

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

[Docket Number FV-04-307]

United States Standards for Grades of Cucumbers

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), prior to undertaking research and other work associated with revising official grade standards, is soliciting comments on the possible revisions to the United States Standards for Grades of Cucumbers. At a 2003 meeting with the Fruit and Vegetable Industry Advisory Committee, AMS was asked to review all the fresh fruit and vegetable grade standards for usefulness in serving the industry. As a result, AMS has identified industry terms such as Super Select, Select, Small, Large and Plain for possible inclusion into the standards. Additionally, AMS is seeking comments regarding any other revisions of the cucumber grade standards that may be necessary to better serve the industry.

DATES: Comments must be received by August 24, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments to the Standardization Section, Fresh Products Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Room 1661 South Building, Stop 0240, Washington, DC 20250-0240; Fax (202) 720-8871, e-mail

FPB.DocketClerk@usda.gov or comments may be sent electronically to the Federal eRulemaking portal at <http://www.regulations.gov>. Comments should make reference to the dates and page number of this issue of the **Federal Register** and will be made available for

public inspection in the above office during regular business hours. The United States Standards for Grades of Cucumbers are available either through the address cited above or by accessing the Fresh Products Branch Web site at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/standards/stanfrfv/htm>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

David L. Priester, at the above address or call (202) 720-2185; e-mail *David.Priester@usda.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

At a 2003 meeting with the Fruit and Vegetable Industry Advisory Committee, AMS was asked to review all the fresh fruit and vegetable grade standards for usefulness in serving the industry. AMS has identified the United States Standards for Grades of Cucumbers for a possible revision. These standards were last revised in 1958. As a result, AMS has identified industry terms such as Super Select, Select, Small, Large and Plain for possible inclusion into the standards. These terms are used by the industry in the marketing of cucumbers in a number of ways; some members of the industry use these terms to refer specifically to size of cucumbers in a container, while others use these terms as part of a grading system. Therefore, these terms would need to be standardized for inclusion into the U.S. standards. However, prior to undertaking detailed work to develop proposed revisions to the standards, AMS is soliciting comments on the possible revision to the standards and the probable impact on distributors, processors, and growers. Additionally, AMS is seeking comments regarding any other revisions that may be necessary to better serve the industry.

Accordingly, AMS is soliciting comments on the possible revisions to the United States Standards for Grades of Cucumbers.

This notice provides for a 60-day comment period for interested parties to comment on changes to the standards. Should AMS conclude that there is a need for the revisions of the standards, the proposed revisions will be published in the **Federal Register** with a request for comments in accordance with 7 CFR part 36.

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

Dated: June 22, 2004.

Kenneth C. Clayton,

Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 04-14545 Filed 6-24-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Docket Number FV-04-309]

United States Standards for Grades of Persian (Tahiti) Limes

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), prior to undertaking research and other work associated with revising an official grade standard, is soliciting comments on a possible revision to revise the United States Standards for Grades of Persian (Tahiti) Limes. At a meeting in 2003 of the Fruit and Vegetable Industry Advisory Committee, AMS was asked to review all the fresh fruit and vegetable grade standards for usefulness in serving the industry and identify commodities that may be better served if the grade standards were revised. As a result, AMS has noted that the color, as well as the juice content requirements in the lime grade standards are complex and difficult to apply. Additionally, AMS is seeking comments regarding any other revisions of the grade standards that may be necessary to better serve industry.

DATES: Comments must be received by August 24, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments to the Standardization Section, Fresh Products Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Room 1661 South Building, Stop 0240, Washington, DC 20250-0240, fax (202) 720-8871, e-mail

FPB.DocketClerk@usda.gov or comments may be sent electronically to the Federal eRulemaking portal at <http://www.regulations.gov>. Comments should make reference to the dates and page number of this issue of the **Federal Register** and will be made available for

public inspection in the above office during regular business hours. The United States Standards for Grades of Persian (Tahiti) Limes are available either through the address cited above or by accessing the Fresh Products Branch Web site at: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/standards/stanfrfv.htm>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

David L. Priester, at the above address or call (202) 720-2185, e-mail David.Priester@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

At a meeting in 2003 of the Fruit and Vegetable Industry Advisory Committee, AMS was asked to review all the fresh fruit and vegetable grade standards for usefulness in serving the industry and to identify commodities that may be better served if the grade standards were revised. AMS has identified the U.S. Standards for Grades of Persian (Tahiti) Limes for possible revision. The current grade standards were last revised in 1958. AMS identified the color requirements in all the U.S. lime grades as being complex, and the juice content requirement of the U.S. No. 1 grade as being difficult to apply. There are color requirements for U.S. No. 1 and U.S. No. 2 grades, requiring three-fourths and one-half of the surface good green color respectively. The U.S. No. 1 grade, U.S. No. 2 grade and U.S. Combination grades may be further qualified to describe the color by adding the terms "Turning" or "Mixed Color" after the grade, i.e., "U.S. No. 2 Mixed Color."

