

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: Retha F. Oliver, Chief, Quality Control Branch, Program Accountability Division, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, VA 22302.

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.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection form and instruction should be directed to Retha F. Oliver, (703) 305-2474.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Quality Control Negative Case Action Review Schedule
Statistical Summary of Sample Disposition
Status of Sample Selection and Completion.

OMB Number: 0584-0034.

Form Numbers: FNS-245, FNS-247, & FNS-248.

Expiration Date: September 30, 1999.

Type of Request: Reinstatement without change, of this previously approved collection of information.

Abstract: The FNS-245, Negative Case Action Review Schedule, is designed to collect QC data and serve as the data entry form for negative case action quality control (QC) reviews in the Food Stamp program. State agencies complete the FNS-245 for each negative case in their QC sample. The FNS-247, Statistical Summary of Sample Disposition, summarizes the data obtained from a State's active and negative QC samples over the course of each annual reporting period. The FNS-248, Status of Sample Selection and Completion, tracks a State's progress in sample selection and case completion on a monthly basis.

Affected Public: Individuals or households; State or local governments.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 53.

Number of responses per respondent: 636.

Estimated Total annual responses: 33,718.

Hours per response: 3.0236.

Total annual reporting hours: 100,254.

Number of record keepers: 53.

Number of record keepings per respondent: 636.

Estimated Annual hours per record keepers: 15.

Hours per record keeping: 0.0236.

Total record keeping hours: 796.

Total annual reporting/record keeping hours: 101,049 (total hours per response plus total recordkeeping hours).

Dated: August 6, 1999.

Susan Carr Gossman,

Acting Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service.

[FR Doc. 99-21061 Filed 8-12-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. 98-045N2]

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration

[Docket No. 98N-1230]

Egg Safety Action Plan; Public Meeting

AGENCIES: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA; Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) are announcing a public meeting to discuss the development of an action plan to address the presence of *Salmonella enteritidis* (SE) in shell eggs and egg products using a farm-to-table approach. The purpose of the action plan is: To promote the implementation of existing technologies, to control and prevent, to the extent possible, the presence of pathogens, particularly SE, in shell eggs and egg products, in order to reduce the incidence of foodborne illness; to examine alternative regulatory inspection structures to better coordinate the government's egg safety efforts from farm-to-table; to change, through education, unsafe egg handling practices by producers, distributors, retailers, and consumers, in part, by eliminating temperature abuse as required by FDA's proposed and USDA's final rules; and to identify and develop new technologies to ensure safer shell eggs and egg products through research. FDA and FSIS have established public dockets to receive comments about the egg safety action plan.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Thursday, August 26, 1999, from 9 a.m.

to 5 p.m. Comments should be submitted to one of the dockets no later than September 11, 1999, to be considered in the development of the egg safety action plan.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Washington Plaza Hotel, 10 Thomas Circle, NW., Massachusetts Ave. and 14th St., Washington, DC. Thirty rooms have been blocked off at the government rate of \$115 for a single under reference #8613. To guarantee a room with a credit card, call the hotel at 800-424-1140 or 202-842-1300.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

For registration: Sheila A. Johnson, FSIS, 202-501-7305 or FAX 202-501-7642. Persons requiring a sign language interpreter or other special accommodations should call by August 19, 1999.

For general information: Stephanie A. Smith, FDA, 202-205-0136 or FAX 202-205-4422, or Alice Thaler, FSIS, 202-690-2683.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

The President's Council on Food Safety was established in August 1998 under Executive Order 13100 to strengthen and focus our efforts to coordinate food safety policy and resources. The Council on Food Safety was charged with developing a comprehensive, long-range strategic plan that can be used to set priorities, improve coordination and efficiency, identify gaps in the current system and how to fill those gaps, enhance and strengthen prevention and intervention strategies, and identify or develop measures to show progress.

On July 1, 1999, FDA and FSIS testified before the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, Restructuring, and the District of Columbia. The hearing explored concerns raised by an U.S. General Accounting Office report (GAO/RCED-99-184) relating to the Federal Government's current approach to shell eggs and egg products safety. During the hearing, the agencies committed to developing an action plan in 120 days to address the presence of SE in shell eggs and egg products using a farm-to-table approach. As part of the action plan development process, FDA and FSIS will hold a public meeting on August 26, 1999.

