

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

[Docket No. FV-04-329]

United States Standards for Grades of Canned Pears

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice; request for public comment.

SUMMARY: The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), prior to undertaking research and other work associated with revising an official grade standard, is soliciting comments on the petition to change the United States Standards for Grades of Canned Pears. AMS received two petitions, one from a grower cooperative, the other from a processor, requesting that USDA change the character classification for Grade "B", slices, and diced, to read "the units are reasonably tender or tenderness may be variable within the unit."

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before March 22, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments concerning this notice. Comments must be sent to Karen L. Kaufman, Standardization Section, Processed Products Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW.; Room 0709, South Building; STOP 0247, Washington, DC 20250; Fax (202) 690-1527, e-mail Karen.Kaufman@usda.gov. The United States Standards for Grades of Canned Pears is available either through the address cited above or by accessing the AMS Home page on the Internet at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/standards/frutcan.htm>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

AMS received two petitions, one from a grower cooperative and the other from a processor, requesting the revision of the United States Standards for Grades of Canned Pears. The standards are established under the authority of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1621-1627). The petitioners represent growers from Washington State, Oregon and parts of California.

The petitioners are requesting that USDA change the character classification for Grade "B", slices, and diced, to include the following: "the units are reasonably tender or the tenderness may be variable within the unit." The current standard contains this wording for character classifications for halves, quarters, pieces or irregular pieces and whole pears. The petitioners believe the change in the standard will improve the economic position of domestic growers of pears.

Agricultural Marketing Service

Prior to undertaking detailed work to develop a revision to the standard, AMS is soliciting for comments on the petitions submitted to change the United States Standards for Grades of Canned Pears.

This notice provides a 60 day comment period for interested parties to comment on changes to the standard. Should AMS conclude that there is an interest in the proposal, the Agency will develop a proposed revised standard that will be published in the **Federal Register** with a request for comments in accordance with 7 CFR part 36.

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

Dated: January 14, 2004.

A.J. Yates,

Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 04-1207 Filed 1-20-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Docket No. FV-04-376]

Fruit and Vegetable Industry Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The purpose of this notice is to notify all interested parties that the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) will hold a Fruit and Vegetable Industry Advisory Committee (Committee) meeting that is open to the public. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) established the Committee to examine the full spectrum of issues faced by the fruit and vegetable industry and to provide suggestions and ideas to the Secretary of Agriculture on how USDA can tailor its programs to meet the fruit and vegetable industry's needs. This notice sets forth the schedule and location for the meeting.

DATES: Thursday, February 19, 2004, from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Friday, February 20, 2004, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The Committee meeting will be held at the Hilton Hotel Crystal City, 2399 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Sandra K. Gardei, Marketing Specialist, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, AMS, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Room 2071-S, Stop 0235, Washington DC 20250-0235. Telephone: (202) 720-3618. Facsimile: (202) 720-0016. E-mail: Sandra.gardei@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) (5 U.S.C. App.), the Secretary of Agriculture established the Committee in August 2001 to examine the full spectrum of issues faced by the fruit and vegetable industry and to provide suggestions and ideas to the Secretary on how USDA can tailor its programs to meet the fruit and vegetable industry's needs. The committee was rechartered in August 2003 and new members were appointed from industry nominations.

AMS Deputy Administrator for Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Robert C. Keeney, serves as the Committee's Executive Secretary and Sandra Gardei as the Designated Federal Official. Representatives from USDA mission areas and other government agencies affecting the fruit and vegetable industry will be called upon to participate in the Committee's meetings as determined by the Committee Chairperson. AMS is giving notice of the committee meeting to the public so that they may wish to attend and present their recommendations. The meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 19,

2004, from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Friday, February 20, 2004, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Hilton Hotel Crystal City, 2399 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA.

Topics to be discussed at the meeting will include: USDA programs that encourage increased consumption of fruits and vegetables, grading and auditing programs offered by the Federal-State Inspection Service. AMS' microbiological data program, the organizational structure of the Perishable Agriculture Commodities Act Program, and methyl bromide issues.

