

Notices

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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

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Doc No. AMS–FGIS–21–0088]

Imaging Technology Solutions for the Inspection of Milled Rice

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice; request for proposals.

SUMMARY: The United States Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is inviting manufacturers of automated imaging instrumentation to partner in cooperative research and development efforts to determine broken kernels, whole kernels, and milling yield, in percentage by mass, in short-, medium-, and long-grain milled rice. The goal is to develop a commercially available instrument that can be used in providing official inspection results at AMS field offices and official service provider locations. Manufacturers must be willing to enter into a cooperative research and development agreement that includes mutually agreed upon roles and responsibilities, providing a suitable instrument, and providing technical expertise to facilitate the development of algorithms and/or calibrations. AMS will provide the rice samples and inspection expertise necessary to facilitate method development efforts and assess whether the instrument is fit for the intended purpose.

DATES: Proposals are due by April 18, 2022.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit proposals to: Timothy D. Norden, Chief Scientist, Technology and Science Division, Federal Grain Inspection Service, AMS, USDA at Timothy.D.Norden@usda.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Timothy D. Norden, Chief Scientist, Technology and Science Division, Federal Grain Inspection Service, AMS, USDA, 816–702–3803, Timothy.D.Norden@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the authority of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1621–1627), as amended, AMS establishes quality and grade standards, and provides inspection services for milled and rough rice. The determination of broken kernels in rice is important in the inspection and grading of rice. A broken kernel is defined as any kernel that is less than three-fourths the length of a whole kernel. For the inspection of rough rice, the whole kernel milling yield is the percentage by mass of whole kernels in the total rice after milling. The total rice includes whole and broken kernels. For the inspection of milled rice, the percentage by mass of broken kernels, expressed as percentage by mass of total rice, is an important grade-determining factor. A comprehensive information on the grading and inspection of rice, including the assessment of broken and whole kernels in milled rice, can be found in the Rice Inspection Handbook at <https://www.ams.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media/RiceHB.pdf>.

California produces the largest volume of medium grain rice for export markets. AMS official inspection locations, in California, rely on an imaging instrument for official inspection results. However, the manufacturer discontinued this imaging instrument over 10 years ago and no longer provides parts or technical support. As a result, official rice inspection, in California, could be impacted, if the instrument was to become damaged or unusable; it could

lead to an increase in time and cost for inspecting rice in the State.

AMS is inviting manufacturers of automated imaging instrumentation to partner in development efforts to determine broken kernels, whole kernels, and milling yield, in percentage by mass, in short-, medium-, and long-grain milled rice. Manufacturers must be willing to enter into a cooperative research and development agreement that includes mutually agreed upon roles and responsibilities, providing a suitable instrument, and providing technical expertise to facilitate the development of algorithms and/or calibrations. AMS will provide the rice samples and inspection expertise necessary to help develop the solution and determine if it is fit for the intended purpose. To meet official inspection requirements and be deemed fit for purpose, instruments must have the capability of providing results for short-, medium-, and long-grain milled rice, in a total sample size of 40–50 grams, with a testing time of ten minutes or less. In addition, the instrument must ultimately deliver results that are as accurate as current official inspection results.

Manufacturers must provide a proposal that includes a description of the instrument and its current capabilities for analyzing broken kernels, whole kernels, and milling yield, in percentage by mass, in milled rice as defined in the Rice Inspection Handbook. The proposal should also address each selection factor as given in Table 1. AMS intends to select the top two instruments that demonstrate the greatest potential for successful development and implementation by summing the scores for the selection factors given in Table 1. Manufacturers who submit proposals will be notified directly when the selections are finalized. Selection and agreement to participate in the cooperative research and development process does not hold any obligation to future procurement.

TABLE 1—SELECTION FACTOR SCORES

Selection factor	Score		
	1 point	2 points	3 points
Current capability for broken and whole kernels in milled rice in percentage by mass.	One rice type (<i>i.e.</i> , long-grain only).	Two rice types (<i>i.e.</i> , short- and medium-grain).	Capability for short-, medium-, and long-grain milled rice.
Total testing time	8–10 minutes	5–7 minutes	1–4 minutes.
Test sample size	25 g or greater in a single analysis.	40 g or greater in a single analysis.
Sample presentation	Dependent on user technique *	Independent of user technique *.
Ability to update algorithm and/or calibration.	Requires manufacturer cooperation and expertise.	User updateable, but requires special training and/or programming.	User updateable with user-friendly tools available.
Instrumentation	Shared cost for duration of project	Loan of one instrument for duration of project.	Loan of two instruments for duration of project.
Manufacturer development resources.	Will provide tools and training for development efforts.	Will provide expertise and resources needed with 3- to 6-week turnaround on requests.	Will provide expertise and resources needed with 1- to 2-week turnaround on requests.

* The way the sample is presented to the instrument by the operator can influence the results.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 1621–1627.

Melissa R. Bailey,

Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 2022–03180 Filed 2–14–22; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Superior Resource Advisory Committee; Meeting

AGENCY: Forest Service, Agriculture, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of virtual meeting.

SUMMARY: The Superior 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 to make recommendations on recreation fee proposals for sites on the Superior National Forest within three Counties, 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/superior/workingtogether/advisorycommittees>.

DATES: The meeting will be held on March 2, 2022, 9:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m., Central Standard 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. Members of the public may participate in the meeting by calling 1–202–650–0123 and use access code 234369808#.

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: Mike Crotteau, Designated Federal Officer (DFO), by phone at (218) 387–3205 or email at michael.crotteau@usda.gov or Cathy Quinn, RAC Coordinator, at (218) 387–3240 or email at cathleen.quinn@usda.gov.

Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the deaf/hard-of-hearing (TDD) may call the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1–800–877–8339, 24 hours a day, every day of the year, including holidays.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the meeting is to:

1. Welcome and Introduction of Superior RAC Members;
2. Overview of SRS Funds and Role of Superior RAC;
3. Election of Superior RAC Chair and Vice Chair;
4. Schedule the next meeting; and
5. Question and Answer Session.

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 make a request in writing by February 16, 2022, 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 Cathy Quinn, 2020 West Highway 61, Grand Marais, MN 55604; or by email to cathleen.quinn@usda.gov.

Meeting Accommodations: Please make requests in advance for sign language interpreter services, assistive listening devices, or other reasonable accommodation. For access to 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.

Equal opportunity practices, in line with USDA policies, will be followed in all membership appointments to the RAC. To help ensure that recommendations of the RAC have taken into account the needs of the diverse groups served by the Department, membership shall include, to the extent practicable, individuals with demonstrated ability to represent minorities, women, and persons with disabilities.

The USDA prohibits discrimination in all of its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, political beliefs, income derived from a public assistance