

# Notices

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Farm Service Agency

#### U.S. Warehouse Act Fees

**AGENCY:** Farm Service Agency, USDA.  
**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The purpose of this notice is to publish a schedule increasing the fees to be charged under the United States Warehouse Act (USWA) regulations covering cotton, grain, tobacco, wool, dry bean, nut, syrup, and cottonseed warehouse operators for licensing and inspection services.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** October 1, 1997.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Steve Mikkelsen, Warehouse and Inventory Division, Farm Service Agency, United States Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, STOP 0553, Washington, DC 20250-0553, telephone (202) 720-7433, FAX (202) 690-3123.

#### Background

Pursuant to the provisions of the USWA which regulates warehouse operations for the benefit of all depositors, the Secretary has the authority to license public warehouse operators. Warehouse operators that opt to have a USWA license understand that fees will be imposed to cover the costs of the program. Specifically, the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981 mandates the imposition of fees for USWA licensed warehouses. The Act provides in part, that:

The Secretary of Agriculture \* \* \* shall charge, assess, and cause to be collected a reasonable fee for: (1) Each examination or inspection of a warehouse \* \* \*; (2) each license issued to any person to classify, inspect, grade, sample, or weigh agricultural products stored or to be stored \* \* \*; (3) each annual warehouse license issued to a warehouseman to conduct a warehouse \* \* \*; and (4) each warehouse license amended, modified,

extended, or reinstated \* \* \*. Such fees shall cover, as nearly as practicable, the costs of providing such services and licenses \* \* \* including administrative and supervisory costs \* \* \*.

The USWA mandates fee collections to help self-sustain the Federal warehouse licensing and examination programs. The Farm Service Agency (FSA) is raising USWA license and user fees to increase the amount of revenue generated to recover more of the actual operating costs for the USWA in fiscal year 1998 (FY).

The regulations used in administering USWA fees were last amended effective October 1, 1994, (59 FR 51355), at which time an annual fee was imposed with respect to cotton warehouse operators. These regulations at 7 CFR part 735-743 provide that USWA fees could be adjusted annually in order to cover, as nearly as practicable, the operating costs for the program.

A comprehensive review of the warehouse examination program was performed to review staffing levels, travel expenses, services that warehouse operators can expect to receive, services for which warehouse operators are willing to pay, and the type and scope of examinations needed to adequately protect a depositor's interest in warehouses licensed under the USWA.

As a result of streamlining and restructuring of the Kansas City Commodity Office (KCCO) FSA, and the Washington office of FSA, the total staffing of FSA personnel associated with USWA activities has been reduced by 18.5 percent (i.e., warehouse examiners and office personnel) while supervisory staffing levels have been reduced by 24 percent. Other efficiencies have been achieved through a variety of means including: the purchase and use of laptop computers for field warehouse examiners, thereby reducing time in performing examinations and reducing printing costs for forms used in examinations; and the reduction in travel expenses by personnel in KCCO and in Washington.

The FY 98 fee adjustments reflect increases of no greater than 10 percent for each type of commodity with the rate of increase depending on FSA's direct costs with respect to warehouse examinations for that commodity.

Establishing an electronic data interchange (EDI) system for those agricultural products approved under the USWA has the potential of providing U.S. agribusiness and the

USWA warehouse examination program considerable savings. For example, since 1995 electronic warehouse receipts (EWRs) have been used by the cotton industry and it is estimated that \$5 to \$10 per bale has been saved for each EWR issued in lieu of a paper receipt for a total savings of \$40 to \$80 million per year. The use of EDI for cotton has reduced the costs of the USWA warehouse examination program by approximately 30 percent. Similarly, the use of EWRs for grain and other agricultural products approved under the USWA would represent a major step in reducing the paperwork burden that currently impedes efficiency and add costs to the operations of agribusiness and the USWA. However, because of statutory restriction EWRs are only authorized for cotton.

#### Warehouse and Service License Fees

The fee for original issuance, reissuance, or duplication of a license for cotton, grain, tobacco, wool, dry beans, nut, syrup, and cottonseed is \$75 for each license issued. The fee charged to license individuals to inspect, sample, grade, classify, or weigh commodities is \$30 for each service license issued.

#### Warehouse Annual and Inspection Fees

These fees are shown in the following tables by agricultural product. Inspection fees are assessed for each original examination or inspection, or reexamination or reinspection for modification of an existing license. Annual fees are assessed independently of inspection fees.

#### COTTON [In bales]

Licensed capacity	Annual fee for each warehouse location with a CCC storage agreement	Annual fee for each warehouse location without a CCC storage agreement
1-20,000 .....	\$550	\$1,100
20,001-40,000 .....	715	1,430
40,001-60,000 .....	880	1,760
60,001-80,000 .....	1,100	2,200
80,001-100,000 .....	1,375	2,750

**COTTON—Continued**

[In bales]

Licensed capacity	Annual fee for each warehouse location with a CCC storage agreement	Annual fee for each warehouse location without a CCC storage agreement
100,001–120,000 .....	1,650	3,300
120,001–140,000 .....	1,925	3,850
140,001–160,000 .....	2,200	4,400
160,001+ .....	<sup>1</sup> 2,200	<sup>2</sup> 4,400

<sup>1</sup> Plus \$55 per 5,000 bale capacity above 160,000 bales or fraction thereof.

