



AMS Tribal Listening Session September 12, 2019
Additional information

1) Milk Donation and Reimbursement Program Updates

- This rule establishes the Milk Donation Reimbursement Program. Under the program, eligible dairy organizations that account to a Federal milk marketing order marketwide pool and incur qualified expenses related to certain fluid milk product donations may apply for and receive limited reimbursements to cover those expenses. A provision of the 2018 Farm Bill requires establishment of this program. The program is intended to reduce food waste and provide nutrition assistance to individuals in low-income groups.
- Contact: Emily DeBord, Marketing Specialist, AMS Dairy Program, email: mdrp@usda.gov, (202) 720-5567

2) USDA Fruit and Vegetable Industry Advisory Committee Nominations

- FVIAC website: <https://www.ams.usda.gov/about-ams/facas-advisory-councils/fviac>
- FVIAC Fact Sheet is attached to this email
- Contact: Darrell Hughes, DarrellA.Hughes@usda.gov, (202) 378-2576

3) Plant Variety Protection (PVP) Regulation Updates

- Information regarding updates to the US Plant Variety Protection Regulations as result of the 2018 Farm Bill, which amended the Plant Variety Protection Act to include intellectual property rights protection for asexually reproduced varieties. PVPO web address: www.ams.usda.gov/pvpo
- Contact: Jeffery Haynes, Acting Commissioner, Plant Variety Protection Office, jeffery.haynes@usda.gov

4) Seed Regulatory and Testing Division (SRTD) Updates

- The Federal Seed Act is a truth-in-labeling law that regulates agricultural and vegetable seed used for food, feed, fiber, and turf. SRTD is currently in the final stages of updating the Federal Seed Act (FSA) regulations. An update is necessary to harmonize the FSA regulations with current industry practices and new technologies that have changed the way seed is marketed in domestic and international markets. The objective of the FSA regulation revision is to re to facilitate enforcement of the truth in labeling provisions of the law while creating less burden on companies marketing seed. The current version of the Federal Seed Act can be found on the USDA AMS website at <https://www.ams.usda.gov/rules-regulations/fsa>.
- Contact: Chi Trinh, lan-chin.trinh@usda.gov

5) AgTransport Data Portal

- This website is a continually growing catalog of publicly available agricultural transportation datasets, visualizations, stories and more!
<https://agtransport.usda.gov/stories/s/tzmp-vzq4>
- Contact: Transportation Services Division (202)720-0194

6) RMA/GAP Funding in 16 States

- RMA-AMS Harmonized GAP Assistance is a joint effort by USDA Risk Management Agency (RMA) and USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) to increase market access for fruit and vegetable

producers by helping them pay for buyer-required food safety certifications.

<https://www.ams.usda.gov/publications/content/rma-ams-harmonized-gap-assistance-qa>

- Harmonized GAP Handbook
https://www.carolinafarmstewards.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/HGAPmanual_v09-web-printable.pdf
- Additional Grant Resource:
<https://www.ams.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media/AMSGrantOpportunitiesFactsheet.pdf>
- Contact: SCAudits@ams.usda.gov, (202) 720-5021

7) Hemp Production Program Updates

- For more information, visit the [Hemp Production](#) page on the AMS website. Please send questions or request for information to farbill.hemp@usda.gov.