

**APRIL 24, 2013**

**NOTICE TO THE TRADE**

**AMS ANIMAL HANDLING AND WELFARE REQUIREMENT MODIFICATIONS FOR  
FEDERAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS**

The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) seeks to ensure that the Animal Handling and Welfare (AHW) requirements for suppliers to Federal nutrition assistance programs continually evolve to offer assurance to program recipients that animals have been raised, transported, and harvested humanely.

Effective July 2013, AMS will require suppliers participating in Federal nutrition assistance programs to update their animal handling and welfare plans so that they conform to the provisions outlined in the Technical Requirements Schedule – Animal Handling and Welfare – 2013 (TRS-AHW-2013). This Federal purchase program specification reflects input from industry, academia, government, and trade association stakeholders stemming from a request for comment through a December 2012 Notice to the Trade (<http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/getfile?dDocName=STELPRDC5101582>).

Notable updates to the TRS-AHW-2013 include the complete adoption of the American Meat Institute's *Recommended Animal Handling Guidelines and Audit Guide, 2012 Edition*; requiring firms to establish an internal AHW steering committee; and requiring that a supplier's AHW training program be conducted by an employee that has earned and maintained a certification of an AHW training program such as that offered through the Professional Animal Auditor Certification Organization or an equivalent.

The TRS-AHW-2013 may be obtained by visiting the following web site address:  
<http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/getfile?dDocName=STELPRDC5084518>

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Darin R. Doerscher, AMS Livestock and Meat Marketing Specialist, Food Safety and Commodity Specifications Division, Livestock, Poultry and Seed Program at 563-847-1550 or [darin.doerscher@ams.usda.gov](mailto:darin.doerscher@ams.usda.gov).



---

Craig A. Morris  
Deputy Administrator  
Livestock, Poultry and Seed Program