

the standard was too subjective. The other commentators were in favor of a standard for frozen celery and proposed changes to the Table I-Allowances For Defects In Frozen Celery for grade "A" and "B," "sliced" and "diced" styles. These changes included a reduction in the sample size for Table I from a maximum-per 500 grams to maximum-per 283 grams for a 10-ounce portion, a separate allowance for seriously blemished units from blemished units, decrease the number of leaf material larger than a 1/4" from "20 pieces" to "10 pieces," change mechanical damage from "no more than 3 pieces" to "no more than 3% by weight" and for insect damaged change from "none" to "0.5%."

Based on these comments, AMS has revised the proposed standard for grades of frozen celery. AMS is proposing to establish the U.S. Standards for Grades of Frozen Celery following the standard format for U.S. Grade Standards. AMS is proposing to define "frozen celery" and establish "sliced" and "diced" as the style designations. The proposal will also define the quality factors that affect frozen celery and determine sample unit sizes for this commodity.

This proposal will establish the grade levels "A," "B" and "Substandard" and assign the corresponding score points for each level. The proposed tolerance for each quality factor as defined for each grade level will be established.

The grade of a sample unit of frozen celery will be ascertained by considering the factors of varietal characteristics flavor and odor, which are not scored; the ratings for the factors of color, defects, and character, which are scored; the total score; and the limiting rules which apply. This proposal will provide a common language for trade, a means of measuring value in the marketing of frozen celery, and provide guidance in the effective utilization of frozen celery. The official grade of a lot of frozen celery covered by these standards will be determined by the procedures set forth in the Regulations Governing Inspection and Certification of Processed Products Thereof, and Certain Other Processed Food Products (§ 52.1 to 52.83).

This notice provides for a 60 day comment period for interested parties to comment on changes to the standards.

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

Dated: February 13, 2003.

A.J. Yates,

Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 03-4081 Filed 2-19-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-U

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Siskiyou County Resource Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Siskiyou County Resource Advisory Committee will meet in Yreka, California, February 24, 2003. The meeting will include routine business including outreach to the public, conflict of interest, and a presentation on USFS Fire Fuels Management activities.

DATES: The meeting will be held February 24, 2003 from 4 p.m. until 6:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Yreka High School Library, Preece Way, Yreka, California.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Don Hall, RAC Coordinator, Klamath National Forest, (530) 841-4468 or electronically at donaldhall@fs.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting is open to the public. Public comment opportunity will be provided and individuals will have the opportunity to address the Committee at that time.

Dated: February 11, 2003.

Margaret J. Boland,

Designated Federal Official.

[FR Doc. 03-4025 Filed 2-19-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Determining Fees for Recreation Residences Permits During the Transition Period of the Cabin User Fee Fairness Act of 2000

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of issuance of interim directive.

SUMMARY: The Forest Service is issuing an interim directive to provide direction to Forest Service employees for assessing fees for recreation residence special use permits pursuant to the Cabin User Fee Fairness Act of 2000. The direction in this interim directive applies during the transition period as provided by section 614 of the act until the agency adopts final rules, directives, and appraisal guidelines. This interim directive is issued as ID 2709.11-2003-1 to Forest Service Handbook 2709.11, chapter 30.

DATES: This interim directive is effective February 20, 2003.

ADDRESSES: This interim directive (ID 2709.11-2003-1) is available electronically from the Forest Service via the World Wide Web/Internet at <http://www.fs.fed.us/im/directives>. Single paper copies of the interim directive also are available by contacting Randy Karstaedt, Forest Service, USDA, Lands Staff (Mail Stop 1124), 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-1124 (telephone 202-205-1256).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Randy Karstaedt, Lands Staff (202-205-1256), Forest Service, USDA.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Forest Service is currently developing proposed regulations, directives, and appraisal guidelines in response to the requirements of the Cabin User Fee Fairness Act of 2000 (CUFFA). The agency will publish notice of these documents in the **Federal Register** at a later date for public comment. Until final regulations, directives, and appraisal guidelines are adopted, the Forest Service will determine recreation residence fees and manage recreation residence permits during the transition period consistent with (1) the provisions in section 614 of CUFFA, (2) current agency directives applicable to the administration of permits and assessment of fees for recreation residences, and (3) the direction contained in interim directive (ID) 2709.11-2003-1 issued to Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 2709.11, chapter 30.

Dated: February 12, 2003.

Dale N. Bosworth,

Chief.

[FR Doc. 03-4098 Filed 2-19-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

National Agricultural Statistics Service

Notice of the Advisory Committee on Agriculture Statistics Meeting

AGENCY: National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. 2, the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) announces a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Agriculture Statistics.