FDA and FSIS, in conjunction with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Agricultural Marketing Service, the Agricultural Research Service, and the Animal Plant and Health Inspection Service, have already begun the process of developing an egg

safety action plan by participating in interagency sessions. The purpose of the August 26, 1999, public meeting is to obtain stakeholder input on the draft goals, as well as on the development of the objectives and action items. The meeting is intended to be a working meeting, with breakout sessions, in order to provide the stakeholders in attendance the opportunity to offer comments and suggestions. Therefore, the agenda will include brief informational presentations to provide:

(1) Background to individuals unfamiliar with the relevant issues, and (2) breakout sessions to facilitate public participation. The breakout sessions will be organized around the draft goals and will include members of the interagency planning workgroups to lead and facilitate discussions. Discussion summaries will be available within 30 days of the meeting. The draft goals for the egg safety action plan to be discussed at the meeting are as follows:

- **Overarching Goal:** To protect public health by significantly reducing the number of foodborne illnesses associated with SE in shell eggs and egg products through science-based and coordinated regulation, inspection, enforcement, research, and education programs.

- **Goal 1:** To promote the implementation of existing technologies, to control and prevent, to the extent possible, the presence of pathogens, particularly SE, in shell eggs and egg products, in order to reduce the incidence of foodborne illness;

- **Goal 2:** To examine alternative regulatory inspection structures to better coordinate the government's egg safety efforts from farm-to-table;

- **Goal 3:** To change, through education, unsafe egg handling practices by producers, distributors, retailers, and consumers, in part, by eliminating temperature abuse as required by FDA's proposed and USDA's final rules; and

- **Goal 4:** To identify and develop new technologies to ensure safer shell eggs and egg products through research.

Because the interagency workgroups will continue revising these goals and will begin developing objectives and action items in preparation for the August 26, 1999, meeting, the material distributed at the meeting may differ slightly from the information provided in this document.

II. Public Dockets and Submission of Comments

The agencies have established public dockets to which comments may be submitted. Comments should be directed either to FSIS, Docket No. 98-045N2, or to FDA, Docket No. 98N-

1230, and all comments must include a docket number. Submit a disk with the written comments in WordPerfect 5.1/6.1 or ASCII file format. Submit written comments in triplicate to:

USDA/FSIS Hearing Clerk, 300 12th St. SW., rm. 102 Cotton Annex, Washington, DC 20250-3700.

FDA/Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305), 5630 Fishers Lane, rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 20852.

Alternatively, comments may be submitted electronically to "fdadockets@oc.fda.gov". Electronic comments must be submitted as an ASCII file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption.

III. Meeting Summaries

Summaries of the public meeting will be posted on the Internet at "www.foodsafety.gov". This website is a joint FDA, USDA, and Environmental Protection Agency food safety home page. It is linked to each agency for persons seeking additional food safety information. Summaries of the public meeting may also be requested in writing from the Dockets Management Branch (address above) approximately 30 business days after the meeting at a cost of 10 cents per page. The summaries of the public meeting will be available for public examination at the Docket Management Branch between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Dated: August 10, 1999.

Thomas J. Billy,

Administrator, Food Safety and Inspection Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

William K. Hubbard,

Senior Associate Commissioner for Policy, Planning, and Legislation, Food and Drug Administration.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

Cancellation of Designation Issued to Los Angeles Grain Inspection Service, Inc., and Opportunity for Designation in the Los Angeles Area

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

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Los Angeles Grain Inspection Service, Inc. (Los Angeles), asked GIPSA to cancel their designation August 27, 1999. Any firms in the Los Angeles area that need official service after August 27, 1999, should contact GIPSA's

California Federal State Office at 916-654-0743. GIPSA is asking persons interested in providing official services in the Los Angeles area to submit an application for designation.

DATES: Applications must be postmarked or sent by telecopier (FAX) on or before September 13, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Applications 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 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 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 United States Grain Standards Act, as amended (Act), authorizes the GIPSA Administrator to designate a qualified applicant to provide official services in a specified area after determining that such applicant is better able than any other applicant to provide such official services. GIPSA designated Los Angeles, main office located in Montebello, California, to provide official inspection services, under the Act on November 1, 1997.

Section 7(g)(1) of the Act provides that designations of official agencies shall terminate not later than triennially and may be renewed according to the criteria and procedures prescribed in section 7(f) of the Act. The designation of Los Angeles is scheduled to terminate on October 31, 2000. However, Los Angeles asked GIPSA to cancel its designation August 27, 1999, due to a decline in requests for official services. Any firms in the Los Angeles area that need official service after August 27, 1999, should contact GIPSA's California Federal State Office at 916-654-0743.

Pursuant to section 7(f)(2) of the Act, the following geographic area, in the State of California, is assigned to Los Angeles.

Bounded on the North by the Angeles National Forest southern boundary from State Route 2 east; the San Bernadino