

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 August 13, 1999, **Federal Register** (64 FR 156), GIPSA announced that Los Angeles Grain Inspection Service, Inc. (Los Angeles) asked GIPSA to cancel their designation August 27, 1999. GIPSA asked persons interested in providing official services in the geographic area formerly assigned to Los Angeles to submit an application for designation. Applications were due by September 13, 1999. California applied for designation to provide official services in the entire Los Angeles area.

Since California was the only applicant, GIPSA did not ask for comments.

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 California is able to provide official services in the geographic area for which they applied.

California is designated to provide official services in the geographic area specified in the August 13, 1999, **Federal Register**, effective October 1, 1999, and ending January 31, 2000, concurrently with the end of California's present designation.

Interested persons may obtain official services by calling California at 916-654-0743.

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

Dated: September 23, 1999.

Neil E. Porter,

Director, Compliance Division.

[FR Doc. 99-25361 Filed 9-30-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-EN-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

Opportunity for Designation in the Lincoln (NE), Memphis (TN), Omaha (NE), Jamestown (ND), Sioux City (IA), and Fort Dodge (IA) Areas and Request for Comments on the Official Agencies Serving These Areas

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

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The designations of the official agencies listed below will end in April and June 2000. 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:

Lincoln Inspection Service, Inc. (Lincoln);
Memphis Grain Inspection Service (Memphis);
Omaha Grain Inspection Service, Inc. (Omaha);
Grain Inspection, Inc. (Jamestown);
Sioux City Inspection and Weighing Service Company (Sioux City); and
A. V. Tischer and Son, Inc. (Tischer).

DATES: Applications and comments must be postmarked or sent by telecopier (FAX) on or before October 30, 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, 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 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
Lincoln	Lincoln, NE	5/1/1997	4/30/2000
Memphis	Memphis, TN	5/1/1997	4/30/2000
Omaha	Omaha, NE	5/1/1997	4/30/2000
Jamestown	Jamestown, ND	7/1/1997	6/30/2000
Sioux City	Sioux City, IA	7/1/1997	6/30/2000
Tischer	Fort Dodge, IA	7/1/1997	6/30/2000

a. Pursuant to Section 7(f)(2) of the Act, the following geographic area, in the States of Iowa and Nebraska, is assigned to Lincoln.

Bounded on the North (in Nebraska) by the northern York, Seward, and Lancaster County lines; the northern Cass County line east to the Missouri River; the Missouri River south to U.S. Route 34; (in Iowa) U.S. Route 34 east to Interstate 29;

Bounded on the East by Interstate 29 south to the Fremont County line; the northern Fremont and Page County lines; the eastern Page County line south to the Iowa-Missouri State line; the Iowa-Missouri State line west to the Missouri River; the Missouri River south-southeast to the Nebraska-Kansas State line;

Bounded on the South by the Nebraska-Kansas State line west to County Road 1 mile west of U.S. Route 81; and

Bounded on the West (in Nebraska) by County Road 1 mile west of U.S. Route 81 north to State Highway 8; State Highway 8 east to U.S. Route 81; U.S. Route 81 north to the Thayer County line; the northern Thayer County line east; the western Saline County line; the southern and western York County lines.

Lincoln's assigned geographic area does not include the following grain elevators inside Lincoln's area which have been and will continue to be serviced by the following

official agency: Omaha Grain Inspection Service, Inc.: Goode Seed & Grain, McPaul, Fremont County, Iowa; and Lincoln Grain, Murray, Cass County, Nebraska.

b. Pursuant to Section 7(f)(2) of the Act, the following geographic area, in the States of Arkansas, Tennessee, and Texas, is assigned to Memphis.

The entire State of Arkansas.

Carroll, Chester, Crockett, Dyer, Fayette, Gibson, Hardeman, Haywood, Henderson, Lauderdale, Madison, McNairy, Shelby, and Tipton Counties, Tennessee.

Bowie and Cass Counties, Texas.

The following grain elevators, located outside of the above contiguous geographic area, are part of this geographic area assignment: Continental Grain Co., Tiptonville, Lake County, Tennessee (located inside Cairo Grain Inspection Agency, Inc.'s, area).

c. Pursuant to Section 7(f)(2) of the Act, the following geographic area, in the States of Iowa and Nebraska, is assigned to Omaha.

Bounded on the North by Nebraska State Route 91 from the western Washington County line east to U.S. Route 30; U.S. Route 30 east to the Missouri River; the Missouri River north to Iowa State Route 175; Iowa State Route 175 east to Iowa State Route 37; Iowa State Route 37 southeast to the eastern Monona County line;

Bounded on the East by the eastern Monona County line; the southern Monona County line west to Iowa State Route 183; Iowa State Route 183 south to the Pottawattamie County line; the northern and eastern Pottawattamie County lines; the southern Pottawattamie County line west to M47; M47 south to Iowa State Route 48; Iowa State Route 48 south to the Montgomery County line;

Bounded on the South by the southern Montgomery County line; the southern Mills County line west to Interstate 29; Interstate 29 north to U.S. Route 34; U.S. Route 34 west to the Missouri River; the Missouri River north to the Sarpy County line (in Nebraska); the southern Sarpy County line; the southern Saunders County line west to U.S. Route 77; and

Bounded on the West by U.S. Route 77 north to the Platte River; the Platte River southeast to the Douglas County line; the northern Douglas County line east; the western Washington County line northwest to Nebraska State Route 91.

