The purpose of this amendment is to revise information that was listed on Exhibit 5, revise crop acceptability criteria, and to distribute answers to questions received during, and subsequent to, the pre-proposal conference held on Thursday, June 16, 2016 as follows:

1) The section located at the bottom of the page under Exhibit 5, titled Name of Offerors Bank, Address, Point of Contact, and Telephone number is no longer a requirement for vendors to fill out and can be disregarded. An updated copy of Exhibit 5 is attached to this amendment for reference.

Except as provided herein, all terms and conditions of the document referenced in item 9A or 10A, as heretofore changed, remains unchanged and in full force and effect.

15A. Name and Title of Signer (Type or Print) 16A. Name and title of Contracting Officer (Type or Print)
James D. Sprandel
Contracting Officer

15B. Contractor/Offeror 15C. Date Signed 16B. United States of America 16C. Date Signed
(Signature of person authorized to sign) (Signature of Contracting Officer)
2) Paragraph B.7 is changed to read: “Products harvested in crop year 2015 can packed in 2016. If 2016 harvest is not yet available. Only product packed in 2016 or later should be delivered under this contract.”

3) AMS received eleven questions in response to the solicitation. Those questions and AMS answers to those questions are listed below:

**Questions and Answers:**

**Q1.** If you do not wish to bid a State yet you are required to add a price what do you suggest be entered?

**A1.** At this time, AMS is uncertain as to the exact destination of orders anticipated under the resulting contracts. Therefore, AMS is soliciting indefinite delivery contracts. After award, when orders from the recipients are finalized, AMS will place delivery orders against the resulting contracts. Therefore, it is essential that every contract awarded by AMS have the flexibility for delivery to any potential AMS destination. In addition, that is the reason offerors are required to submit pricing for delivery to all States (pricing is optional to offshore locations; which Alaska is considered an offshore destination for which pricing is optional). Offerors are responsible for independently determining and entering their own pricing. If an offer does not contain pricing for all States (except offshores, which are optional, or include a bid $0.00 per unit) the offer will be evaluated as deficient, and will not be considered further for award unless the Government enters negotiations. The Government does not anticipate entering negotiations at this time.

**Q2.** Since we are a current contractor that meets the Qualification requirements do we need to provide information as indicated under Page 7, item #5, Paragraph C?

**A2.** This reference concerns vendor qualifications required to do business with AMS. Companies that have already met the qualification requirements and are currently AMS qualified vendors do not need to re-qualify. However, if you are not a qualified AMS vendor, and desire to do business with AMS, you must meet the vendor qualification requirements, before you will be allowed to submit an offer on an AMS solicitation.

**Q3.** Since we are a current approved contractor shipping product against a current contract it will not be required, as in the past IDIQ bids, to provide a Proposal Part 1, is that correct?

**A3.** All offerors are required to submit the same level of information, whether or not they currently are, or historically have, done business with AMS. Every proposal part requires some form of submission. For example, Proposal Part 1 requires the offeror to submit a list of qualified plant(s) and shipping point(s) to be used in executing the contract.

**Q4.** Proposal Part 3 now asks for 3 references. Are 3 references necessary? Where is Exhibit 5-Past Performance Reference Information?

**A4.** Yes, submission of 3 references is necessary, even if the references are for AMS contracts completed by the offeror. In addition, Exhibit 5 is located on page 37 of the solicitation. Also, an updated version of Exhibit 5 is attached to this amendment.

**Q5.** Is there any way you can award prior to the July 21, 2016 date specified?

**A5.** If circumstances permit awarding earlier than July 21, 2016, AMS will make every effort to award earlier. However, AMS has issues July 18, 2016 as the date vendors can reasonably expect contracts to be awarded.

**Q6.** Under Section B. 7, it states that 2015 year produced product can be used. To clarify, 2015 pack year can be shipped in January 2017 even if pack year 2016 is available? Also, will the USDA grading officials be made aware that 2015 pack can still be used?

**A6.** The pack date for all 2017 deliveries shall be 2016 or later. If crop from 2016 is not yet available, product harvested in 2015, and packed in 2016, is acceptable and may be used for all deliveries on the
resulting contracts. Also, please reference item number 2 above.

**Q7.** Is Alaska considered an offshore?

**A7.** Yes, the way Alaska receives deliveries is considered offshore. The products generally go through Washington State.

**Q8.** When a vendor places a bid should it be by State, or is it different this year?

**A8.** Yes, enter the price by State. It can be different prices to each State, but the price is reflective of all destinations in that State.

**Q9.** How accurate is Exhibit #2? Dates are listed but how accurate is that information?

**A9.** The USDA is unable to ID accuracy right now, but this information has been surveyed, and is based on current orders in the system, which is subject to change.

**Q10.** Vendor had a question about putting in pricing and was advised by the Helpdesk to put zero in for bids on States they did not want to bid on?

**A10.** The requirement is to put a price for each State. If a vendor puts in amount of zero dollars, that zero is reviewed as a no bid, which would result in a proposal deficiency. In addition, leaving the number field blank for a State bid is viewed as an incomplete bid.

**Q11.** How does BEOS look at those prices, for States people do not want to bid to?

**A11.** For contracts under this solicitation, BEOS will evaluate all of the destinations and quantities from Exhibit 2. Then, BEOS will determine the best award to the Government based on quantity per material based on price. In addition, delivery orders will also be completed in BEOS.