

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

[CN-06-003]

American Pima Spot Quotations

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the Agricultural Marketing Service's (AMS), Cotton Program, Market News Branch changes to the American Pima Spot Quotations. The changes include combining the San Joaquin Valley and Desert Southwest Pima cotton markets into one unified American Pima Market; changing the quotation terms to Uniform-Density free (UD-free), Freight-on-Board (FOB) warehouse; and, quoting discounts for cotton fiber strength that is 37.4 grams per Tex (gpt) and lower. The changes will be reflected in both the Daily Spot Cotton Quotations and the Monthly and Annual Cotton Price Statistics that are currently published by the AMS, Cotton Program, Market News Branch. This action is necessary to more accurately reflect the overall American Pima cotton market.

DATES: Effective August 1, 2006.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Darryl Earnest, Deputy Administrator, Cotton Program, AMS, USDA, STOP 0224, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-0224. Telephone (202) 720-2145, facsimile (202) 690-1718, or e-mail darryl.earnest@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Secretary of Agriculture is authorized under the Cotton Statistics and Estimates Act of 1927 (Act) (7 U.S.C. 473 *et seq.*) for the collection, authentication, publication and distribution of timely information on the market supply, demand, location, condition and market prices for cotton.

The AMS, Cotton Program disseminates market information and reports from spot cotton markets under the authority of the Act and the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1622 *et seq.*).

AMS, Cotton Program, Market News Branch reports American Pima cotton spot prices. The market news price reporting format has changed as the classification of American Pima cotton has changed. Current recipients of the report will only notice minor changes to the report layout as of August 1, 2006, as outlined below. The data collected and used for the report will not change.

In recent years, American Pima cotton production has shifted dramatically, and the vast majority of the American Pima cotton crop is produced in the San Joaquin Valley, California. As production has increased in the San Joaquin Valley, production has sharply decreased in the Desert Southwest in Arizona, New Mexico and the area around El Paso, Texas. In 1994, 45 percent of the American Pima cotton crop was grown in the Desert Southwest with the remaining 55 percent grown in the San Joaquin Valley. In 2005, just 11 percent of the American Pima cotton crop was grown in the Desert Southwest, with the remaining 89 percent grown in the San Joaquin Valley. In addition to the production shift, the amount of cotton traded for immediate delivery and immediate payment (referred to as a spot transaction) also decreased. By changing from two separate markets to one combined market, for reporting purposes, the spot quotations will more accurately reflect the overall American Pima cotton market.

Currently, quotation terms reflect those used in the Desert Southwest, "FOB (freight on board) warehouse, compression charges not included"). Therefore, most cotton traded had to be converted to Desert Southwest terms. With the spot quotations changed to reflect just one Pima market and the majority of the American Pima cotton now being grown and traded in the San Joaquin Valley, the quotation terms will reflect where the bulk of the cotton is grown and traded. Beginning August 1, 2006 the quotation terms for the American Pima Spot Quotations will be changed to "UD (universal density) free, FOB warehouse."

The final change to the Pima Spot Quotations will involve reporting strength discounts. Beginning with the 2004 Crop, strength discounts were applied to American Pima cotton placed into the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) loan program. For the past two years the Cotton Program's Market News Branch has surveyed buyers and sellers of American Pima to determine if there were any commercial discounts being applied to Pima cotton with strength measuring 37.4 grams per Tex (gpt) and lower. Results indicated that there were measurable discounts being applied to cotton with strength 37.4 gpt and lower. All ranges quoted by Cotton Program's Market News Branch for American Pima cotton will be the same as those used by the CCC loan schedule of premiums and discounts. These CCC ranges (from lowest to highest) are 35.4 and below, 35.5-36.4, 36.5-37.4 and 37.5 and above.

Dated: August 9, 2006.

Lloyd C. Day,

Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. E6-13501 Filed 8-15-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Research Service

Office of the Under Secretary, Research, Education, and Economics; Notice of the Scientific Review Panel at the National Animal Disease Center, Ames, IA

AGENCY: Agricultural Research Service (ARS), USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The United States Department of Agriculture announces a meeting of the Scientific Review Panel at the National Animal Disease Center, Ames, Iowa.

DATES: August 23, 2006, 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon Central Time. Written requests to make oral comments at the meeting must be received by the contact person identified herein at least three business days before the meeting.

