

and further payment limitations under alternative approaches. The Commission requests that commentors identify the approaches they are assessing along with analytical methods and data employed to reach their conclusions.

2. The feasibility of improving the application and effectiveness of payment limitations, including the use of commodity certificates and the unlimited forfeiture of loan collateral. Payment limits currently involve complex determinations by the Farm Service Agency on the eligibility of persons for payments. Compliance with payment limitation provisions may involve extensive documentation of business organization and other information. It appears that the payment limit program results in a range of costs on producers and the government. The Commission seeks comments on the feasibility of improving the administration of payment limitations and reducing these costs. Questions have also been raised regarding the effectiveness of payment limitations. One measure of effectiveness is the degree to which payment limitations reduce payments that otherwise would be made. Some estimates suggest the amount of payments not made to producers participating in farm programs as a result of payment limitations is relatively small compared with the level of payments that are made. Other measures of effectiveness may be appropriate to assess, including possible impacts on the structure and size of farms. The Commission seeks comments on the effectiveness of payment limitations and the feasibility of making payment limits more effective in cost-efficient ways.

3. The expected response of farmers and ranchers if payment limitations become more stringent. For example, would affected producers increase or reduce farm size? Would producers shift production to alternative commodities? Would producers change the legal organization of their businesses? Some commentors may be able to poll producers on how they might react to alternative approaches to tightening payment limitations. If so, the Commission requests information on the types and locations of farms surveyed.

4. Any other information relevant to the study objectives of the Commission.

Regulatory Findings

This notice is being issued to obtain public comment regarding issues associated with the study of the Commission on the Application of Payment Limitations for Agriculture.

There are no regulatory findings associated with this notice.

Signed in Washington, DC, on February 13, 2003.

Keith Collins,

Chairman, Commission on the Application of Payment Limitations for Agriculture.

[FR Doc. 03-4082 Filed 2-19-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-05-U

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Doc. No. FV-03-328]

United States Standards for Grades of Frozen Celery

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) of the Department of Agriculture (USDA) is soliciting comments on its proposal to create new United States Standards for Grades of Frozen Celery. USDA received a petition from a grower and a processor of celery to create grade standards for frozen celery that will include a description of the product, style, sample unit size, grades, ascertaining the grade by sample, and ascertaining the grade by lot. The proposed standard is intended to provide a common language for trade, and a means of measuring value in the marketing of frozen celery.

DATES: Comments may be submitted on or before April 21, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Written comments may be submitted to: Karen L. Kaufman, Processed Products Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, STOP 0247, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, D.C. 20250-0247; fax (202) 690-1087; or e-mail karen.kaufman@usda.gov.

Comments should reference the date and page of this issue of the **Federal Register**. All comments received will be made available for public inspection at the address listed above during regular business hours and on the Internet.

The draft of the United States Standards for Grades of Frozen Celery are available either through the address cited above or by accessing AMS's Home Page on the Internet at: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/fv/ppbdocketlist.htm>. Any comments received regarding this proposed standard will also be posted on that site.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Karen L. Kaufman at (202) 720-5021 or e-mail at karen.kaufman@usda.gov.

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 and makes copies of official standards available upon request. The United States Standards for Grades of Fruits and Vegetables are maintained by USDA/AMS/Fruit and Vegetable Programs and may be obtained by writing to the above address or on the internet at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/standards/standpfv.htm>.

AMS is proposing to establish the U.S. Standards for Grades of Frozen Celery using the procedures that appear in Part 36 of Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations (7 CFR Part 36).

Proposed by the Petitioner

The petitioner, a grower and a processor of celery, requested that USDA develop a standard for frozen celery to be used by the industry. The petitioner provided information on style, sample size and description to AMS to develop the standard. AMS visited the petitioner's facility to collect information on grades of frozen celery and how to ascertain the grade of a sample and of a lot.

AMS prepared a discussion draft of the frozen celery standard, and distributed copies for input to the petitioner, the American Frozen Food Institute (AFFI), and the National Food Processors Association (NFPA). Input from the above groups was used to develop the proposed standard.

Proposed by Fruit and Vegetable Programs, AMS

A notice proposing to create new United States Standards for Grades of Frozen Celery based on the petition was published in the May 2, 2001, **Federal Register** (66 FR 21908). AMS received four comments in response to the notice. All of the responses but one were generally in favor of the new standard. These comments are available by accessing AMS's Home Page on the Internet at: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/fv/ppb.html>.

