

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Agricultural Marketing Service**

[Doc. No. AMS-FGIS-20-0065]

United States Standards for Beans**AGENCY:** Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.**ACTION:** Notice of final action.

SUMMARY: This action is being taken under the authority of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, as amended (AMA). The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is revising the method of interpretation for the determination of "sample grade criteria" in the Bean Inspection Handbook, pertaining to the class "Blackeye beans" in the U.S. Standards for Beans. Stakeholders in the dry bean processing/handling industry requested that AMS amend the definition of *sample grade* in the Blackeye bean inspection instructions by revising the unit of measurement for the factor "Insect Webbing or Filth" (IWOFF) and removing "Clean-Cut Weevil-Bore" (CCWB) as a sample grade factor. As a result of this action Clean-Cut Weevil-Bore is considered a damage factor only.

DATES: *Applicability date:* July 1, 2021.**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Loren Almond, USDA AMS; Telephone: (816) 702-3925; Email:

Loren.L.Almond@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the authority of the AMA (7 U.S.C. 1621-1627), as amended, AMS establishes and maintains a variety of quality and grade standards for agricultural commodities that serve as a fundamental starting point to define commodity quality in the domestic and global marketplace.

Standards developed under the AMA include those for rice, whole dry peas, split peas, feed peas, lentils, and beans. The U.S. Standards for whole dry peas, split peas, feed peas, lentils and beans no longer appear in the Code of Federal Regulations, but are now maintained by USDA-AMS-Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS). The U.S. Standards for beans are voluntary and widely used in private contracts, government procurement, marketing communication, and for some commodities, consumer information.

The bean standards facilitate bean marketing and define U.S. bean quality in the domestic and global marketplace. The standards define commonly used industry terms; contain basic principles governing the application of standards, such as the type of sample used for a

particular quality analysis; provide the basis of determination; and specify grades and grade requirements. Official procedures for determining grading factors are provided in the Bean Inspection Handbook. Together, the grading standards and testing procedures allow buyers and sellers to communicate quality requirements, compare bean quality using equivalent forms of measurement, and assist in price discovery.

AMS engages in outreach with stakeholders to ensure commodity standards maintain relevance to the modern market. Bean industry stakeholders include the US Dry Bean Council (USDBC), California Dry Bean Advisory Board, California Bean Shippers Association, and Cal Bean and Grain, among others.

The United States Standards for Beans and the official inspection procedures for beans in the Bean Inspection Handbook are available on the AMS public website. The United States Standards for Beans were last revised in 2017. Currently, sample grade tolerances for IWOFF in all classes of beans are determined on a count basis of two or more beans in 1,000 grams. Also, CCWB is considered a sample grade and damage factor. This type of insect filth found in the Blackeye bean is not due to storage practices, but originates in the field, brought on by years of drought, and is the result of challenges associated with applying aerial pesticides. These elements have contributed to an increase of IWOFF (beans and pieces of beans which contain webbing, refuse, excreta, dead insects, larvae, or eggs) in the Blackeye bean crops for years. With the current sample grade factor tolerance, difficulty in meeting contract specifications is problematic. Specifically, industry stakeholders asked AMS to revise the sample grade tolerance for IWOFF and adjust CCWB to only be considered a damage factor, only in the class Blackeye beans.

Revision of Blackeye Bean Sample Grade Tolerances for Insect Webbing or Filth and Removal of Clean-Cut Weevil-Bore as a Sample Grade Factor

Stakeholders recommended AMS revise the Bean Inspection Handbook criteria for Blackeye bean sample grade tolerances of IWOFF from counts to percentages, and change CCWB from a sample grade and damage factor to a damage factor only. AMS and stakeholders worked collaboratively to redefine the tolerances for IWOFF and CCWB in Blackeye beans. Additionally, these changes were recommended to AMS by the specifically named

stakeholder organizations identified above to facilitate the current marketing practices.

Comment Review

AMS published a Notice in the **Federal Register** on September 29, 2020 (85 FR 60957), inviting interested parties to comment on the proposed revisions to the U.S. Standards for Beans. AMS received ten comments in response to the notice. Four comments strongly supported the proposed revisions; one comment was non-committal but recommended applying a similar limit to all beans; one comment posed a question on the cost efficiency for the industry; and two comments opposed the proposed revisions. AMS received two comments that were not germane to the issue. One of the opposing comments stated that the quality of Blackeye beans could be compromised by this change, leading to a possible decrease in the consumption of these beans. The other opposing comment questioned whether these changes would lead to increased fraud. AMS does not foresee a decrease in consumption due to quality concerns or hidden fraud. The demand for plant-based protein has increased the consumption of pulses throughout the United States. Buyers of Blackeye beans can specify a count limit or tighter percentage in their purchase contract. The preponderance of comments suggest AMS should proceed with the revision.