The following grain elevators, located outside of the above contiguous geographic area, are part of this geographic area assignment: T&K Evans, Elliot, Montgomery County, Iowa; Hemphill Feed & Grain, and Hansen Feed & Grain, both in Griswold, Cass County, Iowa (located inside Central Iowa Grain Inspection Service, Inc.'s, area); Farmers Coop Business Assn., Rising City, Butler County, Nebraska; Farmers Coop Business Assn. (2 elevators), Shelby, Polk County, Nebraska (located inside Fremont Grain Inspection Department, Inc.'s, area); and Goode Seed & Grain, McPaul, Fremont County, Iowa; Lincoln Grain, Murray, Cass

County, Nebraska (located inside Lincoln Inspection Service, Inc.'s, area).

Omaha's assigned geographic area does not include the following grain elevators inside Omaha's area which have been and will continue to be serviced by the following official agency: Fremont Grain Inspection Department, Inc.: Farmers Cooperative, and Krumel Grain and Storage, both in Wahoo, Saunders County, Nebraska.

d. Pursuant to Section 7(f)(2) of the Act, the following geographic area, in the State of North Dakota, is assigned to Jamestown.

Bounded on the North by Interstate 94 east to U.S. Route 85; U.S. Route 85 north to State Route 200; State Route 200 east to U.S. Route 83; U.S. Route 83 southeast to State Route 41; State Route 41 north to State Route 200; State Route 200 east to State Route 3; State Route 3 north to U.S. Route 52; U.S. Route 52 southeast to State Route 15; State Route 15 east to U.S. Route 281; U.S. Route 281 south to Foster County; the northern Foster County line; the northern Griggs County line east to State Route 32;

Bounded on the East by State Route 32 south to State Route 45; State Route 45 south to State Route 200; State Route 200 west to State Route 1; State Route 1 south to the Soo Railroad line; the Soo Railroad line southeast to Interstate 94; Interstate 94 west to State Route 1; State Route 1 south to the Dickey County line;

Bounded on the South by the southern Dickey County line west to U.S. Route 281; U.S. Route 281 north to the Lamoure County line; the southern Lamoure County line; the southern Logan County line west to State Route 13; State Route 13 west to U.S. Route 83; U.S. Route 83 south to the Emmons County line; the southern Emmons County line; the southern Sioux County line west to State Route 49; State Route 49 north to State Route 21; State Route 21 west to the Burlington-Northern (BN) line; the Burlington-Northern (BN) line northwest to State Route 22; State Route 22 south to U.S. Route 12; U.S. Route 12 west-northwest to the North Dakota State line; and

Bounded on the West by the western North Dakota State line north to Interstate 94.

The following grain elevators, located outside of the above contiguous geographic area, are part of this geographic area assignment: Farmers Coop Elevator, Fessenden, Farmers Union Elevator, and Manfred Grain, both in Manfred, all in Wells County (located inside Grand Forks Grain Inspection Department, Inc.'s, area); and Norway Spur, and Oakes Grain, both in Oakes, Dickey County (located inside North Dakota Grain Inspection Service, Inc.'s, area).

Jamestown's assigned geographic area does not include the following grain elevators inside Jamestown's area which have been and will continue to be serviced by the following official agency: Minot Grain Inspection, Inc.: Benson Quinn Company, Underwood; and Missouri Valley Grain Company, Washburn, all in McLean County.

e. Pursuant to Section 7(f)(2) of the Act, the following geographic area, in the States of Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota, is assigned to Sioux City.

In Iowa:

Bounded on the North by the northern Iowa State line from the Big Sioux River east to U.S. Route 59;

Bounded on the East by U.S. Route 59 south to B24; B24 east to the eastern O'Brien County line; the O'Brien County line south; the northern Buena Vista County line east to U.S. Route 71; U.S. Route 71 south to the southern Sac County line;

Bounded on the South by the Sac and Ida County lines; the eastern Monona County line south to State Route 37; State Route 37 west to State Route 175; State Route 175 west to the Missouri River; and

Bounded on the West by the Missouri River north to the Big Sioux River; the Big Sioux River north to the northern Iowa State line.

In Nebraska:

Cedar, Dakota, Dixon, Pierce (north of U.S. Route 20), and Thurston Counties.

In South Dakota:

Bounded on the North by State Route 44 (U.S. 18) east to State Route 11; State Route 11 south to A54B; A54B east to the Big Sioux River;

Bounded on the East by the Big Sioux River; and

Bounded on the South and West by the Missouri River.