One commentor did not see the need for a standard for frozen celery and felt

the standard was too subjective. The other commentors were in favor of a standard for frozen celery and proposed changes to the Table I-Allowances For Defects In Frozen Celery for grade "A" and "B," "sliced" and "diced" styles. These changes included a reduction in the sample size for Table I from a maximum-per 500 grams to maximum-per 283 grams for a 10-ounce portion, a separate allowance for seriously blemished units from blemished units, decrease the number of leaf material larger than a 1/4" from "20 pieces" to "10 pieces," change mechanical damage from "no more than 3 pieces" to "no more than 3% by weight" and for insect damaged change from "none" to "0.5%."

Based on these comments, AMS has revised the proposed standard for grades of frozen celery. AMS is proposing to establish the U.S. Standards for Grades of Frozen Celery following the standard format for U.S. Grade Standards. AMS is proposing to define "frozen celery" and establish "sliced" and "diced" as the style designations. The proposal will also define the quality factors that affect frozen celery and determine sample unit sizes for this commodity.

This proposal will establish the grade levels "A," "B" and "Substandard" and assign the corresponding score points for each level. The proposed tolerance for each quality factor as defined for each grade level will be established.

The grade of a sample unit of frozen celery will be ascertained by considering the factors of varietal characteristics flavor and odor, which are not scored; the ratings for the factors of color, defects, and character, which are scored; the total score; and the limiting rules which apply. This proposal will provide a common language for trade, a means of measuring value in the marketing of frozen celery, and provide guidance in the effective utilization of frozen celery. The official grade of a lot of frozen celery covered by these standards will be determined by the procedures set forth in the Regulations Governing Inspection and Certification of Processed Products Thereof, and Certain Other Processed Food Products (§ 52.1 to 52.83).

This notice provides for a 60 day comment period for interested parties to comment on changes to the standards.

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

Dated: February 13, 2003.

A.J. Yates,

Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 03-4081 Filed 2-19-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-U

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Siskiyou County Resource Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Siskiyou County Resource Advisory Committee will meet in Yreka, California, February 24, 2003. The meeting will include routine business including outreach to the public, conflict of interest, and a presentation on USFS Fire Fuels Management activities.

DATES: The meeting will be held February 24, 2003 from 4 p.m. until 6:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Yreka High School Library, Preece Way, Yreka, California.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Don Hall, RAC Coordinator, Klamath National Forest, (530) 841-4468 or electronically at donaldhall@fs.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting is open to the public. Public comment opportunity will be provided and individuals will have the opportunity to address the Committee at that time.

Dated: February 11, 2003.

Margaret J. Boland,

Designated Federal Official.

[FR Doc. 03-4025 Filed 2-19-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Determining Fees for Recreation Residences Permits During the Transition Period of the Cabin User Fee Fairness Act of 2000

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of issuance of interim directive.

SUMMARY: The Forest Service is issuing an interim directive to provide direction to Forest Service employees for assessing fees for recreation residence special use permits pursuant to the Cabin User Fee Fairness Act of 2000. The direction in this interim directive applies during the transition period as provided by section 614 of the act until the agency adopts final rules, directives, and appraisal guidelines. This interim directive is issued as ID 2709.11-2003-1 to Forest Service Handbook 2709.11, chapter 30.

DATES: This interim directive is effective February 20, 2003.

ADDRESSES: This interim directive (ID 2709.11-2003-1) is available electronically from the Forest Service via the World Wide Web/Internet at <http://www.fs.fed.us/im/directives>. Single paper copies of the interim directive also are available by contacting Randy Karstaedt, Forest Service, USDA, Lands Staff (Mail Stop 1124), 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-1124 (telephone 202-205-1256).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Randy Karstaedt, Lands Staff (202-205-1256), Forest Service, USDA.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Forest Service is currently developing proposed regulations, directives, and appraisal guidelines in response to the requirements of the Cabin User Fee Fairness Act of 2000 (CUFFA). The agency will publish notice of these documents in the **Federal Register** at a later date for public comment. Until final regulations, directives, and appraisal guidelines are adopted, the Forest Service will determine recreation residence fees and manage recreation residence permits during the transition period consistent with (1) the provisions in section 614 of CUFFA, (2) current agency directives applicable to the administration of permits and assessment of fees for recreation residences, and (3) the direction contained in interim directive (ID) 2709.11-2003-1 issued to Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 2709.11, chapter 30.

Dated: February 12, 2003.

Dale N. Bosworth,

Chief.

[FR Doc. 03-4098 Filed 2-19-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

National Agricultural Statistics Service

Notice of the Advisory Committee on Agriculture Statistics Meeting

AGENCY: National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. 2, the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) announces a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Agriculture Statistics.

DATES: The Advisory committee meeting will take place on February 24, 2003, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.