

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

[Doc. No. AMS-AMS-24-0016]

2024/2025 Rates Charged for AMS Services

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is announcing the 2024/2025 rates it will charge for voluntary grading, inspection, certification, auditing, and laboratory services for a variety of agricultural commodities including meat and poultry, fruits and vegetables, eggs, dairy products, rice, and cotton and tobacco. The 2024/2025 regular, overtime, holiday, and laboratory services rates will be applied at the beginning of the crop year, fiscal year or as required by law depending on the commodity. Other starting dates are added to this notice based on cotton industry practices. This action establishes the rates for user-funded programs based on costs incurred by AMS. This year, cost-based analyses indicated the need to increase user fee rates when current rates are insufficient to cover the costs of providing the service. While cost-saving measures have and will continue to be implemented, user fee rate increases are necessary to offset rising operational costs. In cases where current rates are sufficient to cover the costs of providing the service, user fee rates remain unchanged.

DATES: May 7, 2024.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Melissa Bailey, Associate Administrator, AMS, USDA, Room 2036-S, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20250; Telephone (202) 205-9356, or Email melissa.bailey@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, as

amended (AMA) (7 U.S.C. 1621-1627), provides for the collection of fees to cover costs of various inspection, grading, certification, or auditing services covering many agricultural commodities and products. The AMA also provides for the recovery of costs incurred in providing laboratory services. The Cotton Statistics and Estimates Act (7 U.S.C. 471-476) and the U.S. Cotton Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 51-65) provide for classification of cotton and development of cotton standards materials necessary for cotton classification. The Cotton Futures Act (7 U.S.C. 15b) provides for futures certification services, and the Tobacco Inspection Act (7 U.S.C. 511-511s) provides for tobacco inspection and grading. These Acts also provide for the recovery of costs associated with these services.

On November 13, 2014, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (Department) published in the **Federal Register** a final rule that established standardized formulas for calculating the fees charged by AMS user-funded programs (79 FR 67313). On the basis of rates calculated using these formulas, AMS is to determine the fee rates necessary to sustain program services. Every year since then, the Department has published in the **Federal Register** a notice announcing the rates for its user-funded programs.

This notice announces the 2024/2025 fee rates for voluntary grading, inspection, certification, auditing, and laboratory services for a variety of agricultural commodities including meat and poultry, fruits and vegetables, eggs, dairy products, rice, and cotton and tobacco on a per-hour rate and, in some instances, the equivalent per-unit cost. The per-unit cost is provided to facilitate understanding of the costs associated with the service to the industries that historically used unit-cost basis for payment. Fee rates will be effective at the beginning of the fiscal year, crop year, or as required by specific laws.

Rates reflect direct and indirect costs of providing services. Direct costs include the cost of salaries, employee benefits, and, if applicable, travel and some operating costs. Indirect or overhead costs include the cost of Program and Agency activities supporting the services provided to the industry. The formula used to calculate

these rates also includes operating reserve, which may add to or draw upon the existing operating reserves.

These services include the grading, inspection, or certification of quality factors in accordance with established U.S. Grade Standards or other specifications; audits or accreditation according to International Organization for Standardization (ISO) standards and/or Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) principles; and other marketing claims. The quality grades serve as a basis for market prices and reflect the value of agricultural commodities to both producers and consumers. AMS' grading and certification, audit and accreditation, plant process and equipment verification, and laboratory approval services are voluntary tools paid for by the users on a fee-for-service basis. The agriculture industry can use these tools to promote and communicate the quality of agricultural commodities to consumers. Laboratory services are provided for analytic testing, including but not limited to chemical, microbiological, biomolecular, and physical analyses. AMS is required by statute to recover the costs associated with these services.

As required by the Cotton Statistics and Estimates Act (7 U.S.C. 471-476), consultations regarding the establishment of the fee for cotton classification with U.S. cotton industry representatives are held in the beginning of the year when most industry stakeholder meetings take place. Representatives of all segments of the cotton industry, including producers, ginners, bale storage facility operators, merchants, cooperatives, and textile manufacturers were informed of the fees during various industry-sponsored forums.

