

and makes copies of official standards available upon request. The United States Standards for Grades of Fruits and Vegetables not connected with Federal Marketing Orders or U.S. Import Requirements, no longer appear in the Code of Federal Regulations, but are maintained by USDA, AMS, Fruit and Vegetable Programs.

AMS is proposing to revise the United States Standards for Grades of Pineapples using the procedures that appear in Part 36, Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations (7 CFR part 36). These standards were last revised July 5, 1990.

Background

On September 21, 2006, AMS published a notice in the **Federal Register** (71 FR 55160) soliciting comments for the possible revision of the United States Standards for Pineapples. In response to this notice, AMS received two comments supporting the proposed revision. The comments are available by accessing the AMS, Fresh Products Branch Web site at: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/fv/fpbdoctlist.htm> as well as <http://www.regulations.gov>.

One comment was from a pineapple producer and the second comment was from a trade association representing wholesale receivers.

The first commenter supported changing the tables in the tolerance section to numerical tolerances. They also suggested revising the "Definitions" and "Classification of Defects" sections of the standard, which they felt would make pineapple inspections more representative of the new hybrid clones. In order to account for new varieties and/or hybrids, AMS continuously updates all of its inspection handbooks, and believes that revising the pineapple inspection handbook to include definitions and classification of certain defects, would allow for new hybrids/varieties to be represented as they are produced and introduced into the marketing chain. Therefore, AMS will review the commenter's suggestions and address any needed revisions in future handbook updates and not in this action.

The second commenter also felt the proposed revision would be beneficial to the industry. The commenter also submitted the following tolerances which they felt would be appropriate for pineapples: Shipping Point: Total Defects 8 percent, Serious Damage 4 percent, Decay 1/2 of 1 percent. En Route or At Destination: Total Defects 12 percent, Permanent Defects 8 percent, Serious Damage 6 percent, Decay 2

percent. After reviewing the commenter's proposed tolerances, it was determined that the proposed shipping point decay tolerance was too restrictive and taking into account current marketing practices not practicable to achieve required level of quality compared to the current tables in the standards. Therefore, AMS has modified the commenter's proposed language and tolerances in reference to the shipping point decay tolerance. The following language and tolerances are being proposed:

Tolerances: In order to allow for variations incident to proper grading and handling in each of the foregoing grades, the following tolerances, by count are provided as specified: U.S. Fancy and U.S. No. 1 Shipping Point: 8 percent for fruit which fails to meet the requirements of the specified grade: Provided, that included in this amount not more than the following percentages shall be allowed for the defects listed: 4 percent for defects causing serious damage, including in the later amount not more than 1 percent for decay. En Route or At Destination: 12 percent for fruit which fails to meet the requirements of the specified grade: Provided, that included in this amount not more than the following percentages shall be allowed for the defects listed: 8 percent for permanent defects; 6 percent for defects causing serious damage; including therein not more than 4 percent for serious damage by permanent defects and not more than 2 percent decay. U.S. No. 2 Shipping Point: 8 percent for fruit which fails to meet the requirements of the specified grade: Provided, that included in this amount not more than the following percentages shall be allowed for the defects listed: 8 percent for permanent defects; and not more than 2 percent for decay.

Application of Tolerances: Individual samples shall have not more than double a specified tolerance except that at least two defective specimens may be permitted in any container: *Provided*, That no more than one specimen affected by decay be permitted in any container, and provided further, that the averages for the entire lot are within the tolerances specified for the grades.

AMS is soliciting comments on the proposed revision to the U.S. Standards for Grades of Pineapples. The official grades of pineapples covered by these standards are determined by the procedures set forth in the Regulations Governing Inspection, Certification, and

Standards of Fresh Fruits, Vegetables and Other Products (7 CFR 51.1 to 51.61).

This notice provides for a 60-day comment period for interested parties to comment on changes to the standards. AMS is seeking comments regarding how marketing of pineapples will be effected with this revision.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 1621—1627.

Dated: August 9, 2007.

Lloyd C. Day,

Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. E7-15951 Filed 8-14-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Meeting of the Land Between The Lakes Advisory Board

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Meeting.

SUMMARY: The Land Between The Lakes Advisory Board will hold a meeting on Thursday, September 6, 2007. Notice of this meeting is given under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App.2.

The meeting agenda includes the following:

- (1) Welcome/Introductions.
- (2) Presentation on Environmental Education.
- (3) Group Discussion on *Last Child in the Woods*, a book by Richard Louv.
- (4) Review of the draft

Recommendation on Strategic Plan for Environmental Education at Land Between The Lakes.

The meeting is open to the public. Written comments are invited and may be mailed to: William P. Lisowsky, Area Supervisor, Land Between The Lakes, 100 Van Morgan Drive, Golden Pond, Kentucky 42211. Written comments must be received at Land Between The Lakes by August 30, 2007, in order for copies to be provided to the members at the meeting. Board members will review written comments received, and at their request, oral clarification may be requested at a future meeting.

DATES: The meeting will be held on September 6, 2007, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., CDT.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Land Between The Lakes Administrative Building, Golden Pond, Kentucky, and will be open to the public.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sharon Byers, Advisory Board Liaison,

Land Between The Lakes, 100 Van Morgan Drive, Golden Pond, Kentucky 42211, 270-924-2002.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: None.

