to be placed on the label. AMS is not moving forward with such requirements for flavor and color descriptors because such requirements would not be appropriate for inclusion in the U.S. grade standards.

The proposed revision would include a "Processing Grade," a grade that does not meet the "U.S. Grade A" requirements as far as quality, may contain off flavors, may not be for retail sales, and may be used for reprocessing. Off flavors/odors may be defined as any specific and identifiable flavor or smell defect not normally found in good quality maple syrup. These off flavors may be related to natural factors such as, woody, buddy, or fermented flavors or due to production, handling, or storage, e.g., burnt, chemical, or mold. The "Processing Grade" in other respects, may have fairly good characteristic maple taste, be fairly free of damage, turbidity or cloudiness, and be fairly free from foreign material, such as pieces of bark, soot, dust, and dirt. Under the proposed revision the grade of a sample unit of maple syrup would be ascertained considering the factors of color, flavor, odor, damage, and turbidity or cloudiness.

USDA grades for maple syrup are not mandatory, but producers, processors and handlers/packers labeling maple syrup as a particular U.S. grade are responsible for the accuracy of that U.S. grade statement indicated, that the maple syrup meets the current Federal standards for that grade. Under the existing regulations governing the inspection and grading of processed fruits, vegetables, and miscellaneous products, 7 CFR 52.53 provides for the use of approved identification marks and paragraph (h) describes or lists prohibited uses of approved identification. Section 52.53(h) provides that, except for officially inspected or otherwise approved products (namely maple syrup and honey) no label or advertising material used upon, or in conjunction with, a processed product

shall bear a brand name, trademark, product name, company name, or any other descriptive material as it relates or alludes to any official U.S. Department of Agriculture certificate of quality or loading, grade mark, grade statement (except honey and maple syrup which may bear such grade mark or statement), continuous inspection mark, continuous inspection statement, sampling mark or sampling statement or combinations of one or more of the above. Therefore, honey and maple syrup may bear official USDA grade marks without official inspection.

Commodities covered by U.S. grade standards must comply with all applicable Federal, state and local laws.

The official grade of a lot of maple syrup covered by these standards would be determined by the procedures set forth in the Regulations Governing Inspection and Certification of Processed Products, Thereof, and Certain Other Processed Food Products (7 CFR 52.1 to 52.83).

AMS is soliciting comment on the proposed United States Standards for Grades of Maple Sirup.

AMS is publishing this notice with a 60-day comment period.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 1621–1627.

Dated: May 1, 2014.

Rex A. Barnes,
Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Olympic Peninsula Resource Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Olympic Peninsula Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) will meet in Olympia, Washington. The committee is authorized under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (Pub. L. 110–343) (the Act) and operates in compliance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The purpose of the committee is to improve collaborative relationships and to provide advice and recommendations to the Forest Service concerning projects and funding consistent with Title II of the Act. The meeting is open to the public. The purpose of the meeting is to review project proposals and make recommendations for 2014 Title II funds.

DATES: The meeting will be held on May 28, 2014, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. If necessary, additional meetings may be held on June 17 and/or June 20, 2014.

All RAC meetings are subject to cancellation. For status of meeting prior to attendance, please contact the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Olympic National Forest (NF) Supervisor's Office, Willaby Conference Room, 1835 Black Lake Boulevard Southwest, Olympia, Washington.

Written comments may be submitted as described under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**. All comments, including names and addresses when provided, are placed in the record and are available for public inspection and copying. The public may inspect comments received at Olympic NF Supervisor's Office. Please call ahead to facilitate entry into the building.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bill Shelmerdine, RAC Coordinator, by phone at 360-956-2282, or via email at bshelmerdine@fs.fed.us.

Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday. Please make requests in advance for sign language interpreting, assistive listening devices or other reasonable accommodation for access to the facility or proceedings by contacting the person listed above.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Additional RAC information, including the meeting agenda and the meeting summary/minutes can be found at the following Web site: www.fs.usda.gov/Olympic/Advisory. The agenda will include time for people to make oral statements of three minutes or less. Individuals wishing to make an oral statement should request in writing by May 23, 2014 to be scheduled on the agenda. Anyone who would like to bring related matters to the attention of the committee may file written statements with the committee staff before or after the meeting. Written comments and requests for time for oral comments must be sent to Bill Shelmerdine, Olympic NF Supervisor's Office, 1835 Black Lake Boulevard Southwest, Olympia, Washington 98512; by email to bshelmerdine@fs.fed.us, or via facsimile to 360-956-2330.

Meeting Accommodations: If you are a person requiring reasonable accommodation, please make requests in advance for sign language

interpreting, assistive listening devices or other reasonable accommodation for access to the facility or proceedings by contacting the person listed in the section titled **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. All reasonable accommodation requests are managed on a case by case basis.

Dated: April 29, 2014.

Reta Laford,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 2014-10512 Filed 5-6-14; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Shasta County Resource Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Shasta County Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) will meet in Redding, California on two occasions. The committee is authorized under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (Pub. L. 110-343) (the Act) and operates in compliance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The purpose of the committee is to improve collaborative relationships and to provide advice and recommendations to the Forest Service concerning projects and funding consistent with the title II of the Act. The meetings are open to the public. The purpose of the meetings is to review and vote on proposals for project funding.

DATES: The meetings will be held: June 18th and 19th, 2014 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

All RAC meetings are subject to cancellation. For status of meeting prior to attendance, please contact the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the Shasta-Trinity National Forest headquarters, 3644 Avtech Parkway, Redding, Ca. 96002. Both meetings will be held in the A-B conference room. The headquarters office is located on a short side street off of Airport road on the east side of Redding.

Written comments may be submitted as described under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**. All comments, including names and addresses when provided, are placed in the record and are available for public inspection and copying. The public may inspect comments received at the Shasta-Trinity National Forest Headquarters office in

Redding, California. Please call ahead to facilitate entry into the building.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Donna F. Harmon, District Ranger by phone at 530-226-2335 or via email at dharmon@fs.fed.us.

Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday. Please make requests in advance for sign language interpreting, assistive listening devices or other reasonable accommodation for access to the facility or proceedings by contacting the person listed **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Additional RAC information, including the meeting agenda and the meeting summary/minutes can be found at the following Web site: www.fs.usda.gov/main/stnf/workingtogether/advisorycommittees. The agenda will include time for people to make oral statements of three minutes or less. Individuals wishing to make an oral statement or presentation should request in writing by June 5th to be scheduled on the agenda of the June 18th and 19th meetings. Anyone who would like to bring related matters to the attention of the committee may file written statements with the committee staff before or after the meeting. Written comments and requests for time for oral comments must be sent to Donna Harmon, District Ranger, 3644 Avtech Parkway, Redding, California, 96002; or by email to dharmon@fs.fed.us, or via facsimile to 530-226-2486.

Meeting Accommodations: If you are a person requiring reasonable accommodation, please make requests in advance for sign language interpreting, assistive listening devices or other reasonable accommodation for access to the facility or proceedings by contacting the person listed in the section titled **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. All reasonable accommodation requests are managed on a case by case basis.

Dated: May 1, 2014.

Kathleen S. Roche,

Acting Forest Supervisor, Shasta-Trinity National Forest.

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