Rates Calculations

AMS calculated the rate for services, per hour per program employee, using the following formulas (a per-unit base is included for programs that charge for services on a per-unit basis):

(1) *Regular rate.* The total AMS grading, inspection, certification, classification, audit, or laboratory service program personnel direct pay divided by direct hours for the previous year, which is then multiplied by the next year's percentage of cost of living increase, plus the benefits rate, plus the operating rate, plus the allowance for

bad debt rate. If applicable, travel expenses may also be added to the cost of providing the service.

(2) *Overtime rate.* The total AMS grading, inspection, certification, classification, audit, or laboratory service program personnel direct pay divided by direct hours, which is then multiplied by the next year's percentage of cost of living increase and then multiplied by 1.5, plus the benefits rate,

plus the operating rate, plus an allowance for bad debt. If applicable, travel expenses may also be added to the cost of providing the service.

(3) *Holiday rate.* The total AMS grading, inspection, certification, classification, audit, or laboratory service program personnel direct pay divided by direct hours, which is then multiplied by the next year's percentage of cost of living increase and then

multiplied by 2, plus the benefits rate, plus the operating rate, plus an allowance for bad debt. If applicable, travel expenses may also be added to the cost of providing the service.

All rates are per-hour except when a per-unit cost is noted. The specific amounts in each rate calculation are available upon request from the specific AMS program.

2024/2025 RATES

	Regular	Overtime	Holiday	Includes travel costs in rate	Start date
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Cotton Fees

7 CFR Part 27—Cotton Classification Under Cotton Futures Legislation
 Subpart A—Requirements; §§ 27.80–27.90 Costs of Classification and Micronaire

Cotton Standardization:

Certification for Futures Contract (Grading services for samples submitted by CCC-licensed samplers).	\$4.75/bale			X	August 1, 2024.
Transfer of Certification Data to New Owner or Certified Warehouse (Electronic transfer performed).	\$0.20/bale or \$5.00 per page minimum			X	August 1, 2024.

7 CFR Part 28—Cotton Classing, Testing, and Standards

Subpart A—Regulations Under the United States Cotton Standards Act; §§ 28.115–28.126 Fees and Costs
 Subpart D—Cotton Classification and Market News Service for Producers; § 28.909 Costs; § 28.910 Classification of Samples and Issuance of Classification Data; § 28.911 Review Classification.

Cotton Grading:

Form 1: Grading Services for Producers (submitted by licensed sampler).	\$3.00/bale			X	July 1, 2024.
Form 1 Review (new sample submitted by licensed sampler).	\$3.00/bale			X	July 1, 2024.
Form A Determinations (sample submitted by licensed warehouse).	\$3.00/bale			X	July 1, 2024.
Form C Determinations (sample submitted by non-licensed entity; bale sampled under USDA supervision).	\$3.00/bale			.....	July 1, 2024.
Form D Determination (sample submitted by owner or agent; classification represents sample only).	\$3.00/bale			X	July 1, 2024.
Foreign Growth Classification (sample of foreign growth cotton submitted by owner or agent; classification represents sample only).	\$6.00/sample			X	August 1, 2024.
Arbitration (comparison of a sample to the official standards or a sample type).	\$6.00/sample			X	August 1, 2024.
Practical Cotton Classing Exam (for non-USDA employees).	Exam: \$150/applicant; Reexamination: \$130/applicant			X	July 1, 2024.
Special Sample Handling (return of samples per request)	\$0.50/sample			X	July 1, 2024.
Electronic Copy of Classification Record	\$0.05/bale (\$5.00/month minimum with any records received)			X	July 1, 2024.
Form A Rewrite (reissuance of Form 1, Form A, or Futures Certification data or combination).	\$0.15/bale or \$5.00/page minimum			X	August 1, 2024.
Form R (reissuance of Form 1 classification only)	\$0.15/bale or \$5.00/page minimum			X	July 1, 2024.
International Instrument Level Assessment	\$4.00/sample			X	July 1, 2024.

