

processors participating in the demonstration project.

The demonstration project will enable FNS to evaluate whether to amend program regulations to allow the substitution of donated beef and pork with commercial beef and pork in the State processing program. Particular attention will be paid to whether such an amendment of the regulations would increase the number of processors participating, and whether it would increase the quantity of donated beef and pork that each processor accepts for processing. Further, FNS will attempt to determine whether the expected increase in competition and the expected increase in the quantity of donated beef and pork accepted for processing will enable processors to function more efficiently, producing a greater variety of processed end products more quickly and/or at lower costs.

Interested processors should submit a written proposal to FNS outlining how they plan to carry out the substitution while complying with the above conditions. The proposal must contain (1) a step-by-step description of how production will be monitored; and (2) a complete description of the records that will be maintained for (a) the commercial beef and pork substituted for the donated beef and pork and (b) the disposition of the donated beef and pork delivered by USDA. All proposals will be reviewed by representatives of the Food Distribution Division of FNS and by representatives of the AMS Livestock Division's Commodity Procurement Branch and Grading Branch. Companies approved for participation in the demonstration project will be required to enter into an agreement with FNS and AMS which authorizes the processor to substitute donated beef and pork with commercial bulk beef and pork in fulfilling any current or future State processing contracts during the demonstration project period. Participation in the demonstration project will not ensure that processors will be awarded any State processing contracts.

Dated: December 22, 1998.

Samuel Chambers, Jr.,

Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Foreign Agricultural Service

Types and Quantities of Agricultural Commodities Available for Donation Overseas Under Section 416(b) of the Agricultural Act of 1949, as Amended, in Fiscal Year 1999

AGENCY: Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: On Dec. 18, 1998, the President of the Commodity Credit Corporation, who is the Under Secretary of Agriculture for Farm and Agricultural Services, determined that an additional 2.5 million metric tons grain equivalent of wheat and wheat products that may be acquired by the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) under its surplus removal operations is available for donation overseas under section 416(b) of the Agricultural Act of 1949, as amended, during fiscal year 1999. This determination increases the amount of wheat and wheat products available for donation overseas under section 416(b) during fiscal year 1999 to 5.0 million metric tons grain equivalent.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ira Branson, Director, CCC Program Support Division, FAS, USDA, (202) 720-3573.

Dated: December 2, 1998.

Lon Hatamiya,

Vice President, CCC.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

Opportunity for Designation in the Georgia, Schneider (IN), Central Iowa (IA), Montana, Mid-Iowa (IA), and Oregon Areas and Request for Comments on the Georgia, Schneider, Central Iowa, Montana, Mid-Iowa, and Oregon Agencies

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

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The designations of the official agencies listed below will end in July, August, and September 1999.

GIPSA is asking persons interested in providing official services in the areas

served by these agencies to submit an application for designation. GIPSA is also asking for comments on the services provided by these currently designated agencies:

- Georgia Department of Agriculture (Georgia);
- Schneider Inspection Service, Inc. (Schneider);
- Central Iowa Grain Inspection Service, Inc. (Central Iowa);
- Montana Department of Agriculture (Montana);
- Mid-Iowa Grain Inspection, Inc. (Mid-Iowa); and
- Oregon Department of Agriculture (Oregon).

DATES: Applications and comments must be postmarked or sent by telecopier (FAX) on or before February 2, 1999.

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, S.W., 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, S.W., 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 United States Grain Standards Act, as amended (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.

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.

1. Current Designations Being Announced for Renewal.

Official agency	Main office	Designation start	Designation end
Georgia	Tifton, GA	8/1/1996	7/31/1999