<sup>2</sup> Plus \$110 per 5,000 bale capacity above 160,000 or fraction thereof.

Inspection fees will be charged at the rate of \$75 for each 1,000 bales of licensed capacity, or fraction thereof, but in no case less than \$150 nor more than \$1,500.

**GRAIN**

[In bushels]

Licensed Capacity	Annual fee for each warehouse location with a CCC storage agreement	Annual fee for each warehouse location without a CCC storage agreement
1–150,000 .....	\$145	\$290
150,001–250,000 .....	290	580
250,001–500,000 .....	430	860
500,001–750,000 .....	575	1,150
750,001–1,000,000 ...	715	1,430
1,000,001–1,200,000	860	1,720
1,200,001–1,500,000	1,000	2,000
1,500,001–2,000,000	1,145	2,290
2,000,001–2,500,000	1,290	2,580
2,500,001–5,000,000	1,430	2,860
5,000,001–7,500,000	1,575	3,150
7,500,001–		
10,000,000 .....	1,720	3,440
10,000,001+ .....	<sup>1</sup> 1,720	<sup>2</sup> 3,440

<sup>1</sup> Plus \$45 per million bushels above 10,000,000 or fraction thereof.

<sup>2</sup> Plus \$90 per million bushels above 10,000,000 or fraction thereof.

Inspection fees will be charged at the rate of \$15 for each 10,000 bushels or fraction thereof, but in no case less than \$150 nor more than \$1,500.

**DRY BEANS**

[In hundredweight]

Licensed capacity	Annual fee
100–90,000 .....	\$715
90,001–150,000 .....	1,000
150,001–300,000 .....	1,290
300,001–450,000 .....	1,575
450,001–600,000 .....	1,860

**DRY BEANS—Continued**

[In hundredweight]

Licensed capacity	Annual fee
600,001–720,000 .....	2,145
720,001–900,000 .....	2,435
900,001–1,200,000 .....	2,720
1,200,001–1,500,000 .....	3,000
1,500,001–3,000,000 .....	3,290
3,000,001+ .....	3,575

Inspection fees will be charged at the rate of \$15 for each 1,000 hundredweight, or fraction thereof, but in no case less than \$150 nor more than \$1,500.

**Tobacco and Wool**

Annual fee: \$15 for each 100,000 pounds of licensed capacity, or fraction thereof, but in no case less than \$575.

Inspection fee: \$15 for each 100,000 pounds of licensed capacity, or fraction thereof, but in no case less than \$1,500.

**Nuts**

Annual fee: 13¢ for each 100 short ton of licensed capacity, or fraction thereof, but in no case less than \$575.

Inspection fee: \$7 for each 100 short ton of licensed capacity, or fraction thereof, of peanuts and \$13 for each 1,000 hundredweight, or fraction thereof, but in no case less than \$150 nor more than \$1,500.

**Syrup**

Annual fee: \$15 for each 5,000 gallons of licensed capacity, or fraction thereof, but in no case less than \$575.

Inspection fee: \$5 for each 5,000 gallons, or fraction thereof, but in no case less than \$150 nor more than \$1,500.

**Cottonseed**

Annual fee: \$15 for each 1,000 short tons of licensed capacity, or fraction thereof, but in no case less than \$575.

Inspection fee: \$15 for each 1,000 short tons of licensed capacity, or fraction thereof, but in no case less than \$150 nor more than \$1,500.

Signed at Washington, D.C., on June 16, 1997.

**Richard O. Newman,**

*Acting Administrator, Farm Service Agency.*  
[FR Doc. 97-16248 Filed 6-19-97; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-05-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**Food Safety and Inspection Service**

[Docket No. 97-042N]

**HACCP-Based Meat and Poultry Inspection Concepts; Public Meeting Time and Date Extension**

**AGENCY:** Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is seeking comments on new inspection models for meat and poultry establishments where Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) Systems are being implemented. Because members of the public have expressed a high level of interest in participating in the public meeting scheduled to be held on this subject, FSIS is extending the meeting an additional half day.

**DATES:** The public meeting is scheduled for June 24, 1997, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and for June 25, 1997, from 8 a.m. to 12 noon.

**ADDRESSES:** The public meeting will be held in Galleries 1, 2, and 3 of the Arlington Hilton Hotel, 950 North Stafford Street, Arlington, VA 22203. Comments are welcome at any time. Please submit written comments to Ms. Patricia Stolfa, Assistant Deputy Administrator, Office of Policy, Program Development and Evaluation, Room 402 Cotton Annex, 300 12th Street SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-3700. Comments may also be provided by facsimile (202-401-1760).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** To register for the public meeting, contact Ms. Mary Gioglio at (202) 501-7244, (202) 501-7138, or FAX (202) 501-7642. Persons wishing to speak at the public meeting are requested to submit an advance written summary of their remarks. Please submit written summaries pertaining to in-plant and/or in distribution inspection concepts to Ms. Patricia Stolfa, (see ADDRESSES).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** FSIS recently published a **Federal Register** notice concerning a public meeting to discuss the development of new inspection models (62 FR 31533; June 10, 1997). The public meeting was originally scheduled to begin and end on one day, June 24, 1997. Since publication of the notice, FSIS has received numerous comments from members of the public expressing interest in attending and participating in discussions at the meeting. FSIS has decided that, to better accommodate participants, the meeting should be