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

Bounded on the North by Iowa-Minnesota State line from U.S. Route 71 east to U.S. Route 169;

Bounded on the East by U.S. Route 169 south to State Route 9; State Route 9 west to U.S. Route 169; U.S. Route 169 south to the northern Humboldt County line; the Humboldt County line east to State Route 17; State Route 17 south to C54; C54 east to U.S. Route 69; U.S. Route 69 south to the northern Hamilton County line; the Hamilton County line west to R38; R38 south to U.S. Route 20; U.S. Route 20 west to the eastern and southern Webster County lines to U.S. Route 169; U.S. Route 169 south to E18; E18 west to the eastern Greene County line; the Greene County line south to U.S. Route 30;

Bounded on the South by U.S. Route 30 west to E53; E53 west to N44; N44 north to U.S. Route 30; U.S. Route 30 west to U.S. Route 71; and

Bounded on the West by U.S. Route 71 north to the Iowa-Minnesota State line.

The following grain elevators, located outside of the above contiguous geographic area, are part of this geographic area assignment: Farmers Co-op Elevator, Boxholm, Boone County (located inside Central Iowa Grain Inspection Service, Inc.'s, area); and West Bend Elevator Co., Algona, Kossuth County; Stateline Coop., Burt, Kossuth County; Gold-Eagle, Goldfield, Wright County; and Farmers Co-op Elevator, Holmes, Wright County (located inside D. R. Schaal Agency's area).

2. Opportunity for Designation.

Interested persons, including Lincoln, Memphis, Omaha, Jamestown, Sioux City, and Tischer, 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. Persons wishing to apply for designation should contact the Compliance Division at the address listed above for forms and information.

DESIGNATION TERMS

Lincoln, Memphis, and Omaha	05/01/2000–03/31/2003
Jamestown, Sioux City, and Tischer	07/01/2000–03/31/2003

3. Request for Comments

GIPSA also is publishing this notice to provide interested persons the opportunity to present comments on the Lincoln, Memphis, Omaha, Jamestown, Sioux City, and Tischer official agencies. Commenters are encouraged to submit pertinent data concerning the Lincoln, Memphis, Omaha, Jamestown, Sioux City, and Tischer 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: September 22, 1999.

Neil E. Porter,

Director, Compliance Division.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

National Agricultural Statistics Service

Notice of Intent To Extend and Revise a Currently Approved 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 National Agricultural Statistics Service's (NASS) intention to request an extension for and revision to a currently approved information collection, the Agricultural Surveys Program.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by December 6, 1999 to be assured for 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, D.C. 20250–2000, (202) 720–4333.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Agricultural Surveys Program.

OMB Number: 0535–0213.

Expiration Date of Approval: November 30, 2000.

Type of Request: Intent to extend and revise a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: The National Agricultural Statistics Service is responsible for collecting and issuing state and national estimates of crop and livestock production, grain stocks, farm numbers, land values, on-farm pesticide usage, and pest crop management practices.

The Agricultural Surveys Program contains a series of surveys that obtains basic agricultural data from farmers and ranchers throughout the Nation for preparing agricultural estimates and forecasts of crop acreages, yield, and production; stocks of grains and soybeans; hog and pig numbers; sheep inventory and lamb crop; cattle inventory; and cattle on feed. Grazing fees, land values, pesticide usage, and pest management practices data are also collected.

Uses of the statistical information are extensive and varied. Producers, farm organizations, agribusinesses, state and national farm policy makers, and government agencies are important users of these statistics. Agricultural statistics are used to plan and administer other related Federal and state programs in such areas as consumer protection, conservation, foreign trade, education and recreation.

One important part of this program, the Quarterly Hog Survey, is being revised to discontinue collecting and publishing the market hog inventory by weight groups. Currently, the Quarterly Hog Survey collects information on the inventory of total hogs, breeding hogs, market hogs by weight groups, (under 60 pounds, 60 to 119 pounds, 120–179 pounds, and over 180 pounds); monthly and quarterly sows farrowing and pig

crops; and sows farrowing intentions for the coming 6 months in 3-month intervals.

Hog producers have requested that NASS discontinue asking the questions on market hogs by weight groups since it is difficult for them to accurately provide the information. Responses to the weight group questions are often the producers' best estimates since their record keeping systems generally do not readily provide the information. Plans are for the Quarterly Hog Survey to continue to provide information on total market hogs, and monthly and quarterly pig crops. Data users can utilize monthly pig crop data in lieu of marketing hog weight group data to get an indication of hog supplies coming to market over the next six months. Publication of the market hog weight groups will be discontinued starting with the June 23, 2000 Hog Report.

A second revision to the program is the addition of questions regarding sheep and goat losses to predators and non-predators, methods being used to reduce these losses, and the cost of these preventative measures. These additional questions will be asked only in January 2000. Aggregated totals will be provided to the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service action agency, Wildlife Services. These data will be used by Wildlife Services to help identify the causes of livestock losses.

The third revision is the addition of three questions to the Fall Area and January Cattle Surveys and one question to the January Sheep and Goat Survey. These questions will be asked annually in selected states. The cattle questions will provide additional detail regarding the expected calf crop and animal slaughter practices. The additional goat question will help differentiate the breeding goals of Angora goat producers between meat and wool production.

The Agricultural Surveys Program has approval from OMB for a 3-year period. NASS intends to request that the program be approved for another 3 years.

These data are 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 15 minutes per response.

Respondents: Farms.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 547,000.