

(iii) The recordkeeping system used to document purchases of nonorganic materials, including a summary of the type(s) and total amount of each nonorganic material used in mushroom substrate.

(3) Wood chips, sawdust, logs, or other materials derived from wood that have not been treated with a prohibited substance after harvest;

(4) Nonsynthetic substances, except those on the National List of nonsynthetic substances prohibited for use in organic crop production (§ 205.602); and

(5) Synthetic substances on the National List of synthetic substances allowed for use in organic crop production (§ 205.601).

(d) Mushroom spawn must be organic: *Except*, that, nonorganic mushroom spawn may be used to produce an organic crop when an equivalent organic mushroom spawn is not commercially available.

(1) Organic mushroom spawn requirements.

(i) Agricultural materials used as mushroom spawn media must be organic: *Except*, that, nonorganic wood materials in compliance with paragraph (c)(3) of this section are allowed.

(ii) Mushroom spawn media may contain materials allowed in mushroom substrate at paragraphs (c)(1), (4), and (5) of this section.

(iii) Organic mushroom spawn must be under continuous organic management after the mycelium is applied to the mushroom spawn media.

(2) Organic mushroom operations that produce their own mushroom spawn for their own organic mushroom production must use organic agricultural materials for mushroom spawn media, unless a functionally equivalent organic agricultural material is not commercially available: *Except* that, wood materials in compliance with paragraph (c)(3) of this section are allowed.

■ 4. Amend § 205.270 by adding paragraph (d) to read as follows:

§ 205.270 Organic handling requirements.

(d) In addition to the substances described in paragraph (b) of this section, substances allowed under § 205.603(d)(2) and (3) may be used in or on pet food intended to be sold, labeled, or represented as “organic” or “made with organic (specified ingredients or food group(s))” pursuant to § 205.301(b) and (c). Pet food must be labeled pursuant to subpart D of this part.

■ 5. Amend § 205.601 by revising paragraphs (i) introductory text and (j) introductory text to read as follows:

§ 205.601 Synthetic substances allowed for use in organic crop production.

(i) As crop disease control.

(j) As crop or soil amendments.

■ 6. Amend § 205.605 by redesignating paragraphs (b)(36) and (37) as paragraphs (b)(37) and (38), respectively and adding new paragraph (b)(36) to read as follows:

§ 205.605 Nonagricultural (nonorganic) substances allowed as ingredients in or on processed products labeled as “organic” or “made with organic (specified ingredients or food group(s)).”

(b) Taurine—for use only in pet food.

Erin Morris,

Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 2024–30211 Filed 12–20–24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food and Nutrition Service

7 CFR Parts 247, 250, 251, 253, and 254

[FNS–2023–0026]

RIN 0584–AE92

Food Distribution Programs: Improving Access and Parity

AGENCY: Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

ACTION: Final rule; correction.

SUMMARY: The Food and Nutrition Service is correcting a final rule that appeared in the **Federal Register** on October 31, 2024. The document makes access and parity improvements in USDA’s food distribution programs to support access for eligible populations and streamline requirements for program operators.

DATES: Effective December 30, 2024.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gregory Walton, Program Analyst, Food Distribution Policy Branch, Supplemental Nutrition and Safety Programs, U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Food and Nutrition Service, 1320 Braddock Place, 3rd Floor, Alexandria, Virginia 22314 at 703–305–2746 or *Gregory.Walton@usda.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In FR Doc. 2024–24966 appearing on page 87228 in the **Federal Register** of Thursday, October 31, 2024, the following corrections are made:

■ 1. § 247.5 [Corrected]

On page 87244, in the third column, in amendatory instruction 4, correct paragraphs (b)(15) through (17) to read as follows:

(b) * * *

(15) Ensuring that program participation does not exceed the State agency’s caseload allocation on an average monthly basis;

(16) Making publicly available a list of all CSFP local agencies on a publicly available internet web page. The State agency must post the name, address, and telephone number for each local agency. The list must be updated, at a minimum, on an annual basis; and

(17) Posting the State Plan that is currently in use on a publicly available internet web page.

* * * * *

■ 2. § 247.9 [Corrected]

■ i. On page 87245, in the first and second columns, in amendatory instruction 9 correct paragraphs (b)(1) and (d)(3)(xxiv) to read as follows:

(b) * * *

(1) The State agency may accept as income-eligible for CSFP benefits any applicant that documents that they are certified as fully eligible for the following Federal programs: the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), the Low Income Subsidy Program, or the Medicare Savings Programs.

* * * * *

(d) * * *

(3) * * *

(xxix) Payments to the Assiniboine Tribe of the Fort Belknap Indian community and the Assiniboine Tribe of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation (Montana) (Pub. L. 98–124, sec. 5);

* * * * *

■ 3. § 251.4 [Corrected]

On page 87250, in the first column, instruction 26.f. to read as follows:

f. Removing the term “donated commodities” wherever it appears in paragraph (g) and adding in its place the term “USDA Foods”;

■ 4. § 253.2 [Corrected]

On page 87254, in the first and second columns, in amendatory 36, correct the definitions of “Indian Tribal Organization (ITO)” and “State agency” to read as follows:

* * * * *

Indian Tribal Organization (ITO) means:

(1) The recognized governing body of any Indian tribe on a reservation; or

(2) The tribally recognized intertribal organization which the recognized governing bodies of two or more Indian tribes on a reservation authorize to operate SNAP or a Food Distribution Program on their behalf.

