

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service**

[Docket No. 96-046-4]

Agency Information Collection Activities; OMB Approval Received

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, this notice announces the Office of Management and Budget's approval of a collection of information contained in the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service final rule amending the regulations concerning the importation into the United States of fruits and vegetables.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Cheryl Groves, APHIS Information Collection Coordinator, AIM, APHIS, suite 2C48, 4700 River Road Unit 103, Riverdale, MD 20737-1235, (301) 734-5086.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Background**

On September 25, 1997, we published in the **Federal Register** (62 FR 50231-50237, Docket No. 96-046-3) a final rule amending the regulations at 7 CFR part 319, "Foreign Quarantine Notices." This rule contains information collection requirements. On October 3, 1997, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approved the collection of information requirements with respect to this final rule under OMB control number 0579-0128 (expires October 31, 2000).

Done in Washington, DC, this 28th day of October 1997.

Terry L. Medley,*Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.*

[FR Doc. 97-29019 Filed 10-31-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Food Safety and Inspection Service**

[Docket No. 97-064N]

National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods Meeting

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria

for Foods (NACMCF) will hold a meeting to discuss microbial-based topics relating to Risk Assessment, Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP), Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP), and Codex food safety standards for Cheese, Fresh Produce, Meat, Poultry, and Seafood.

DATES: The meeting will be held on November 18-20, 1997, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The morning session on November 18 and the all-day session on November 20 are designated as full committee meeting times. The afternoon session on November 18 and the all-day session on November 19 will include several subcommittee breakout sessions.

ADDRESSES: The NACMCF meeting will be held at the Kellogg Conference Center at Gallaudet University, Florida and 8th Streets, NE, in Washington, D.C.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The Committee encourages persons with information or data on these matters to present their comments. Persons interested in making presentations, submitting technical papers, or providing comments are requested to mail or FAX their name, title, firm name, address, and telephone number to Ms. Amelia L. Wright, Advisory Committee Specialist, Scientific Research Oversight Staff, Department of Agriculture, Suite 6913, Franklin Court, 1099 14th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20250-3700; FAX (202) 501-7628. Comments and requests may be provided by E-mail to: amelia.wright@usda.gov. Participants may also reserve time to comment publicly when they register. Persons requiring a sign language interpreter or other special accommodations should contact Ms. Wright at the above telephone or FAX numbers by November 9, 1997.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting will be open to the public on a space available basis. Persons wishing to make an oral presentation should notify Ms. Wright in writing. Presentations will be scheduled on a time available basis in accordance with the timeliness of the written request. Comments may be made before or after the meeting. All comments received will become part of the public record of this meeting. Technical papers also will be accepted and made part of the official record.

NACMCF provides advice and recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Health and Human Services about the development of microbiological criteria to assess the safety and wholesomeness of food. NACMCF also provides guidance to the Departments of Commerce and Defense.

Done at Washington, DC, on October 24, 1997.

Thomas J. Billy,
Administrator.

[FR Doc. 97-29035 Filed 10-31-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-DM-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Food Safety and Inspection Service**

[Docket No. 97-059N]

Third Annual Federal/State Conference on Food Safety

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), in cooperation with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), an agency of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), will hold "The Third Annual Federal/State Conference on Food Safety." The conference will focus on building Federal and State partnerships to facilitate the management of food safety concerns at the State and local levels.

DATES: The conference will be held on November 20 and 21, 1997, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Registration will begin at 8:00 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The conference will be held at the Ramada Inn, 2600 Auburn Boulevard, Sacramento, California 95821; telephone (916) 487-7600; FAX (916) 481-7112.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To register for the meeting, contact Ms. Traci Phebus at (202) 501-7138, FAX (202) 501-7642, or E-mail to HACCP.Confer@USDA.GOV. If you require a sign language interpreter or other accommodations, contact Ms. Mary Harris at (202) 501-7315.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On July 25, 1996, FSIS published a final rule, "Pathogen Reduction; Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) Systems (61 FR 38806). The rule introduced sweeping changes to the inspection of meat and poultry products. In the preamble of the rule, FSIS addressed "farm-to-table" strategies which include preventive approaches to hazards that occur during transportation, distribution, and retail sale of meat, poultry, and egg products. To implement these strategies, close coordination between Federal and State governments is necessary.