2024/2025 RATES—Continued

	Regular	Overtime	Holiday	Includes travel costs in rate	Start date
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Dairy Fees

7 CFR Part 58—Grading and Inspection, General Specifications for Approved Plants and Standards for Grades of Dairy Products
 Subpart A—Regulations Governing the Inspection and Grading Services of Manufactured or Processed Dairy Products; §§ 58.38—58.46 Fees and Charges

Continuous Resident Grading Service	\$95.00	\$116.00	\$137.00	X	Oct 1, 2024.
Continuous Resident Grading Service 6 p.m.–6 a.m.	\$105.00	\$128.00	\$151.00	X	Oct 1, 2024.
Non-resident and Intermittent Grading Service; State Graders	\$120.00	\$155.00	\$190.00	X	Oct 1, 2024.
Non-resident Services 6 p.m.–6 a.m. (10 percent night differential).	\$132.00	\$171.00	\$190.00	X	Oct 1, 2024.
Export Certificate Services	\$104.00/certificate				Oct 1, 2024.
Equipment Review ¹	\$135.00	\$192.00	\$249.00		Oct 1, 2024.
Equipment Review 6 p.m.–6 a.m. ¹	\$148.00	\$211.00	\$249.00		Oct 1, 2024.
Audit Services	\$135.00			X	Oct 1, 2024.
Special Handling	\$52.00/certificate				Oct 1, 2024.
Uncertified Copy of Certificate	\$12.00/copy				Oct 1, 2024.
Derogation Application	\$125.00/application				Oct 1, 2024.

Specialty Crops Fees

7 CFR Part 51—Fresh Fruits, Vegetables and Other Products (Inspection, Certification, and Standards)

Subpart A—Requirements; §§ 51.37–51.44 Schedule of Fees and Charges at Destination Markets; § 51.45 Schedule of Fees and Charges at Shipping Point Areas

Quality and Condition Inspections for Whole Lots	\$254.00 per lot				Oct 1, 2024.
Quality and Condition Half Lot or Condition-Only Inspections for Whole Lots.	\$210.00 per lot				Oct 1, 2024.
Condition—Half Lot	\$194.00 per lot				Oct 1, 2024.
Quality and Condition or Condition-Only Inspections for Additional Lots of the Same Product.	\$116.00 per lot				Oct 1, 2024.
Dockside Inspections—Each package weighing <30 lbs	\$0.044 per pkg.				Oct 1, 2024.
Dockside Inspections—Each package weighing >30 lbs	\$0.068/pkg.				Oct 1, 2024.
Charge per Individual Product for Dockside Inspection	\$252.00/lot				Oct 1, 2024.
Charge per Each Additional Lot of the Same Product	\$116.00/lot				Oct 1, 2024.
Inspections for All Hourly Work	\$123.00	\$163.00	\$203.00		Oct 1, 2024.
Audit Services—Federal	\$163.00				Oct 1, 2024.
Audit Services—State	\$163.00				Oct 1, 2024.
GFSI Certification Fee ²	\$250.00/audit				Oct 1, 2024.

7 CFR Part 52—Processed Fruits and Vegetables, Processed Products Thereof, and Other Processed Food Products

Subpart A—Requirements Governing Inspection and Certification; §§ 52.41—52.51 Fees and Charges

Lot Inspections	\$95.00	\$123.00	\$151.00		Oct 1, 2024.
In-plant Inspections Under Annual Contract (year-round)	\$100.00	\$126.00	\$152.00		Oct 1, 2024.
Additional Graders (in-plant) or Less Than Year-Round	\$100.00	\$130.00	\$160.00		Oct 1, 2024.
Audit Services—Federal	\$163.00				Oct 1, 2024.
Audit Services—State	\$163.00				Oct 1, 2024.
GFSI Certification Fee ²	\$250.00/audit				Oct 1, 2024.

