

DEPARTMENTAL REGULATION		Number: DR 2400-006
SUBJECT: Committee on Grain Quality	DATE: July 28, 1992	
	OPI: Federal Grain Inspection Service	

1 PURPOSE

a Title XX, Grain Quality, of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (Grain Quality Incentives Act of 1990) Pub. L. No. 101-624; 7 U.S.C. 75b et seq., authorizes the establishment of a Committee on Grain Quality (Committee) and the position of Grain Quality Coordinator (Coordinator). This Committee is NOT an advisory committee as defined by the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, 5 U.S.C. App., in accordance with Federal Regulation 41 CFR .Part 101-6, Section 101-6.1004, subpart (a) which states that any committee composed wholly of full-time officers or employees of the Federal Government is an example of a committee that is not covered by the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended.

b Section 2002 of the Grain Quality Incentives Act of 1990 provides that the Secretary of Agriculture (Secretary) shall establish, within the Department of Agriculture (USDA), a Committee on Grain Quality. Additionally, section 2002 provides that the Secretary shall appoint a chairperson to serve as the Grain Quality Coordinator to coordinate the functions of the Committee. The Committee is to provide information and advice through the Secretary, to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate on issues of grain quality. The Committee also will advise the House and Senate Agriculture Committees, through the Secretary, on the progress of implementing the Grain Quality Incentives Act of 1990.

c Grain quality issues involve several agencies within USDA. The Committee will provide a forum for these agencies to review program activities as they relate to grain quality.

2 SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

The Committee and the position of Coordinator shall terminate on January 1, 2001, and this regulation will be cancelled at that time.

3 MEMBERSHIP

a The Coordinator, appointed by the Secretary, shall serve as chairperson of the Committee.

b The Committee shall consist of representatives from the following USDA Agencies:

Federal Grain Inspection Service

Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service

Agricultural Marketing Service

Economic Research Service

National Agricultural Statistics Service

Agricultural Research Service

Foreign Agricultural Service

Extension Service

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

c The Coordinator may, when necessary, ask that representatives of the Food and Drug Administration, Environmental Protection Agency, or any other Federal Agency temporarily attend Committee meetings to facilitate communication on grain quality issues. Agencies outside of USDA may provide information and advice to the Coordinator on recommendations regarding grain quality.

4 MEETINGS

It is anticipated that the Committee will meet bimonthly for the first year and quarterly thereafter. Frequency of meetings may intensify when necessary.

5 DUTIES

a The Coordinator, with the assistance of the Committee, shall:

(1) Assemble and evaluate, in a systematic manner, concerns and problems with the quality of United States grain expressed by foreign and domestic buyers, end-users, and other interested parties.

(2) Develop and implement a coordinated effort to inform and educate foreign buyers concerning the proper specifications of grain purchase contracts to obtain the quality of grain they desire.

- (3) Review the programs and activities related to grain within USDA and determine whether the activities are consistent with the Grain Quality Incentives Act of 1990 and such other provisions of law relating to grain quality and grain quality competitiveness.
- (4) Serve as the Federal Government Coordinator with respect to grain quality issues and grain quality competitiveness.
- (5) Report to the Committee on Agriculture of the House, and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate, through the Secretary, on the following areas:
 - (a) Actions taken by USDA to improve grain quality and actions that are inconsistent with the goal of improving grain quality;
 - (b) Conditions in the production and marketing sectors that discourage improvements in grain quality;
 - (c) Interrelationships of rules and actions taken by Federal Agencies relating to grain production, handling, storage, transportation, and processing as such actions affect the wholesomeness and performance of grain;
 - (d) Recommendations for legislative or regulatory change to promote grain quality;
 - (e) Progress made and benefits expected from the international harmonization of sanitary and phytosanitary requirements affecting grain;
 - (f) Potential opportunities and benefits from the international harmonization of grain grades and standards;
 - (g) Alternative forms of financial and technical assistance available and needed by producers and elevator operators to acquire and properly utilize grain cleaning, drying, and storage equipment; and
 - (h) Progress on the implementation of the Grain Quality Incentives Act of 1990.

b The Committee is not authorized to perform studies and projects that normally are achieved through the Department's regular programs and activities.

a Administrative support to the Committee shall be provided by the Federal Grain Inspection Service.

b It is expected that the agency representatives comprising the membership of the Committee will serve in a collateral duty capacity. Funds will not be required for the administration of Committee meetings.

c The Coordinator shall report to Congress through the Secretary. The Committee shall compile an annual summary of accomplishments and recommendations relating to the Grain Quality Incentives Act of 1990. The minutes of the meetings will serve as a more frequent communication within USDA of the activity of the Committee.