For the past two years, FSIS has held a "Federal/State Conference on Food

Safety." The 1995 and 1996 conferences brought together representatives from the principal Federal and State food safety organizations who discussed their views on the best ways to apply limited resources to improve farm-to-table food safety.

This year's conference will explore ways in which Federal and State partnerships can be organized to maximize valuable resources and facilitate the management of food safety concerns at the State and local levels. California, which has developed successful partnerships with Federal agencies, will highlight some of its experiences. Other States also are encouraged to discuss their recent initiatives in farm-to-table food safety.

Representatives from USDA, FDA, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and State food safety agencies have been invited to participate and discuss other topics of mutual interest.

Done at Washington, DC on October 24, 1997.

Thomas J. Billy,
Administrator.

[FR Doc. 97-29036 Filed 10-31-97; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3410-DM-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

Designations for the Idaho (ID), Lewiston (ID), and the State of Utah Areas

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

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: GIPSA announces the designation of Idaho Grain Inspection Service, Inc. (Pocatello), Lewiston Grain Inspection Service, Inc. (Lewiston), and the Utah Department of Agriculture (Utah) to provide official services under the United States Grain Standards Act, as amended (Act).

EFFECTIVE DATE: December 1, 1997.

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, telephone 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 June 2, 1997, **Federal Register** (62 FR 29707), GIPSA asked persons interested in providing official services in the geographic areas assigned to Pocatello, Lewiston, and Utah to submit an application for designation. Applications were due by July 1, 1997. Pocatello, Lewiston, and Utah, the only applicants, each applied for designation to provide official services in the entire area currently assigned to them.

Since Pocatello, Lewiston, and Utah were the only applicants for the respective areas, GIPSA did not ask for comments on the applicants.

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 Pocatello, Lewiston, and Utah are able to provide official services in the geographic areas for which they applied. Effective December 1, 1997, and ending November 30, 2000, Pocatello, Lewiston, and Utah are designated to provide official services in the geographic areas specified in the June 2, 1997, **Federal Register**.

Interested persons may obtain official services by contacting Pocatello at 208-233-8303, Lewiston at 208-746-0451, and Utah at 801-392-2292.

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

Dated: October 24, 1997.

Neil E. Porter,

Director, Compliance Division.

[FR Doc. 97-28852 Filed 10-31-97; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3410-EN-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

Opportunity to Comment on the Applicant for the Northeast Indiana (IN) Region.

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

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: GIPSA requests comments on the applicant for designation to provide official services in part of the geographic area currently assigned to East Indiana Grain Inspection, Inc. (East Indiana).

DATES: Comments must be postmarked, or sent by telecopier (FAX) by December 2, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Comments must be submitted in writing to USDA, GIPSA, Janet M. Hart, Chief, Review Branch, Compliance Division, STOP 3604, Room 1647-S, 1400 Independence Avenue,

S.W., Washington, DC 20250-3604. Telecopier (FAX) users may send comments to the automatic telecopier machine at 202-690-2755, attention: Janet M. Hart. All comments received will be made available for public inspection at the above address located at 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., during regular business hours.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Janet M. Hart, telephone 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 August 21, 1997, **Federal Register** (62 FR 44439), GIPSA asked persons interested in providing official services in the Northeast Indiana area, currently assigned to East Indiana, to submit an application for designation. There was one applicant: Northeast Indiana Grain Inspection, Inc., a proposed organization to be established by Steve Walker to be located at Hoagland, Indiana, applied for designation to provide official services in the Northeast Indiana region. The Northeast Indiana region consists of the following geographic area, in the State of Indiana:

Bounded on the North by the northern Lagrange and Steuben County lines;

Bounded on the East by the eastern Steuben, De Kalb, Allen, and Adams, County lines;

Bounded on the South by the southern Adams and Wells County lines; and

Bounded on the West by the western Wells County line; the southern Huntington and Wabash County lines; the western Wabash County line north to State Route 114; State Route 114 northwest to State Route 19; State Route 19 north to Kosciusko County; the western and northern Kosciusko County lines; the western Noble and Lagrange County lines.

The following grain elevator, located outside of the above contiguous geographic area, is part of this geographic area assignment: E. M. P. Grain, Payne, Paulding County, Ohio (located inside Lima Grain Inspection Service, Inc.'s, area).

GIPSA is publishing this notice to provide interested persons the opportunity to present comments concerning the applicant. Commenters are encouraged to submit reasons and pertinent data for support or objection to the designation of this applicant. All comments must be submitted to the