

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

[FV-99-328]

United States Standards for Grades of Frozen Okra

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) of the Department of Agriculture (USDA) is soliciting comments on its proposal to change the United States Standards for Grades of Frozen Okra. Specifically, USDA is proposing to provide for the "individual attributes" procedure for product grading with sample sizes, acceptable quality levels (AQL's), tolerances and acceptance numbers (number of allowable defects); replace dual grade nomenclature with single letter grade designations; and make minor editorial changes. These changes have been requested by the industry in order to improve use of the standards.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before November 29, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Written comments may be submitted to Harold A. Machias, Processed Products Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 0709, South Building, STOP 0247, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, DC 20090-4693; faxed to (202) 690-1087; or e-mailed to Harold.Machias@usda.gov.

Comments should reference the date and page number of this issue of the **Federal Register** and will be made available for public inspection in the Office of the Branch Chief during regular business hours (8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) and on the Internet.

The current U.S. Standards for Grades of Frozen Okra, along with the proposed changes, are available either through the

above address or by accessing the AMS website on the Internet at www.ams.usda.gov/standards. The United States Standards for Grades do not appear in the Code of Federal Regulations.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Harold A. Machias at (202) 720-5021 or www.Harold.Machias@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 203(c) of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, as amended, directs and authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture "to develop and improve standards of quality, condition, quantity, grade and packaging and recommend and demonstrate such standards in order to encourage uniformity and consistency in commercial practices * * *." AMS is committed to carrying out this authority in a manner that facilitates the marketing of agricultural commodities and makes copies of official standards available upon request.

AMS is proposing to change the United States Standards for Grades of Frozen Okra using the procedures that appear in Part 36 of Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations (7 CFR Part 36). The grade standards were last revised in September 1996.

AMS received a petition from the American Frozen Food Institute to change the U.S. grade standards for frozen okra to a new grading system. The current standards are based on cumulative scorepoints. It is proposed that the standards be modified to convert them to a statistically-based individual attribute grading system, similar to the U.S. grade standards for canned green and wax beans (58 FR 4295; January 14, 1993). This change would bring the standards in line with current marketing practices and innovations in processing techniques.

This change would replace dual grade nomenclature with single letter designations. "U.S. Grade A" (or "U.S. Fancy") and "U.S. Grade B (or "U.S. Extra Standard") would become "U.S. Grade A," and "U.S. Grade B," respectively. This revision also includes minor editorial changes. These changes provide a uniform format consistent with recent revisions of other U.S. grade standards. This format has been designed to provide industry personnel and agricultural commodity graders with simpler and more comprehensive standards. Definitions of terms and easy-to-read tables have been

incorporated to assure a better understanding and uniform application of the standards.

AMS is publishing this notice with a 60-day comment period which will provide a sufficient amount of time for interested persons to comment on the changes.

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

Dated: September 21, 1999.

Robert C. Keeney,

Deputy Administrator, Fruit and Vegetable Programs.

[FR Doc. 99-25095 Filed 9-27-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Revised Land and Resource Management Plan, Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, Gunnison National Forests, CO

AGENCY: USDA Forest Service.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) in conjunction with revision of the land and resource management plan for the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, Gunnison National Forests (GMUG) located in Delta, Montrose, Gunnison, Mesa, San Miguel, Ouray, Hinsdale, Saguache, Garfield, and San Juan counties, Colorado.

SUMMARY: The Forest Service will prepare an environmental impact statement in conjunction with the revision of its Land and Resource Management Plan (hereafter referred to as Forest Plan or Plan) for the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, Gunnison National Forests (GMUG).

This notice describes the specific portions of the current Forest Plan to be revised, environmental issues considered in the revision, estimated dates for filing the environmental impact statement, information concerning public participation, and the names and addresses of the agency officials who can provide additional information.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis should be received in writing by January 31, 2000. The agency expects to file a draft environmental impact statement with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and make it available for public