AMS believes these revisions will facilitate inspections, better reflect current marketing practices, be cost efficient, and facilitate purchasing and selling of Blackeye beans. Accordingly, AMS is making no changes to the revised Blackeye bean inspection methods as proposed. The revisions to Blackeye bean inspection are effective upon publication in the **Federal Register**. The Bean Inspection Handbook will be revised to incorporate the revisions.

Final Action

AMS-FGIS is revising the Blackeye bean inspection criteria by amending the Bean Inspection Handbook to change the sample grade tolerance for IWOFF in the Blackeye bean class only, from a count of two or more beans in 1,000 grams, to more than 0.10 percent on the basis of the representative sample as a whole, and remove CCWB as a sample grade factor.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 1621–1627.

Erin Morris,

Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 2021–13631 Filed 6–25–21; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Eastern Idaho Resource Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Eastern Idaho Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) will hold a virtual meeting by phone and/or video conference. The committee is authorized under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (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 as well as make recommendations on recreation fee proposals for sites on the Caribou-Targhee National Forest within Bannack, Bear Lake, Bonneville, Caribou, Clark, Franklin, Fremont, Madison, Oneida, and Teton County, consistent with the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act. RAC information and virtual meeting information can be found at the following website: https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/ctnf/working_together/advisorycommittees.

DATES: The meeting will be held on July 27, 2021 at 1:30 p.m., Mountain Daylight Time.

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

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held virtually via telephone and/or video conference.

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 upon request.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bill Davis, Committee Coordinator, by phone at 208–374–5422 or email at william.davis6@usda.gov.

Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the hearing-impaired (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 Daylight Time, Monday through Friday.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the meeting is to discuss a recreation fee proposal and make a recommendation for the Jensen Cabin located on the Palisades Ranger District in Bonneville County, Idaho.

The meeting is open to the public. 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 July 12, 2021, 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 Davis, P.O. Box 46, Dubois, ID 83423; or by email to william.davis6@usda.gov.

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, please contact the person listed in the section titled **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. All reasonable accommodation requests are managed on a case-by-case basis.

Dated: June 22, 2021.

Cikena Reid,

USDA Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 2021–13682 Filed 6–25–21; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Business—Cooperative Service

[Docket #RBS–21–Business–0023]

Inviting Applications for Agriculture Innovation Demonstration Center Grants

AGENCY: Rural Business—Cooperative Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of solicitation of applications.

SUMMARY: This Notice announces that the Rural Business-Cooperative Service (Agency) is accepting fiscal year (FY) 2021 applications for the Agriculture Innovation Demonstration Center (AIC) program. In FY 2021, the program has \$7,392,479 available for grant funding.

The purpose of this program is to establish and operate Agriculture Innovation Centers (Centers) that provide technical and business development assistance to agricultural producers seeking to engage in the marketing or the production of Value-Added products. Eligible applicants include nonprofit and for-profit corporations, public bodies, and institutions of higher education. Consortia are also eligible to apply, but they must select a single organization to represent the consortium as the applicant. Only the applicant organization must meet the eligibility requirements. This program supports Rural Development's (RD) mission of improving the quality of life for rural Americans and commitment to directing resources to those who most need them.

DATES: We will offer two training sessions for potential applicants approximately one month after this Notice is published. The training sessions will be similar and will be offered on different dates and at different times to accommodate applicants in different time zones. The training sessions will provide an overview of the requirements for the program and address questions posed by potential applicants. It is expected that the sessions will be offered via webinar and will have a duration of approximately two hours. Details regarding the specific dates, times, and access information will be posted at least two weeks prior to the sessions on the program's website at: <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/agriculture-innovation-center-program>. A summary will be posted on the website after the sessions are completed.

Completed applications for grants must be submitted electronically by no later than 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time, September 27, 2021, through [Grants.gov](https://www.usda.gov/grants). Late applications are not eligible for funding under this Notice and will not be evaluated.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gail Thuner, Grants Division, Cooperative Programs, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, United States Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, MS 3201, Room 5803—South, Washington, DC 20250–3250, or call 202–720–1400, or email cpgrants@wdc.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Overview

Federal Agency Name: USDA Rural Business-Cooperative Service.

Funding Opportunity Title: Agriculture Innovation Demonstration Center.