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USDA's United States Grain Standards Act: *Florida*



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Fla. Stat. Ann. §§ 603.11 through 603.15

§ 603.11. Grades of fruits, vegetables, nuts, grains, and other agricultural products.

- (1) The standard grades of all fruits, vegetables, nuts, grains, and other agricultural products shall be the same as those of the United States grades as now promulgated or which may be promulgated by the United States Department of Agriculture.
- (2) The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services is authorized to establish by rule Florida grades and Florida sizes on any fruits or vegetables in this state. However, this subsection shall not apply to citrus.

§ 603.12. Inspection of fruits, vegetables, nuts, grains, and other agricultural products; certificates.

The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, cooperating with the United States Department of Agriculture, shall, when requested by the shipper, furnish carlot inspection of fruits, vegetables, nuts, grains, and other agricultural products at shipping point, furnishing certificates in conformity with those used by the United States Department of Agriculture in shipping point inspection. The expense or charge of such inspection shall be paid by the shipper.

§ 603.13. Fees for inspections.

All fees for inspection performed under the preceding section shall be paid to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services which shall deposit the same in the State Treasury in the General Inspection Trust Fund from which all expenses for inspection services performed and other expenses incurred under the provisions of s. 603.12 shall be paid upon the approval and at the direction of the state department, but the expenditures from the General Inspection Trust Fund for all such expenses shall not exceed the amount of fees charged and collected as authorized and provided by said s. 603.12 of this chapter. Any amount of fees so charged and collected in excess of the requirements for paying all expenses for inspection services shall be held in the State Treasury in the General Inspection Trust Fund, subject to any contract or agreement entered into by and between the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the United States Department of Agriculture for carrying out the provisions of s. 603.12.



§ 603.14. Cooperative certificates as evidence.

All such cooperative government certificates shall be accepted as prima facie evidence in the courts of Florida.

§ 603.15. United States inspection certificates as evidence.

(1) Any inspection certificate issued by any licensed inspector of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, of the United States Department of Agriculture under the laws of the United States or the regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States, showing the grade, quality, condition or the size, pack or method of loading for shipment of any agricultural, horticultural or citricultural products shall be received as competent evidence in all proceedings in any of the courts of this state, except when offered in behalf of the state in criminal prosecutions.

(2) Every such certificate when offered in evidence shall be prima facie evidence of the truth of all matters and things set forth therein.

