

Agricultural Marketing Service



AMS Mission

- Facilitate the strategic marketing of agricultural products in domestic and international markets
- Producer to consumer



AMS Services

- Marketing Agreements and Orders
- Commodity Procurement
- Quality Standards, Grading, Certification, Auditing, and Inspection
- Market News
- National Organic Program
- Plant Variety Protection
- Research and Promotion
- Seed Regulatory and Testing Services
- Laboratory Approval and Testing Services
- Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act



Commodity Standards

- Describe product quality attributes
- Provide a common language of trade for buyers and sellers
- >500 U.S. and international standards in effect:
 - Cotton
 - Dairy products
 - Fruits and vegetables
 - Livestock , meat and seed
 - Poultry and eggs
 - Tobacco
- Utilized in grading and market news reporting



Quality Verification Programs

- Voluntary third-party services
- Support/protect buyers and sellers in commercial transactions
- Basis for product and/or production are commodity standards
- USDA seal is especially important in international markets



Grading & Product Certification Services

- Facilitate marketing of commodities
- Provide impartial evaluation of product quality
- Voluntary fee-supported services



Process Verification Programs

- Provides producers and marketers the opportunity to assure customers of their ability to provide consistent quality products by having written production and manufacturing processes confirmed through independent, third party audits
- Uses the International Organization for Standardization's ISO 9000 series
- Includes producers and marketers of:
 - Livestock and seed products
 - Fresh and processed fruit and vegetables
 - Poultry and poultry products
 - Eggs



Feed, Feed Stuffs, and Pet Food

- FDA/AMS Agreement
 - Facilitation of the Agreement
 - Products covered under the Agreement
 - What this means for industry
- <http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/AMSFeed>



Feed, Feed Stuffs, and Pet Food

- FDA/AMS Agreement
 - Current Situation

- <http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/AMSFeed>



For more information

- Website: <http://www.ams.usda.gov>
- Phone: 202-720-3100