2024/2025 RATES—Continued

	Regular	Overtime	Holiday	Includes travel costs in rate	Start date
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Meat Fees

7 CFR Part 54—Meats, Prepared Meats, and Meat Products (Grading, Certification, and Standards)

Subpart A—Grading of Meats, Prepared Meats, and Meat Products; §§ 54.27–54.28 Charges for Service

Scheduled Grading	\$92.00	\$115.00	\$139.00	X	Oct 1, 2024.
Unscheduled Grading	\$123.00	\$142.00	\$166.00	.....	Oct 1, 2024.
Scheduled Night Differential (6 p.m.–6 a.m.)	\$102.00	\$127.00	\$139.00	X	Oct 1, 2024.

7 CFR Part 62—Agricultural Marketing Service Audit Verification and Accreditation Programs (AVAAP)

Subpart E—Fees; § 62.300 Fees and Other Costs of Service

Auditing Activities	\$175.00	\$244.00	\$268.00	Oct 1, 2024.
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Poultry Fees

7 CFR Part 56—Voluntary Grading of Shell Eggs

Subpart A—Grading of Shell Eggs; §§ 56.45–56.54 Fees and Charges

7 CFR Part 70—Voluntary Grading of Poultry and Rabbit Products

Subpart A—Grading of Poultry and Rabbit Products; §§ 70.70–70.78 Fees and Charges

Scheduled Grading	\$74.00	\$96.00	\$116.00	X	Oct 1, 2024.
Scheduled, Night Differential (6 p.m.–6 a.m.)	\$82.00	\$107.00	\$116.00	X	Oct 1, 2024.
Scheduled, Sunday Differential	\$95.00	\$122.00	N/A	X	Oct 1, 2024.
Scheduled, Sunday and Night Differential	\$106.00	\$135.00	N/A	X	Oct 1, 2024.
Unscheduled Grading	\$108.00	\$133.00	\$160.00	.....	Oct 1, 2024.

Science and Technology Fees

7 CFR Part 91—Services and General Information

Subpart I—Fees and Charges; §§ 91.37–91.45

Laboratory Testing Services	\$118.00	\$137.00	\$155.00	.....	Oct 1, 2024.
Laboratory Approval Services ¹	\$188.00	\$218.00	\$249.00	X	Jan 1, 2025.

7 CFR Part 75—Provisions for Inspection and Certification of Quality of Agricultural and Vegetable Seeds

§ 75.41 General

Laboratory Testing	\$75.00	\$95.00	\$119.00	.....	Oct 1, 2024.
Administrative Fee	\$17.00/certificate			.....	Oct 1, 2024.
Auditing Services	\$149.00	\$173.00	\$198.00	.....	Oct 1, 2024.
Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development Seed Schemes for Corn Seeds.	\$0.42/100 pounds			.....	July 1, 2024.
Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development Seed Schemes for Cotton, Soybeans, Sunflower, and Cereal Seeds.	\$0.34/100 pounds			.....	July 1, 2024.
Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development Seed Schemes for Other Seeds.	\$0.32/100 pounds			.....	July 1, 2024.

Tobacco Fees

7 CFR Part 29—Tobacco Inspection

Subpart A—Policy Statement and Regulations Governing the Extension of Tobacco Inspection and Price Support Services to New Markets and to Additional Sales on Designated Markets;

Subpart B—Requirements; §§ 29.123–29.129 Fees and Charges; § 29.500 Fees and charges for inspection and acceptance of imported tobacco

Subpart F—Policy Statement and Provisions Governing the Identification and Certification of Non-quota Tobacco Produced and Marketed in Quota Area; § 29.9251 Fees and Charges

Domestic Permissive Inspection and Certification (re-grading of domestic tobacco for processing plants, retesting of imported tobacco, and grading tobacco for research stations.)	\$55.00	\$64.00	\$72.00	July 1, 2024.
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2024/2025 RATES—Continued

