

These comments can be accessed at: <https://www.regulations.gov/docketBrowser?rpp=50&so=DESC&sb=postedDate&po=0&dct=PS&D=AMS-LPS-16-0060>.

The amendments to the beef standards are described below:

### United States Standards for Grades of Carcass Beef

#### 54.104—Application of Standards for Grades of Carcass Beef

1. Amend 54.104 by revising paragraph (k) to read as follows:

(k) For steer, heifer, and cow beef, quality of the lean is evaluated by considering its marbling, color, and firmness as observed in a cut surface, in relation to carcass evidences of maturity. The maturity of the carcass is determined through one of three methods:

(1) Dentition as monitored by the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS). Carcasses determined to be less than 30 months of age (MOA) will be classified as A-maturity, and with the exception of dark cutting lean characteristics, the final quality grade will be determined by the degree of marbling. Any carcasses under 30 MOA exhibiting advanced skeletal maturity traits (as described for D- and E-maturity) will not be eligible for the Prime, Choice, Select, or Standard grades and will be graded according to their skeletal, lean, and marbling traits accordingly;

(2) Documentation of age as verified through USDA-approved programs and by FSIS at the slaughter facility. Carcasses determined to be less than 30 MOA by age verification will be classified as A-maturity and, with the exception of dark cutting lean characteristics, the final quality grade will be determined by the degree of marbling. Any carcasses under 30 MOA exhibiting advanced skeletal maturity traits (as described for D- and E-maturity) will not be eligible for the Prime, Choice, Select, or Standard grades and will be graded according to their skeletal, lean, and marbling traits accordingly; or

(3) Through evaluation of the size, shape, and ossification of the bones and cartilages, especially the split chine bones, and the color and texture of the lean flesh. Carcasses determined to be greater than 30 MOA will be eligible for all quality grade classifications with the final quality grade being determined by the evaluation of the degree of marbling and any adjustment factors based on advanced skeletal maturity characteristics. In the split chine bones, ossification changes occur at an earlier

stage of maturity in the posterior portion of the vertebral column (sacral vertebrae) and at progressively later stages of maturity in the lumbar and thoracic vertebrae. The ossification changes that occur in the cartilages on the ends of the split thoracic vertebrae are especially useful in evaluating maturity and these vertebrae are referred to frequently in the standards. Unless otherwise specified in the standards, whenever reference is made to the ossification of cartilages on the thoracic vertebrae, it shall be construed to refer to the cartilages attached to the thoracic vertebrae at the posterior end of the forequarter. The size and shape of the rib bones are also important considerations in evaluating differences in maturity. In the very youngest carcasses considered as "beef," the cartilages on the ends of the chine bones show no ossification, cartilage is evident on all of the vertebrae of the spinal column, and the sacral vertebrae show distinct separation. In addition, the split vertebrae usually are soft and porous and very red in color. In such carcasses, the rib bones have only a slight tendency toward flatness. In progressively more mature carcasses, ossification changes become evident first in the bones and cartilages of the sacral vertebrae, then in the lumbar vertebrae, and still later in the thoracic vertebrae. In beef that is very advanced in maturity, all the split vertebrae will be devoid of red color and very hard and flinty, and the cartilages on the ends of all the vertebrae will be entirely ossified. Likewise, with advancing maturity, the rib bones will become progressively wider and flatter, which is shown in very mature beef whose ribs will be very wide and flat.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Authority:** 7 U.S.C. 1621–1627.

Dated: December 1, 2017.

**Bruce Summers,**

*Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.*

[FR Doc. 2017–26273 Filed 12–5–17; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410–02–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Rural Utilities Service

#### Publication of Depreciation Rates

**AGENCY:** Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of Depreciation Rates for Telecommunications Plant.

**SUMMARY:** The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Utilities Service (RUS) administers rural utilities programs, including the

Telecommunications Program. RUS announces the depreciation rates for telecommunications plant for the period ending December 31, 2016.

**DATES:** These rates are effective immediately and will remain in effect until rates are available for the period ending December 31, 2017.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Chad Parker, Assistant Administrator, Telecommunications Program, Rural Utilities Service, STOP 1590—Room 5151, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250–1590. Telephone: (202) 720–9556.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In 7 CFR part 1737, Pre-Loan Policies and Procedures Common to Insured and Guaranteed Telecommunications Loans, § 1737.70(e) explains the depreciation rates that are used by RUS in its feasibility studies. Section 1737.70(e)(2) refers to median depreciation rates published by RUS for all borrowers. The following chart provides those rates, compiled by RUS, for the reporting period ending December 31, 2016:

#### MEDIAN DEPRECIATION RATES OF RURAL UTILITIES SERVICE BORROWERS BY EQUIPMENT CATEGORY FOR PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2016

| Telecommunications plant category            | Depreciation rate |
|--|-------------------|
| 1. Land and Support Assets:                  |                   |
| a. Motor vehicles .....                      | 16.67             |
| b. Aircraft .....                            | 11.70             |
| c. Special purpose vehicles .....            | 12.50             |
| d. Garage and other work equipment .....     | 10.00             |
| e. Buildings .....                           | 3.30              |
| f. Furniture and office equipment .....      | 10.00             |
| g. General purpose computers .....           | 20.00             |
| 2. Central Office Switching:                 |                   |
| a. Digital .....                             | 9.44              |
| b. Analog & Electro-mechanical .....         | 10.00             |
| c. Operator Systems .....                    | 9.55              |
| 3. Central Office Transmission:              |                   |
| a. Radio Systems .....                       | 10.00             |
| b. Circuit equipment .....                   | 10.00             |
| 4. Information origination/termination:      |                   |
| a. Station apparatus .....                   | 11.90             |
| b. Customer premises wiring .....            | 10.30             |
| c. Large private branch exchanges .....      | 10.96             |
| d. Public telephone terminal equipment ..... | 11.78             |
| e. Other terminal equipment .....            | 10.20             |
| 5. Cable and wire facilities:                |                   |
| a. Aerial cable—poles .....                  | 6.00              |
| b. Aerial cable—metal .....                  | 6.00              |