ADDRESSES: City Council Chambers, City Hall, 515 Clark Avenue, Ames, Iowa 50010. Requests to make oral comments at the meeting may be sent to the contact person at USDA-ARS, Midwest Area Director, 1815 North University

Street, Room 2006, Peoria, Illinois 61604.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Steven Shafer, Midwest Area Director, USDA-ARS, Telephone (309) 681-6602; Fax (309) 681-6684; E-mail sshafer@mwa.ars.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On May 4, 2006, the City of Ames received allegations that wastes from areas at the National Animal Disease Center (NADC) with animals challenged with prions were not properly treated prior to discharge to the City wastewater plant. USDA, in cooperation with the City of Ames, is convening an expert panel to review scientific information about deactivation of prions and assess practices used at NADC to treat liquid wastes from areas where animals with prions are housed and handled that enter the Ames wastewater treatment system. (*Note:* For the purposes of this panel and its review, prions are defined as specific proteins that are abnormally shaped and can cause transmissible diseases associated with the allegations). This meeting will initiate implementation of the panel's charge to evaluate four main issues related to the handling and disposal of potentially prion-contaminated materials in wastewater from the NADC: (1) Identify scientifically accepted methods for effectively destroying prions; (2) Assess the concerns raised regarding NADC's current and past methods for the destruction of prions; (3) Determine the risk posed to humans and the environment from the current, as well as previous, methods for the destruction of prions utilized at NADC; and (4) If remediation is needed, provide scientifically sound approaches for corrective action(s) that may be taken. Final conclusions of the review will be developed during a meeting at a later date, also to be announced. At the conclusion of its review, the panel will prepare a written report that documents the panel's findings for the four main issues being evaluated. On August 23, 2006, between 8:30 a.m. and 12 noon Central Time, if time permits, reasonable provision will be made for verbal comments of no more than three minutes each in duration. The meeting will be open to the public, but space is limited. If you want to be assured of a seat at this meeting, you must register by contacting the contact person named above at least 5 days prior to the meeting. Please provide your name, title, business affiliation, address, and telephone and fax numbers when you register. If you require a sign language interpreter or other special accommodation due to disability, please

indicate those needs at the time of registration. Pre-registrations will be limited to 80 people; others may be able to attend on a space-available basis.

Dated: August 7, 2006.

Caird E. Rexroad, Jr.,

Associate Administrator, Agricultural Research Service.

[FR Doc. 06-6987 Filed 8-15-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-03-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Notice of Proposed Changes to Section IV of the Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) of the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Indiana

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Department of Agriculture.

ACTION: Notice of availability of proposed changes in Section IV of the FOTG of the NRCS in Indiana for review and comment.

SUMMARY: It is the intention of NRCS in Indiana to issue three (3) revised conservation practice standards in Section IV of the FOTG. The revised standards are: Surface Drainage, Field Ditch (607), Surface Drainage, Main or Lateral (608), and Water and Sediment Control Basin (638).

These practices may be used in conservation systems that treat highly erodible land and/or wetlands.

DATES: Comments will be received for a 30-day period commencing with this date of publication.

ADDRESSES: Address all requests and comments to Jane E. Hardisty, State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), 6013 Lakeside Blvd., Indianapolis, Indiana 46278. Copies of these standards will be made available upon written request. You may submit your electronic requests and comments to shannon.zezula@in.usda.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jane E. Hardisty, 317-290-3200.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 343 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 states that after enactment of the law, revisions made to NRCS state technical guides used to carry out highly erodible land and wetland provisions of the law, shall be made available for public review and comment. For the next 30 days, the NRCS in Indiana will receive comments relative to the proposed changes. Following that period, a

determination will be made by the NRCS in Indiana regarding disposition of those comments and a final determination of changes will be made.

Dated: July 27, 2006.

Jane E. Hardisty,

State Conservationist, Indianapolis, Indiana.

[FR Doc. E6-13462 Filed 8-15-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-16-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Housing Service

Notice of Availability of Hurricane Disaster Assistance

AGENCY: Rural Housing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Rural Housing Service programs are administered through USDA Rural Development. This Notice is intended to announce the availability of supplemental hurricane disaster assistance to be administered through the Community Facilities (CF) Direct Loan and Grant program. USDA Rural Development will provide CF Grant funds in the amount of \$20,000,000 and CF Direct Loan funds in the amount of \$149,253,000 for essential community facilities in rural areas affected by Hurricane Katrina and other hurricanes of the 2005 season.

DATES: *Effective Date:* August 16, 2006.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Information for the Community Facilities Direct Loan and Grant Program may be obtained by contacting your USDA Rural Development State Office as outlined in Section I.D.

For questions regarding information contained in this Notice, please contact Derek L. Jones, Loan Specialist, Community Programs, at 202-720-1504.

Background: The CF Direct Loan and Grant Program is designed to finance and facilitate the development of many different types of essential community facilities serving rural areas. These facilities include, but are not limited to, hospitals, medical clinics, elderly care facilities, police stations and vehicles, fire and rescue stations and vehicles, vocational and medical rehabilitation centers, and educational facilities. Funds under this Notice can be used to construct, enlarge, repair, or improve community facilities. This can include the purchase of equipment required for a facility's operation.

Chapter 1 of title I of Division B of the Department of Defense, Emergency Supplemental Appropriations to Address Hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico and Pandemic Influenza Act, 2006 (Pub. L. 109-148) (Act) provides