

as possible. It is also helpful if comments refer to specific pages or chapters of the draft statement. Comments may also address the adequacy of the draft environmental impact statement or the merits of the alternatives formulated and discussed in the statement. Reviewers may wish to refer to the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act at 40 CFR 1503.3 in addressing these points.

The Beaverhead-Deerlodge Forest Supervisor is the responsible official who will make the decision. She will decide on this proposal after considering comments and responses, environmental consequences discussed in the Final EIS, and applicable laws, regulations, and policies. The decision and reasons for the decision will be documented in a Record of Decision.

Dated: July 22, 1998.

Thomas W. Heintz,

Acting Forest Supervisor, Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest.

[FR Doc. 98-20567 Filed 7-31-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

Opportunity for Designation in the Alton (IL), Columbus (OH), and Farwell (TX) Areas, and Request for Comments on the Alton, Columbus, and Farwell Agencies

AGENCY: Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The United States Grain Standards Act, as amended (Act), provides that official agency designations will end not later than triennially and may be renewed. The designations of Alton Grain Inspection Department (Alton), Columbus Grain Inspection, Inc. (Columbus), and Farwell Grain Inspection, Inc. (Farwell), will end January 31, 1999, according to the Act. GIPSA is asking persons interested in providing official services in the Alton, Columbus, and Farwell areas to submit an application for designation. GIPSA is also asking for comments on the services provided by Alton, Columbus, and Farwell.

DATES: Applications must be postmarked or sent by telecopier (FAX) on or before September 1, 1998. Comments are due by October 31, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Applications and comments must be submitted to USDA, GIPSA,

Janet M. Hart, Chief, Review Branch, Compliance Division, STOP 3604, Room 1647-S, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-3604.

Applications and comments may be submitted by FAX on 202-690-2755. If an application is submitted by FAX, GIPSA reserves the right to request an original application. All applications and comments will be made available for public inspection at this address located at 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, during regular business hours.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Janet M. Hart, at 202-720-8525.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This Action has been reviewed and determined not to be a rule or regulation as defined in Executive Order 12866 and Departmental Regulation 1512-1; therefore, the Executive Order and Departmental Regulation do not apply to this Action.

Section 7(f)(1) of the Act authorizes GIPSA's Administrator to designate a qualified applicant to provide official services in a specified area after determining that the applicant is better able than any other applicant to provide such official services. GIPSA designated Alton, main office located in St. Paul, Missouri, Columbus, main office located in Circleville, Ohio, and Farwell, main office located in Farwell, Texas, to provide official inspection services under the Act on February 1, 1996.

Section 7(g)(1) of the Act provides that designations of official agencies shall end not later than triennially and may be renewed according to the criteria and procedures prescribed in Section 7(f) of the Act. The designations of Alton, Columbus, and Farwell end on January 31, 1999, according to the Act.

Pursuant to Section 7(f)(2) of the Act, the following geographic area, in the State of Illinois, is assigned to Alton.

Calhoun, Jersey, and Madison (West of State Route 4 and North of Interstate 70 and 270) Counties.

Pursuant to Section 7(f)(2) of the Act, the following geographic area, in the States of Michigan and Ohio, is assigned to Columbus.

In Ohio: Bounded on the North by the northern Lucas County line east to Lake Erie; the Lake Erie shoreline east to the Ohio-Pennsylvania State line;

Bounded on the East by the Ohio-Pennsylvania State line south to the Ohio River;

Bounded on the South by the Ohio River south-southwest to the western Scioto County line; and

Bounded on the West by the western Scioto County line north to State Route 73; State Route 73 northwest to U.S. Route 22; U.S. Route 22 west to U.S.

Route 68; U.S. Route 68 north to Clark County; the northern Clark County line west to State Route 560; State Route 560 north to State Route 296; State Route 296 west to Interstate 75; Interstate 75 north to State Route 47; State Route 47 northeast to U.S. Route 68 (including all of Sidney, Ohio); U.S. Route 68 north to U.S. Route 30; U.S. Route 30 east to State Route 19; State Route 19 north to Seneca County; the southern Seneca County line west to State Route 53; State Route 53 north to Sandusky County; the southern Sandusky County line west to State Route 590; State Route 590 north to Ottawa County; the southern and western Ottawa and Lucas County lines.

In Michigan: those sections of Jackson, Lenawee, and Monroe Counties which are east of State Route 127 and south of State Route 50.

Columbus' assigned geographic area does not include the export port locations inside Columbus' area which are serviced by GIPSA.

Pursuant to Section 7(f)(2) of the Act, the following geographic area, in the States of Arizona, New Mexico and Texas, is assigned to Farwell.

Maricopa, Pinal, and Yuma Counties, Arizona.

Bernalillo, Chaves, Curry, DeBaca, Eddy, Guadalupe, Lea, Quay, Roosevelt, San Miguel, Santa Fe, Tarrant, and Union Counties, New Mexico.

Bailey, Cochran, Deaf Smith (west of State Route 214), Hockley, Lamb (south of a line bounded by U.S. Route 70, FM 303, U.S. Route 84, and FM 37), and Parmer Counties, Texas.