DATES: The Advisory committee meeting will take place on February 24, 2003, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will take place at The Brown—A Camberley Hotel, 335 Broadway, Louisville, Kentucky. The public may file written comments before or within a reasonable time after the meeting to: Carol House, Executive Director, Advisory Committee on Agriculture Statistics, U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., South Building, Room 4117, Washington, DC 20250–2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Carol House, Telephone: 202–720–4333, Fax: 202–720–9013, or e-mail: chouse@nass.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Advisory Committee on Agriculture Statistics consists of 25 members appointed from 7 categories covering a broad range of agricultural disciplines and interests. During this meeting, the Advisory Committee will discuss: (1) Administrative Data, (2) Advisory Subcommittee for Hogs, (3) Publicity and Product Release Plan for the 2002 Census of Agriculture, and (4) Overview of the 2002 Census of Agriculture. The committee will observe and review NASS's data processing activities on Tuesday, February 25.

This advisory committee meeting will be open to the public. There will be an opportunity for public questions and comment during the meeting at 3:45 p.m. The public may file written comments to the USDA Advisory Committee contact person before or within a reasonable time after the meeting. All statements will become a part of the official records of the USDA Advisory Committee on Agriculture Statistics and will be kept on file for public review in the office of the Executive Director, Advisory Committee on Agriculture Statistics, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250.

Dated February 10, 2003, at Washington, DC.

R. Ronald Bosecker,
Administrator, National Agricultural Statistics Service.

[FR Doc. 03–4030 Filed 2–19–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–20–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

National Agricultural Statistics Service

Notice of the Advisory Committee on Agriculture Statistics Hog Subcommittee Meeting

AGENCY: National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. 2, the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) announces a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Agriculture Statistics Hog Subcommittee.

DATES: The subcommittee meeting will take place on February 25, 2003, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will take place at The Brown—A Camberley Hotel, 335 Broadway, Louisville, Kentucky. The public may file written comments before or within a reasonable time after the meeting to: Carol House, Executive Director, Advisory Committee on Agriculture Statistics, U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., South Building, Room 4117, Washington, DC 20250–2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Carol House, Telephone: 202–720–4333, Fax: 202–720–9013, or e-mail: chouse@nass.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Advisory Committee on Agriculture Statistics Hog Subcommittee consists of 3 members from the Advisory Committee on Agriculture Statistics and 8 members from hog industry. During this meeting, the Subcommittee will discuss the hog estimation program.

This Subcommittee meeting will be open to the public. There will be an opportunity for public questions and comments during the meeting at 3 p.m. The public may file written comments to the USDA Advisory Committee contact person before or within a reasonable time after the meeting. All statements will become a part of the official records of the USDA Advisory Committee on Agriculture Statistics and will be kept on file for public review in the office of the Executive Director, Advisory Committee on Agriculture Statistics, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250.

Dated February 10, 2003, at Washington, DC.

R. Ronald Bosecker,
Administrator, National Agricultural Statistics Service.

[FR Doc. 03–4031 Filed 2–19–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–20–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Notice Inviting Applications for Recognition as a State Rural Development Council

AGENCY: Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS), USDA.

ACTION: Notice inviting applications.

SUMMARY: This Notice invites applications for recognition as a State Rural Development Council (SRDC) pursuant to the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (2002 Farm Bill). SRDCs are members of the National Rural Development Partnership (NRDP), more fully described elsewhere in this Notice. Applicants must meet the eligibility requirements in the 2002 Farm Bill and this Notice, submit an application for recognition, and submit evidence of ability to provide the requisite matching funds if federal funding is provided.

Recognition by the Secretary does not guarantee that a State Rural Development Council will automatically receive funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) or any other Federal agency, but will enable Federal agencies to make grants, gifts, contributions, provide technical assistance, or enter into contracts or cooperative agreements with the SRDC, in addition to making the SRDC automatically a part of the recomprised National Rural Development Partnership.

DATES: Applications must be submitted by 5 p.m. Eastern Time, April 21, 2003. Applications received after that date will be reviewed on a first come basis in order to receive Federal recognition. Applicants are encouraged to apply as soon as possible. Due to delays in the receipt of federal government mail through the U.S. Postal Service, applications should be sent by an express mail service (e.g., UPS, Federal Express).

ADDRESSES: Entities wishing to apply for assistance may download the application requirements delineated in this Notice from the NRDP Web site at: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/nrdp/nia.html>. Applicants may also request application packages from: Tia Trout, United States Department of Agriculture National Rural Development Partnership, MAIL STOP 3205, Room 4225, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250–3205, telephone (202) 720–1534, e-mail tia.trout@usda.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tia Trout, USDA National Rural