



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

August 25, 2005

EOD-168

## NOTICE TO THE TRADE

Farm and Foreign  
Agricultural Services

**TO: All Suppliers of Commodities and Steamship Companies for Use in Export Program**

Farm Service  
Agency

**SUBJECT: Request for Comments Concerning the Houston Pilot Project**

Kansas City  
Commodity Office  
P.O. Box 419205  
Kansas City,  
Missouri  
64141-6205

Notice to the Trade EOD 150 was issued September 23, 2004 to establish a separate definition of contract terms for f.a.s. delivery and receipt of commodities to the terminals approved under Houston, TX (HOUS) delivery point. This change in delivery terms was a pilot project intended to remain in effect for a period not to exceed one year. The purpose of the pilot project was to study the effect of requiring the ocean carriers to include the cost of unloading the commodity from the commodity supplier's conveyance in the ocean freight bid. In addition, the pilot project included a survey of the unloading of the conveyance by a third party inspector. The desired outcome was to equalize delivery costs to the commodity suppliers for all the terminals under the HOUS delivery point and to reduce the cost to the Government.

The Kansas City Commodity Office (KCCO) is requesting comments and/or suggestions regarding this pilot project. Specifically, KCCO would like to know if the change in definition for f.a.s. HOUS has been successful or unsuccessful, and the effect (if any) of the third party inspection of commodities as they are unloaded at the port. Any comments relating to this pilot project in Houston are welcome.

Interested parties may address their comments to:

Houston Pilot Project  
Attn: Ken Martin  
Mail Stop 8738  
6501 Beacon Drive  
Kansas City, Missouri 64133-4676

Or FAX to the attention of the above at 816-823-3059.

All comments must be received by September 16, 2005 for consideration. A decision will be made by October 1, 2005 whether to extend the current pilot project, expand this definition of f.a.s. to include other ports, or to discontinue the use of this definition of f.a.s. delivery.

/s/  
George W. Aldaya  
Director