

applicable costs. AMS is not collecting sufficient fees to cover the cost of providing the master scale testing service. To continue operating the master scale testing program, AMS would require a significant user fee increase that the agency does not believe customers would consider reasonable.

#### Request for Comments

AMS proposes to cease operation of the master scale depot and transfer the depot to either another government agency or a private entity. AMS is soliciting feedback including data, recommendations, and other information from customer stakeholders on plans to terminate the master scale testing program service effective September 30, 2025. Faced with significantly less service volume and constrained revenue collection, AMS made substantial strides to adapt services to no avail. While scale calibration and testing services remain vital to all weighed freight moving on the U.S. railroad system, AMS can only operate the master scale program if it can be fully self-sustained through user fee funding. The USGSA does not mandate testing of scales used for commodities other than grain and AMS believes that non-federal expertise and viable providers through a State-government program or a private sector entity could preserve service affordability without compromising the integrity of standards.

AMS is also requesting any historical information pertaining to an agreement established in 1980 whereas the USDA Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)—formerly the National Bureau of Standards (NBS)—transferred responsibility to maintain the Chicago-based Master Scale facility to FGIS.

After reviewing feedback and comments submitted in response to this notice, AMS will make a final determination concerning the master scale testing program.

**Erin Morris,**

*Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Agricultural Marketing Service

[Doc. No. AMS-NOP-25-0034]

#### Meeting of the National Organic Standards Board

**AGENCY:** Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), is announcing a meeting of the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB). The NOSB assists USDA in the development of standards for substances to be used in organic production and advises the Secretary of Agriculture on any other aspects of the implementation of the Organic Foods Production Act (OFPA).

**DATES:** The meeting will be held November 4–6, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to approximately 5:00 p.m. Central Time (CT) each day. The NOSB will hear oral public comments via webinars on Tuesday, October 28, and Thursday, October 30, 2025, from 12:00 p.m. to approximately 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time (ET). The deadline to submit written comments and/or sign up for oral comments is 11:59 p.m. ET, October 8, 2025.

**ADDRESSES:** The comment webinars are virtual and will be accessed via the internet and/or phone. The in-person meeting will be held at the Embassy Suites Omaha—Downtown/Old Market, 555 S 10th Street, Omaha, NE 68102, United States. The meeting will also be broadcast live. In the event we are not able to meet in person, the meeting will be held virtually. The meeting information will be available on the AMS website including links to join virtually: <https://www.ams.usda.gov/event/national-organic-standards-board-nosb-meeting-fall-2025>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Michelle Arsenault, Advisory Committee Specialist, National Organic Standards Board, USDA-AMS-NOP, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Room 2642-S, STOP 0268, Washington, DC 20250-0268; phone: (202) 997-0115; email: [nosb@usda.gov](mailto:nosb@usda.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. 10, and 7 U.S.C. 6518(e), as amended, AMS is announcing a meeting of the NOSB. The NOSB makes recommendations to USDA about whether substances should be allowed or prohibited in organic

production and/or handling, assists in the development of standards for organic production, and advises the Secretary on other aspects of the implementation of the Organic Foods Production Act, 7 U.S.C. 6501, *et seq.* NOSB is holding a public meeting to discuss and vote on proposed recommendations to USDA, to obtain updates from the NOP on issues pertaining to organic agriculture, and to receive comments from the organic community. Registration is only required to sign up for oral comments. All meeting documents and instructions for participating will be available on the AMS website at <https://www.ams.usda.gov/event/national-organic-standards-board-nosb-meeting-fall-2025>. Please check the website periodically for updates. Meeting topics will encompass a wide range of issues, including substances petitioned for addition to, or removal from, the National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances (National List), substances on the National List that are under sunset review, and guidance on organic policies.

**Public Comments:** Comments should address specific topics noted on the meeting agenda.

**Written Comments:** Written public comments will be accepted until 11:59 p.m. ET, October 8, 2025, via <https://www.regulations.gov> (Doc. No. AMS-NOP-25-0034). Comments submitted after this date will be added to the public comment docket, but Board members may not have adequate time to consider those comments prior to making recommendations. NOP strongly prefers comments to be submitted electronically. However, written comments may also be submitted (*i.e.*, postmarked) via mail, by or before October 8, 2025, to the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

**Oral Comments:** The NOSB will hear oral public comments via webinars on Tuesday, October 28, and Thursday, October 30, 2025, from 12:00 p.m. to approximately 5:00 p.m. ET, and during the first day of the meeting. Commenters wishing to address the Board must pre-register by 11:59 p.m. ET on October 8, 2025. Instructions for registering and providing oral comments can be found on the meeting web page noted under **ADDRESSES**.