* * * * *

State agency means:

(1) The agency of State government, including the local offices thereof, which enters into an agreement with FNS for the distribution of USDA Foods on all or part of an Indian reservation, and

(2) The ITO of any Indian tribe, determined by the Department to be capable of effectively administering a Food Distribution Program, which enters into an agreement with FNS for the distribution of USDA Foods on all or part of an Indian reservation.

(3) State agencies are also referred to as FDPIR administering agencies.

■ 5. § 253.5 [Corrected]

On page 87255, in the first column, in amendment 39, correct the section heading to read as follows:

§ 253.5 State agency requirements.

* * * * *

■ 6. § 253.6 [Corrected]

■ i. On page 87255, in the second column, in amendment 40, correct paragraphs (a)(2), (d)(3)(vii); and (e)(1) to read as follows:

* * * * *

(a) * * *

(2) Nonhousehold members. The following individuals residing with a household shall not be considered household members in determining the household's eligibility. Nonhousehold members specified in paragraphs (a)(2) (i) and (iv) who are otherwise eligible may participate in the Program as separate households.

* * * * *

(d) * * *

(3) * * *

(vii) The earned income (as defined in paragraph (d)(2)(i) of this section) of children who are members of the household, who are students at least half time and who have not attained their eighteenth birthday. * * *

* * * * *

(e) Income deductions—(1) Earned income deduction. Households with earned income, as defined in paragraph (d)(2)(i) of this section, shall be allowed a deduction of twenty percent of their gross earned income. Earned income excluded under paragraph (d)(3) of this section shall not be considered earned

income for the purpose of computing this deduction.

* * * * *

Tameka Owens,

Acting Administrator and Assistant Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service.

[FR Doc. 2024–30575 Filed 12–20–24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–30–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

7 CFR Part 1210

[Doc. No. AMS–SC–24–0020]

Watermelon Research and Promotion Plan; Increased Assessment Rate

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), Department of Agriculture (USDA).

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This final rule implements a recommendation from the National Watermelon Promotion Board to increase the assessment rate from six cents per hundredweight to nine cents per hundredweight. Domestic watermelon producers of 10 acres or more and domestic first handlers of watermelons will each pay four and a half cents per hundredweight, and importers of 150,000 pounds or more annually of watermelons will pay nine cents per hundredweight. This final rule also amends current regulatory language to correct non-substantive and typographical errors.

DATES: This rule is effective January 22, 2025.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: William Hodges, Marketing Specialist, Mid-Atlantic Region Branch, Market Development Division, Specialty Crops Program, AMS, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Room 1406–S, STOP 0244, Washington, DC 20250–0244; Telephone: (443) 571–8456; or Email: William.Hodges2@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This final rule affecting the Watermelon Research and Promotion Plan (7 CFR part 1210) (Plan) is authorized under the Watermelon Research and Promotion Act (7 U.S.C. 4901–4916) (Act).

Executive Orders 12866, 13563, and 14094

USDA is issuing this rule in conformance with Executive Orders 12866, 13563, and 14094. Executive Orders 12866 and 13563 direct agencies to assess all costs and benefits of available regulatory alternatives and, if regulation is necessary, to select

regulatory approaches that maximize net benefits (including potential economic, environmental, public health and safety effects, distributive impacts, and equity). Executive Order 13563 emphasizes the importance of quantifying both costs and benefits, reducing costs, harmonizing rules, and promoting flexibility. Executive Order 14094 reaffirms, supplements, and updates Executive Order 12866 and further directs agencies to solicit and consider input from a wide range of affected and interested parties through a variety of means. This rule is not a significant regulatory action within the meaning of Executive Order 12866. Accordingly, this action has not been reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget under sec. 6 of the Executive order.

Executive Order 13175

This action was reviewed in accordance with the requirements of Executive Order 13175, Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments, which requires agencies to consider whether their rulemaking actions will have Tribal implications. AMS has determined that this rule is unlikely to have substantial direct effects on one or more Indian Tribes, or the relationship between the Federal Government and Indian Tribes, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities between the Federal Government and Indian Tribes.

Executive Order 12988

This rule was reviewed under Executive Order 12988, Civil Justice Reform. It is not intended to have retroactive effect. The Act provides that it shall not affect or preempt any other Federal or State law authorizing promotion or research relating to an agricultural commodity.

Under sec. 1650 of the Act (7 U.S.C. 4909), a person may file a written petition with the Secretary of Agriculture (Secretary) if they believe that the Plan, any provision of the Plan, or any obligation imposed in connection with the Plan, is not in accordance with the law. In any petition, the person may request a modification of the Plan or an exemption from the Plan. The petitioner will have the opportunity for a hearing on the petition. Afterwards, an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) will issue a decision. If the petitioner disagrees with the ALJ's ruling, the petitioner has 30 days to appeal to the Judicial Officer, who will issue a ruling on behalf of the Secretary. If the petitioner disagrees with the Secretary's ruling, the petitioner may file, within 20 days, an appeal in the U.S. District