The U.S. No. 1 grade requires a juice content of not less than 42 percent by volume of the limes. To determine juice content it is necessary to measure the volume of a sample, then squeeze the juice from the sample and calculate the percentage of juice in the sample.

Both the color and juice content requirements have been in the grade standards for years, however, they are complex and cumbersome to determine. Therefore, AMS believes that changing these requirements is warranted to better serve the industry. However, prior to undertaking detailed work to develop the proposed standards for Persian (Tahiti) Limes, AMS is soliciting comments on the possible revision of the standards for grades of Persian (Tahiti) Limes and the probable impact on distributors, processors, and growers. Additionally, AMS is seeking comments regarding any other revisions that may be necessary to better serve the industry.

This notice provides for a 60-day comment period for interested parties to comment on the revision of the

standards. Should AMS conclude that there is a need for the revision of the standards, the proposed revision will be published in the **Federal Register** with a request for comments in accordance with 7 CFR part 36.

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

Dated: June 22, 2004.

Kenneth C. Clayton,

Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 04-14544 Filed 6-24-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 04-041-1]

Availability of Environmental Assessment for Field Test of Genetically Engineered Organisms

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: We are advising the public that the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has prepared an environmental assessment for a confined field of corn plants genetically engineered to express the protein trypsinogen. This environmental assessment is available for public review and comment.

DATES: We will consider all comments we receive on or before July 26, 2004.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

- *Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery:*

Please send four copies of your comment (an original and three copies) to Docket No. 04-041-1, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238. Please state that your comment refers to Docket No. 04-041-1.

- *E-mail:* Address your comment to regulations@aphis.usda.gov. Your comment must be contained in the body of your message; do not send attached files. Please include your name and address in your message and "Docket No. 04-041-1" on the subject line.

- *Agency Web site:* Go to <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppd/rad/cominst.html> for a form you can use to submit an e-mail comment through the APHIS Web site.

Reading Room: You may read the environmental assessment and any comments that we receive in our reading room. The reading room is located in room 1141 of the USDA

South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC. Normal reading room hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. To be sure someone is there to help you, please call (202) 690-2817 before coming.

Other Information: You may view APHIS documents published in the **Federal Register** and related information, including the names of groups and individuals who have commented on APHIS dockets, on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppd/rad/webrepor.html>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Michael Wach, BRS, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 147, Riverdale, MD 20737-1236; (301) 734-0485. To obtain a copy of the environmental assessment, contact Ms. Kay Peterson at (301) 734-4885; e-mail:

Kay.Peterson@aphis.usda.gov. The environmental assessment is also available on the Internet at http://www.aphis.usda.gov/brs/aphisdocs/04_11402r_ea.pdf.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The regulations in 7 CFR part 340, "Introduction of Organisms and Products Altered or Produced Through Genetic Engineering Which Are Plant Pests or Which There Is Reason to Believe Are Plant Pests," regulate, among other things, the introduction (importation, interstate movement, or release into the environment) of organisms and products altered or produced through genetic engineering that are plant pests or that there is reason to believe are plant pests. Such genetically engineered organisms and products are considered "regulated articles." A permit must be obtained or a notification acknowledged before a regulated article may be introduced into the United States. The regulations set forth the permit application requirements and the notification procedures for the importation, interstate movement, and release into the environment of a regulated article.

On April 23, 2004, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) received a permit application (APHIS No. 04-114-02r) from ProdiGene, Inc., College Station, TX, for a permit for a confined field test of corn (*Zea mays* L.) plants genetically engineered to express a gene coding for the enzyme trypsinogen. The field test is to be conducted in Frio County, TX. The subject corn plants have been genetically engineered to express a trypsinogen amino acid sequence that is identical to bovine (*Bos taurus* L.) trypsin precursor. The subject corn