Dated: July 20, 2007.

William P. Lisowsky,

Area Supervisor, Land Between The Lakes.

[FR Doc. E7-15991 Filed 8-14-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Business—Cooperative Service

Request for Proposals: Fiscal Year 2007 Funding Opportunity for Research on the Economic Impact of Cooperatives

AGENCY: Rural Business—Cooperative Service, USDA.

ACTION: Initial Notice of request for proposals.

SUMMARY: Rural Business—Cooperative Service programs are administered through USDA Rural Development. USDA Rural Development announces the availability of approximately \$500,000 in competitive cooperative agreement funds for fiscal year (FY) 2007 to conduct research on the national economic impact of all types of cooperatives. USDA Rural Development hereby requests proposals from institutions of higher education interested in applying for a competitively awarded cooperative research agreement. This funding is a follow on to funding awarded in FY 2006, the intent of which was to encourage research on the critical issue of the economic value of cooperatives. Funding for FY 2007 is expected to replicate and expand upon research undertaken with FY 2006 funds.

DATES: Interested parties may submit completed applications for the cooperative agreement on paper or electronically according to the following deadlines:

Paper copies must be postmarked and mailed, shipped, or sent overnight no later than September 7, 2007, to be eligible for FY 2007 funding. Electronic copies must be received by September 7, 2007, to be eligible for FY 2007 funding. Late applications are not eligible for FY 2007 funding.

ADDRESSES: Applicants may obtain application forms, guides, and materials for the cooperative agreement at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/coops/reic.htm> or by contacting USDA Rural Development at (202) 690-0368, (TDD: (800) 877-8339, Federal Information Relay Service) and ask for the

cooperative research agreement application kit.

Submit completed paper applications for a cooperative agreement to USDA Rural Development's Cooperative Programs, Attn: Cooperative Research, Mail STOP 3250, Room 4016-South, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-3250. The phone number that should be used for FedEx packages is (202) 720-7558.

Submit electronic applications at <http://www.grants.gov>, following the instructions found on this Web site.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Visit the program Web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/coops/reic.htm>, which contains application guidance, including an Application Guide and application forms. Or you may contact USDA Rural Development at (202) 690-0368 (TDD: (800) 877-8339 Federal Information Relay Service).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Paperwork Reduction Act

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act, 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et. seq.*, OMB must approve all "collections of information" by USDA Rural Development. The Act defines "collection of information" as a requirement for "answers to * * * identical reporting or recordkeeping requirements imposed on ten or more persons * * *." (44 U.S.C. 3502(3)(A)) Because the RFP will receive less than 10 respondents, the Paperwork Reduction Act does not apply.

Overview

Federal Agency: Rural Business—Cooperative Service.

Funding Opportunity Title: Research on the Economic Impact of Cooperatives.

Announcement Type: Initial announcement.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number: 10.778

Dates: You may submit completed applications for the cooperative agreement on paper or electronically according to the following deadlines:

Paper copies must be postmarked and mailed, shipped, or sent overnight no later than September 7, 2007, to be eligible for FY 2007 funding. Late applications are not eligible for FY 2007 funding.

Electronic copies must be received by September 7, 2007, to be eligible for FY 2007 funding. Late applications are not eligible for FY 2007 funding.

The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13): There is no public reporting burden associated with this notice.

I. Funding Opportunity Description

This solicitation is issued pursuant to the Revised Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2007 (Pub. L. 110-5) directing funds "for a cooperative research agreement with a qualified academic institution to conduct research on the national economic impact of all types of cooperatives." The Secretary of Agriculture has delegated the program's administration to USDA Rural Development.

The primary objective of this cooperative research agreement program is to facilitate university research on the national economic impact of cooperatives. The research program will need to develop a web-based methodology to enable cooperatives to enter financial and other impact data on a periodic basis; apply the methodology to collect data updates estimates of economic impact of cooperatives; analyze the impact of cooperatives on local wealth creation and retention, and analyze the total returns to investment in cooperatives.

The cooperative agreement proposal must address how the following deliverables will be provided:

1. An analysis of how and the extent to which cooperatives facilitate the creation and retention of wealth within the local communities they serve. The analysis should include the identification of cooperative models and practices that could enhance cooperative contribution to local wealth creation. An estimate of cooperative wealth creation should be made for the U.S. and for each of the following four categories or classes of cooperatives:
 - i. Commercial sales or marketing—includes farm supply and marketing, grocery and consumer goods, business-to-business, the emerging ethanol and biofuels related industry, and manufacturing.
 - ii. Social and public services—includes housing, health care, day care/elder care, transportation, and educational services.
 - iii. Financial services—includes credit unions, banks, and mutual insurance.
 - iv. Utilities—includes electric, telephone, water, waste, and other regulated utilities.

2. An analysis of the total returns to investment in cooperatives, including returns to the cooperative businesses at the enterprise level as well as the impact of cooperative returns and services to the cooperatives' members at their enterprise levels. Total returns to investment should be analyzed using the same classification scheme as described in Deliverable #1 above.