



# Agricultural Marketing Service

Creating Opportunities for American Farmers and Businesses



The Agricultural Marketing Service supports economic development and access to wholesome food by creating domestic and international marketing opportunities for American farmers, ranchers and businesses in the supply chain from field to table.

## Commodity Procurement Program

Manages the annual purchase of over \$3 billion of domestically produced and processed meat, poultry, fruit, vegetables, dairy, grains and oilseed to support American agriculture and provide safe, nutritious food for a variety of federal, state and international nutrition assistance programs.

## Cotton and Tobacco Program

During a typical season, classifies the entire annual U.S. production of raw cotton valued at about \$7 billion. More than 50 countries use the Program's Universal Cotton Standards for instrument and visual grading of the crop. Also, grades tobacco crop insurance samples submitted by producers participating in USDA's Risk Management Agency crop insurance program.

## Dairy Program

Facilitates the efficient marketing of milk and dairy products in the United States and abroad by administering 11 Federal Milk Marketing Orders, developing dairy product standards and providing grading services and export certification, publishing timely market statistics and economic analyses, and overseeing industry research and promotion programs.

## Fair Trade Practices Program

Instills confidence in the U.S. agricultural marketplace by advancing and maintaining fair trade practices through its four divisions: Packers and Stockyards, Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act (PACA), Warehouse and Commodity Management and Food Disclosure and Labeling.

## Federal Grain Inspection Service

Helps move our Nation's harvest into the marketplace by providing farmers, handlers, processors, exporters and international buyers with tools that accurately and consistently describe the quality and quantity of the commodities being bought and sold.

## Livestock and Poultry Program

Empowers U.S. farmers and businesses by offering voluntary services that add value and create demand for American meat, shell eggs, poultry and fish. Grading and auditing programs help producers ensure buyers understand the quality of products they purchase and increase market opportunities. Provides critical economic analysis and develops food specifications for Federal nutrition assistance programs.

## Market News

Provides free, unbiased price and sales information to assist in the marketing and distribution of farm commodities. Key wholesale, retail and shipping data gives farmers, producers and other agricultural businesses the information they need to evaluate market conditions, make purchasing and selling decisions, and evaluate transportation costs.

## National Organic Program

Develops and enforces national standards for organically-produced agricultural products, accredits certifiers and facilitates organic trade. This work assures consumers that products with the USDA organic seal meet consistent, uniform standards for production and distribution in this \$50 billion agricultural sector.

## Science and Technology Program

Provides scientific, certification and analytical services to the agricultural community to improve the quality, wholesomeness and marketing of agricultural products domestically and internationally through Laboratory Approval and Testing, Monitoring Programs, the Plant Variety Protection Office (PVPO) and the Seed Regulatory and Testing Division (SRTD).

## Specialty Crops Program

Provides customized solutions to enhance the competitive, efficient, and transparent marketing of all specialty crops through industry-driven programs and agreements. Services include a full range of grading, inspection, certification, audit, quality assurance, and unbiased market data – providing clients and their customers with confidence that products are grown, processed, and distributed under the most favorable conditions.

## Transportation and Marketing Program

Oversees grant programs focused on local and regional food systems, specialty crops, dairy and sheep industries. Provides market reports, analysis, technical assistance and regulatory representation on the movement of agricultural products via truck, rail, barge and ocean transport. Supports the expansion of consumer access to fresh food, including USDA's Farmers Market in Washington, D.C., through research, technical assistance and online business directories.