Those parties that wish to speak at the meeting should register on or before February 13, 2004. To register as a speaker, please e-mail Sandra.gardei@usda.gov or facsimile to (202) 720-0016. Registrants should include their name, address, and daytime telephone number. Depending on the number of registered speakers, time limits may be imposed on speakers. Speakers who have registered in advance will be given priority.

If you require special accommodations, such as a sign language interpreter, please contact the person listed for **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. The meeting will be recorded, and information about obtaining a transcript will be provided at the meeting.

The Secretary of Agriculture has selected a diverse group of members representing a broad spectrum of persons interested in providing suggestions and ideas on how USDA can tailor its programs to meet the fruit and vegetable industry's needs. Equal opportunity practices were considered in all appointments to the Committee in accordance with USDA policies.

Dated: January 14, 2004.

A.J. Yates,

Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 04-1208 Filed 1-20-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Research Service

Notice of Intent To Grant Exclusive License

AGENCY: Agricultural Research Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service, intends to grant Tetracore, Inc. of Gaithersburg, Maryland an exclusive license to U.S.

Patent No. 5,985,576, "Species-specific genetic identification of Mycobacterium paratuberculosis," issued on November 16, 1999. Notice of Availability of this invention for licensing was published in the **Federal Register** on November 3, 1999.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before February 20, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to: USDA, ARS, Office of Technology Transfer, 5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Room 4-1174, Beltsville, Maryland 20705-5131.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: June Blalock of the Office of Technology Transfer at the Beltsville address given above; telephone: 301-504-5989.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Federal Government's patent rights in this invention are assigned to the United States of America, as represented by the Secretary of Agriculture. It is in the public interest to so license this invention as Tetracore, Inc. of Gaithersburg, Maryland has submitted a complete and sufficient application for a license. The prospective license will be royalty-bearing and will comply with the terms and conditions of 35 U.S.C. 209 and 37 CFR 404.7. The prospective license may be granted unless, within thirty (30) days from the date of this published Notice, the Agricultural Research Service receives written evidence and argument which establishes that the grant of the license would not be consistent with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 209 and 37 CFR 404.7.

Michael D. Ruff,

Assistant Administrator.

[FR Doc. 04-1206 Filed 1-20-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-03-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Bureau of the Census

Request for Nominations of Members To Serve on the Census Advisory Committee on the African American Population

AGENCY: Bureau of the Census, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of request for nominations.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 United States Code (U.S.C.), Appendix 2, Section 10(a)(b)), the Bureau of the Census (Census Bureau) requests nominations of individuals to the Census Advisory Committee on the African American Population. The Census Bureau will consider

nominations received in response to this Request for Nominations, as well as from other sources. The **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for this notice provides committee and membership criteria.

DATES: Please submit nominations by February 20, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Please submit nominations to Ms. Jeri Green, Chief, Census Advisory Committee Office, U.S. Census Bureau, Department of Commerce, Room 3627, Federal Building 3, Washington, DC 20233, or by fax to (301) 457-8608.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Jeri Green, Chief, Census Advisory Committee Office, at the above address or by telephone at (301) 763-2070.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Committee was established in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Title 5, U.S.C., Appendix 2) in 1995. The following provides information about the Committee, membership, and the nomination process.

Objectives and Duties

1. The Committee provides an organized and continuing channel of communication between African American communities and the Census Bureau. Committee members identify useful strategies to reduce the differential undercount for the African American population and ways data can be disseminated for maximum usefulness to the African American population.

2. The Committee draws upon prior decennial planning efforts, research studies, test censuses, and other experiences to provide advice and recommendations for the 2010 census, the American Community Survey, and related decennial programs.

3. The Committee functions solely as an advisory body under the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

4. The Committee reports to the Director of the Census Bureau.

Membership

1. Members are appointed by and serve at the discretion of the Secretary of Commerce.

2. Members are appointed to the nine-member Committee for a period of three years. Members will be reevaluated at the conclusion of the three-year term with the prospect of renewal, pending Advisory Committee needs and the Secretary's concurrence. Committee members are selected in accordance with applicable Department of Commerce guidelines. The Committee aims to have a balanced representation,