	Regular	Overtime	Holiday	Includes travel costs in rate	Start date
Export Permissive Inspection and Certification (grading of domestic tobacco for manufacturers and dealers for duty drawback consideration).	\$0.0025/pound			X	July 1, 2024.
Grading for Risk Management Agency (for Tobacco Crop Insurance Quality Adjustment determinations).	\$0.015/pound			X	July 1, 2024.
Pesticide Test Sampling (collection of certified tobacco sample and shipment to AMS National Science Laboratory for testing).	\$0.0065/kg or \$0.0029/pound			X	July 1, 2024.
Pesticide Retest Sampling (collection of certified tobacco sample from a previously sampled lot for re-testing at the AMS National Science Laboratory; fee includes shipping).	\$115.00/sample and \$55.00/hour			X	July 1, 2024.
Standards Course (training by USDA-certified instructor on tobacco grading procedures).	\$1,250.00/person			.....	July 1, 2024.
Import Inspection and Certification (grading of imported tobacco for manufacturers and dealers).	\$0.0170/kg or \$0.0080/pound			X	July 1, 2024.

Rice Fees

7 CFR Part 868—General Regulations and Standards for Certain Agricultural Commodities
Subpart A—Regulations; §§ 868.90–868.92 Fees

Contract (per hour per Service representative) ³	\$79.30	\$119.00	\$158.60	.....	Oct 1, 2024.
Noncontract (per hour per Service representative) ³	\$99.10	\$148.70	\$198.30	.....	Oct 1, 2024.
Export Port Services ⁴	\$0.047/cwt			.....	Oct 1, 2024.
Inspection for quality (per lot, subplot, or sample inspection):					
Rough rice	\$69.20			.....	Oct 1, 2024.
Brown rice for processing	\$65.00			.....	Oct 1, 2024.
Milled rice	\$57.70			.....	Oct 1, 2024.
Factor analysis for any single factor (per sample):					
Milling yield (Rough or Brown rice)	\$54.00			.....	Oct 1, 2024.
All other factors (all rice)	\$41.90/factor			.....	Oct 1, 2024.
Total oil and free fatty acid	\$62.30			.....	Oct 1, 2024.
Faxed and extra copies of certificates	\$1.90/copy			.....	Oct 1, 2024.
Stowage examination (service-on-request):					
Ship	\$49.40 (per stowage space, minimum 5 spaces per ship)			.....	Oct 1, 2024.
Subsequent ship examinations	\$49.40 (per stowage space, minimum 3 spaces per ship)			.....	Oct 1, 2024.
Barge	\$51.60/examination			.....	Oct 1, 2024.
All other carriers	\$18.40/examination			.....	Oct 1, 2024.
Aflatoxin (Rapid Test Kit)	\$47.90/test			.....	Oct 1, 2024.
All Other Mycotoxins (Rapid Test Kit)	\$54.00/test			.....	Oct 1, 2024.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 15b; 7 U.S.C. 473a–b; 7 U.S.C. 55 and 61; 7 U.S.C. 51–65; 7 U.S.C. 471–476; 7 U.S.C. 511–511s; and 7 U.S.C. 1621–1627.

Melissa Bailey,

Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 2024–09773 Filed 5–3–24; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

White River National Forest; Colorado; Sweetwater Lake Recreation Management and Development Project

AGENCY: Forest Service, Agriculture (USDA).

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: The Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, is preparing an environmental impact statement to evaluate the potential environmental impacts associated with the Sweetwater Lake Recreation Management and Development Project. This project encompasses 832 acres, including 488 acres acquired by the Forest Service in 2021, located on the White River National Forest on lands surrounding Sweetwater Lake in northeastern Garfield County, Colorado. The Forest Service proposes to improve recreation access and facilities and authorize a long-term special use permit to the Colorado Parks and Wildlife to manage the area. This project may require an amendment to the White River National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (forest plan).