Interested persons, including Alton, Columbus, and Farwell are hereby given the opportunity to apply for designation to provide official services in the geographic areas specified above under the provisions of Section 7(f) of the Act and section 800.196(d) of the regulations issued thereunder.

Designation in the Alton, Columbus, and Farwell areas is for the period beginning February 1, 1999, and ending January 31, 2002. Persons wishing to apply for designation should contact the Compliance Division at the address listed above for forms and information.

GIPSA is also publishing this notice to provide interested persons the opportunity to present comments on the Alton, Columbus, and Farwell official agencies. Commentors are encouraged to submit pertinent data concerning the Alton, Columbus, and Farwell official agencies including information on the timeliness, cost, quality, and scope of services provided. All comments must be submitted to the Compliance Division at the above address.

Applications, comments, and other available information will be considered

in determining which applicant will be designated.

Authority: Pub. L. 94-582, 90 Stat. 2867, as amended (7 U.S.C. 71 *et seq.*).

Dated: July 17, 1998.

Neil E. Porter,

Director, Compliance Division.

[FR Doc. 98-20071 Filed 7-31-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-EN-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

Designation for the Fremont (NE) and Titus (IN) Areas

AGENCY: Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: GIPSA announces the designation of Fremont Grain Inspection Department, Inc. (Fremont) and Titus Grain Inspection, Inc. (Titus) to provide official services under the United States Grain Standards Act, as amended (Act).

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 1, 1998.

ADDRESSES: USDA, GIPSA, Janet M. Hart, Chief, Review Branch, Compliance Division, STOP 3604, Room 1647-S, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20250-3604.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Janet M. Hart, at 202-720-8525.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This action has been reviewed and determined not to be a rule or regulation as defined in Executive Order 12866 and Departmental Regulation 1512-1; therefore, the Executive Order and Departmental Regulation do not apply to this action.

In the March 2, 1998, **Federal Register** (63 FR 10187), GIPSA asked persons interested in providing official services in the geographic areas assigned to Fremont and Titus to submit an application for designation.

Applications were due by March 31, 1998. Fremont and Titus, the only applicants, each applied for designation to provide official services in the entire area currently assigned to them.

Since Fremont and Titus were the only applicants, GIPSA did not ask for comments on them.

GIPSA evaluated all available information regarding the designation criteria in Section 7(f)(1)(A) of the Act and, according to Section 7(f)(1)(B), determined that Fremont and Titus are able to provide official services in the geographic areas for which they applied. Effective September 1, 1998, and ending August 31, 2001, Fremont and Titus are

designated to provide official services in the geographic area specified in the March 2, 1998 **Federal Register**.

Interested persons may obtain official services by contacting Fremont at 402-721-1270 and Titus at 765-497-2202.

Authority: Pub. L. 94-582, 90 Stat. 2867, as amended (7 U.S.C. 71 *et seq.*).

Dated: July 17, 1998.

Neil E. Porter,

Director, Compliance Division.

[FR Doc. 98-20072 Filed 7-31-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-EN-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

National Agricultural Statistics Service

Notice of Intent To Seek Approval To Conduct an Information Collection

AGENCY: National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. No. 104-13) and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations at 5 CFR Part 1320 (60 FR 44978, August 29, 1995), this notice announces the intent of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) to request approval for a new information collection, the Wildlife Damage Survey.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by October 7, 1998 to be assured of consideration.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS: Contact Rich Allen, Associate Administrator, National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Room 4117 South Building, Washington, DC 20250-2000, (202) 720-4333.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Wildlife Damage Survey.

Type of Request: Intent to seek Approval to Conduct an Information Collection.

Abstract: The Animal Health Plant Inspection Service has contracted with NASS to survey a sample of U.S. producers of selected agricultural commodities. The primary goal of the survey is the collection and development of valid statistical data reflecting the percentage of U.S. producers experiencing loss of product or resources caused by vertebrate wildlife. An accurate measurement of dollar losses to vertebrate wildlife will be obtained. Additional goals are to evaluate the Wildlife Services Program name recognition and test the efficacy of

the Program in reducing crop and livestock losses. NASS intends to request that the survey be approved for a 3 year period. These data will be collected under the authority of 7 U.S.C. 2204(a). Individually identifiable data collected under this authority are governed by Section 1770 of the Food Security Act of 1985, 7 U.S.C. 2276, which requires USDA to afford strict confidentiality to non-aggregated data provided by respondents.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 13 minutes per response.

Respondents: Agricultural Commodity Growers.

Estimated number of Respondents: 32,000.

Estimated total Annual Burden on Respondents: 6,933 hours.

Copies of this information collection and related instructions can be obtained without charge from Larry Gambrell, the Agency OMB Clearance Officer, at (202) 720-5778.

Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to: Larry Gambrell, Agency OMB Clearance Officer, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Room 4162 South Building, Washington, DC 20250-2000.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval.

All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Signed at Washington, DC, July 16, 1998.

Rich Allen,

Associate Administrator, National Agricultural Statistics Service.

[FR Doc. 98-20561 Filed 7-31-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-20-P