**Meeting Accommodations:** USDA provides reasonable accommodation to individuals with disabilities where appropriate. If you are a person requiring reasonable accommodation, please make requests in advance for sign language interpretation, assistive listening devices, or other reasonable

accommodation to the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. Determinations for reasonable accommodation will be made on a case-by-case basis.

Equal opportunity practices, in accordance with USDA policies, will be followed in all membership appointments to the Committee.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Dated: August 15, 2025.

**Cikena Reid,**

*USDA Committee Management Officer.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Agricultural Marketing Service

[Doc. No. AMS–FGIS–25–0221]

#### 2025/2026 Rates for Grain Inspection and Weighing Services Under the United States Grain Standards Act

**AGENCY:** Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS or the Agency) is announcing the 2025/2026 rates it will charge for official grain inspection and weighing services, supervision of official grain inspection and weighing services, and miscellaneous fees for other services performed under the United States Grain Standards Act (USGSA), as amended. This action publishes the resulting fees from the annual review of fees. The 2025/2026 hourly, unit, and tonnage rates will be applied at the beginning of the fiscal year. This action establishes the rates for user-funded services based on costs incurred by AMS. This year, cost-based analyses indicated the need to increase certain 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 and rebuild the user fee reserve. Prospective customers can find the fee schedule posted on the Agency's public website: <https://www.ams.usda.gov/about-ams/fgis-program-directives>.

**DATES:** Applicable October 1, 2025.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Anthony Goodeman, Senior Policy Advisor, USDA AMS; telephone: 202–720–0291, or email:

[anthony.t.goodeman@usda.gov](mailto:anthony.t.goodeman@usda.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The USGSA provides the Secretary of Agriculture with the authority to charge and collect reasonable fees to cover the costs of performing official services, as well as those associated with managing the program. The USGSA also mandates that the Secretary must maintain an operating reserve of three- to six-months of expenses and adjust fees no less frequently than annually to maintain those reserves. The grain inspection regulations stipulate how the Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) conducts annual fee reviews of Direct Service and Supervision fees (7 CFR 800.71).

On January 6, 2025, FGIS published in the **Federal Register** a final rule that established standardized formulas for calculating the fees charged by FGIS user-funded programs (90 FR 531). On the basis of rates calculated using these formulas, FGIS determines the fee rates necessary to sustain program services, then publishes a **Federal Register** notice announcing the rates for its user-funded programs.

This notice announces the 2025/2026 fee rates for grain inspection and weighing services on a per-hour rate, unit fee, and tonnage fee. Fee rates will be effective at the beginning of the fiscal year.

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 inspection, weighing, and/or certification of quality factors in accordance with established U.S. Grain Standards or other specifications. The quality grades and official weights serve as a basis for market prices and reflect the value of grain to producers, consumers,

handlers, exporters, and foreign buyers. FGIS' grading and certification services include both mandatory and voluntary services paid for by the users on a fee-for-service basis. The grain industry can use these tools to promote and communicate the quality of grain to domestic and foreign buyers and to maintain compliance with USGSA requirements. FGIS is required by statute to recover the costs associated with these services and to maintain a three- to six-month operating reserve.

#### 2025/2026 Rate Calculations

##### Hourly and Unit Fees

FGIS calculated the rate for services, per hour per program employee, using the following formulas (a per-unit base is included for charges for services on a per-unit basis; the specific amounts in each rate calculation are available upon request from FGIS):

(1) Regular rate. The total direct pay of program personnel performing grading, weighing, laboratory services, and equipment testing divided by the total direct hours for the previous year, which is then multiplied by the next year's percentage cost-of-living increase, plus the benefits rate, plus the operating rate, plus the allowance for bad debt rate. If applicable, travel expenses will be added to the cost of providing the service through the operating rate or the travel will be billed separately.

(2) Overtime rate. The total direct pay of program personnel performing grading, weighing, laboratory services, and equipment testing divided by the total direct hours for the previous year, which is then multiplied by the next year's percentage cost-of-living increase and then multiplied by 1.5, plus the benefits rate, plus the operating rate, plus the allowance for bad debt rate. If applicable, travel expenses will be added to the cost of providing the service through the operating rate or the travel will be billed separately.

(3) Holiday rate. The total direct pay of program personnel performing grading, weighing, laboratory services, and equipment testing divided by the total direct hours for the previous year, which is then multiplied by the next year's percentage cost-of-living increase and then multiplied by 2, plus the benefits rate, plus the operating rate, plus the allowance for bad debt rate. If applicable, travel expenses will be added to the cost of providing the service through the operating rate or the travel will be billed separately.