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis must be received by August 5, 2024. The draft environmental impact statement is expected February 2025, and the final environmental impact statement is expected February 2026.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Scott Fitzwilliams, White River National Forest Supervisor, c/o Leanne Veldhuis, District Ranger Eagle-Holy Cross Ranger District, White River National Forest,

P.O. Box 190, Minturn, CO 81645. Comments may also be submitted electronically at <https://cara.fs2c.usda.gov/Public/CommentInput?Project=64047> or submitted via facsimile to 970–827–9343.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Additional information related to the project can be obtained from the project web page at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/whiteriver/?project=64047> or by contacting Leanne Veldhuis, District Ranger, Eagle-Holy Cross Ranger District, 24747 U.S. Hwy. 24, P.O. Box 190, Minturn, CO 81645. Ms. Veldhuis can be reached by phone at 970–827–5715 or by email at leanne.veldhuis@usda.gov. Individuals who use telecommunications devices for the hearing impaired may call 711 to reach the Telecommunications Relay Service, 24 hours a day, every day of the year, including holidays.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: A successful grassroots effort within the local community, which included donations from Eagle County and the Town of Gypsum, was able to protect the area around Sweetwater Lake from private development with a purchase by The Conservation Fund. The Forest Service purchased the 488 acres surrounding Sweetwater Lake from The Conservation Fund to facilitate public access and maintain the natural resource-based recreational opportunities at the site.

Purpose and Need for Action

The purpose of the proposed action is to provide the public a natural resource-based recreational and educational experience at Sweetwater Lake that is reflective of the culture and history of the area while managing visitation at the appropriate scale for the long-term viability of the 832 acres surrounding the lake and its resources.

The actions proposed in the Sweetwater Lake Recreation Management and Development Project are needed to:

- Enhance and provide sustainable management of the public lands around Sweetwater Lake.
- Provide updated and sustainable nature-based recreational services to the public that are appropriate to the environment and are responsive to the recreational needs of the public.
- Improve the site's existing recreation infrastructure while providing updated facilities in alignment with applicable laws, policies, and known best practices.
- Develop and implement management strategies to reduce or mitigate potential impacts on the site's

natural and cultural resources from public visitation.

- Provide for year-round on-site management, including oversight and management for all the site's resources and facilities.
- Provide public recreational, interpretative, and educational opportunities.

Proposed Action

The White River National Forest is proposing multiple actions to meet the purpose and need of the project, as described below.

Authorize a 20-year special use permit to Colorado Parks and Wildlife, under the Granger-Thye Act, to implement and maintain improvements described below and manage the area consistent with the purpose and need.

Redesign the current site to promote recreational opportunities at a scale that is compatible with the capacity of the project area, its resources, and the surrounding area. The proposed site design would minimize impacts to wildlife and natural resources by utilizing those areas and lands that have been previously disturbed and would include the following actions.

- Evaluate existing structures for retention with an emphasis on those buildings that provide the best opportunity to interpret the rich history at Sweetwater. If feasible, some structures may be restored to the historic character of their 1920-to-1940 construction and used as part of the cultural interpretative program for the site. Existing structures that are in a state of severe deferred maintenance and out of compliance with various laws, regulations, and policies may be removed.
- Develop a new campground area to provide 15 to 20 campsites in a historically disturbed area that currently contains little native vegetation (“lower pasture”).
- Construct 8 to 12 new cabins to provide an overnight recreation opportunity similar to that which historically existed in the vicinity. These cabins would be constructed with materials and architecture designed to provide a “rustic” western character similar to the styles of other cabins and lodges in the Flat Tops area of Colorado.
- Construct equestrian facilities in the “middle pasture.” Proposed facilities would include barn and stable operation, 4 to 7 overnight equestrian camping sites, and extra day-use parking for equestrian users. This area could also provide overnight parking and access to the surrounding Flat Tops Wilderness Area. This location is previously disturbed and is proposed

¹ Travel costs outside the United States will be added to the fee, if applicable.

² Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) Certification Fee—\$250 per GFSI audit to recoup the costs associated with attaining technical equivalency to the GFSI benchmarking requirements.

³ Original and appeal inspection services include Sampling, grading, weighing, and other services requested by the applicant when performed at the applicant's facility.

⁴ Services performed at export locations on lots at rest.