**MEDIAN DEPRECIATION RATES OF RURAL UTILITIES SERVICE BORROWERS BY EQUIPMENT CATEGORY FOR PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2016—Continued**

| Telecommunications plant category | Depreciation rate |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| c. Aerial cable—fiber .....       | 5.10              |
| d. Underground cable—metal .....  | 5.00              |
| e. Underground cable—fiber .....  | 5.00              |
| f. Buried cable—metal .....       | 5.15              |
| g. Buried cable—fiber .....       | 5.00              |
| h. Conduit systems .....          | 4.00              |
| i. Other .....                    | 5.00              |

Dated: November 7, 2017.

**Christopher A. McLean,**

*Acting Administrator, Rural Utilities Service.*

[FR Doc. 2017-26272 Filed 12-5-17; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE P**

**COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS**

**Notice of Public Meeting of the New Mexico Advisory Committee**

**AGENCY:** U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

**ACTION:** Announcement of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights (Commission) and the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) that a meeting of the New Mexico Advisory Committee (Committee) to the Commission will be held at 3:00 p.m. (Mountain Time) Wednesday, December 13, 2017. The purpose of the meeting is for the Committee to discuss a draft report on elder abuse issues in the state.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 13, 2017, at 3:00 p.m. MT

*Public Call Information:*

*Dial: 877 857-6150.*

*Conference ID: 9867913.*

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Angelica Trevino at [atrevino@usccr.gov](mailto:atrevino@usccr.gov) or (213) 894-3437.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This meeting is available to the public through the following toll-free call-in number: 877 857-6150, conference ID number: 9867913. Any interested member of the public may call this number and listen to the meeting. Callers can expect to incur charges for calls they initiate over wireless lines, and the Commission will not refund any incurred charges. Callers will incur no charge for calls they initiate over land-

line connections to the toll-free telephone number. Persons with hearing impairments may also follow the proceedings by first calling the Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339 and providing the Service with the conference call number and conference ID number.

Members of the public are entitled to make comments during the open period at the end of the meeting. Members of the public may also submit written comments; the comments must be received in the Regional Programs Unit within 30 days following the meeting. Written comments may be mailed to the Western Regional Office, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, 300 North Los Angeles Street, Suite 2010, Los Angeles, CA 90012. They may be faxed to the Commission at (213) 894-0508, or emailed Angelica Trevino at [atrevino@usccr.gov](mailto:atrevino@usccr.gov). Persons who desire additional information may contact the Regional Programs Unit at (213) 894-3437.

Records and documents discussed during the meeting will be available for public viewing prior to and after the meeting at <https://facadatabase.gov/committee/meetings.aspx?cid=264>. Please click on the "Meeting Details" and "Documents" links. Records generated from this meeting may also be inspected and reproduced at the Regional Programs Unit, as they become available, both before and after the meeting. Persons interested in the work of this Committee are directed to the Commission's Web site, <http://www.usccr.gov>, or may contact the Regional Programs Unit at the above email or street address.

**Agenda**

- I. Welcome
- II. Committee to Vote on Elder Abuse Report
- III. Public Comment
- IV. Adjournment

Dated: November 30, 2017.

**David Mussatt,**

*Supervisory Chief, Regional Programs Unit.*

[FR Doc. 2017-26249 Filed 12-5-17; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE P**

**COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS**

**Notice of Public Meeting of the Minnesota Advisory Committee**

**AGENCY:** U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

**ACTION:** Announcement of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights (Commission) and the

Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) that a meeting of the Minnesota Advisory Committee (Committee) to the Commission will be held from 12:00-1:00 p.m. CST Friday December 15, 2017. The purpose of the meeting is for the Committee to discuss completion of and reporting on their 2017 study of civil rights and policing practices in the State.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on Friday, December 15, 2017, from 12:00-1:00 p.m. CST.

**ADDRESSES:** Public call information: Dial: 877-397-0298; Conference ID: 2837423.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Carolyn Allen at [callen@usccr.gov](mailto:callen@usccr.gov) or (312) 353-8311.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This meeting is available to the public through the following toll-free call-in number: 877-397-0298, conference ID number: 2837423. Any interested member of the public may call this number and listen to the meeting. Callers can expect to incur charges for calls they initiate over wireless lines, and the Commission will not refund any incurred charges. Callers will incur no charge for calls they initiate over land-line connections to the toll-free telephone number. Persons with hearing impairments may also follow the proceedings by first calling the Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339 and providing the Service with the conference call number and conference ID number.

Members of the public are entitled to make comments during the open period at the end of the meeting. Members of the public may also submit written comments; the comments must be received in the Regional Programs Unit within 30 days following the meeting. Written comments may be mailed to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, Regional Programs Unit, 55 West Monroe Street, Suite 410, Chicago, IL 60603. They may be faxed to the Commission at (312) 353-8324, or emailed Carolyn Allen at [callen@usccr.gov](mailto:callen@usccr.gov). Persons who desire additional information may contact the Regional Programs Unit at (312) 353-8311.

Records and documents discussed during the meeting will be available for public viewing prior to and after the meeting at <https://facadatabase.gov/committee/meetings.aspx?cid=256>. Please click on the "Meeting Details" and "Documents" links to download. Records generated from this meeting may also be inspected and reproduced at the Regional Programs Unit, as they become available, both before and after