

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

Agricultural Research Service

Notice of National Genetic Resources Advisory Council Meeting

AGENCY: Agricultural Research Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Agricultural Research Service, USDA, announces a meeting of the National Genetic Resources Advisory Council.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The National Genetic Resources Advisory Council consists of 16 members to provide advice to the Secretary and Director regarding the advancement of the USDA's National Genetic Resources Program. The meeting will discuss matters concerning the germplasm banks and the food genome initiative among other matters.

TIMES AND DATES: September 29, 1998, 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m.; September 30, 1998, 8:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

PLACE: Room 3109, USDA South Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250.

TYPE OF MEETING: Open to the public. Persons may participate in the meeting as time and space permit.

COMMENTS: The public may file written comments before or after the meeting with the contact person listed below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Henry L. Shands, Director, National Genetic Resources Program, Room 323–A Jamie L. Whitten Federal Building, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250–0300. Telephone 202–205–7835, Fax 202–690–1434.

Done at Washington, DC on this 17th Day of July 1998.

Henry L. Shands,

Assistant Administrator for Genetic Resources, USDA–ARS.

[FR Doc. 98–20663 Filed 8–3–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–03–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. 98–044N]

Exemption for Retail Stores; Adjustment for Dollar Limitations

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) has increased the limitation on annual sales of meat and poultry products by retail stores whose operations are exempt from Federal inspection. The dollar limitation for poultry products has been increased from \$37,900 to \$39,000 for calendar year 1998. The dollar limitation for meat products has been increased from \$40,300 to \$41,000 for calendar year 1998. These increases conform with price changes for meat and poultry products indicated by the Consumer Price Index.

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 4, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Patricia F. Stolfa, Assistant Deputy Administrator, Office of Policy, Program Development, and Evaluation, FSIS, at (202) 205–0699.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Under the regulations in 9 CFR 303.1(d) and 381.10(d), FSIS exempts certain operations of types traditionally and usually conducted at retail stores from routine Federal inspection of meat and poultry products. Whether a retail store operation qualifies for an exemption depends, in part, on the percentage and volume of trade in meat and poultry products that a retail store conducts with non-household consumers (hotels, restaurants, or similar institutions). The regulations state in dollars the annual maximum amount of meat and poultry products that a retail store may sell to non-household consumers if that store's

operations are to remain exempt from inspection.

FSIS adjusts the dollar limitation during the first quarter of each calendar year if the Consumer Price Index, published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, indicates at least a \$500 increase or decrease in the price of the same volume of product during the previous year. FSIS publishes a notice of the adjusted dollar limitation in the **Federal Register**.

The Consumer Price Index for 1997 indicates an average annual price increase in meat products of 1.7 percent and an average annual price increase in poultry products of 2.8 percent. When rounded off to the nearest \$100, the price increase for meat products amounts to \$700 and the price increase for poultry products amounts to \$1,100. Prices of meat and poultry, therefore, have changed in excess of \$500. In accordance with §§ 303.1(d)(2)(iii)(b) and 381.10(d)(2)(iii)(b) of the regulations, FSIS has increased the dollar limitation of permitted sales of meat products from \$40,300 to \$41,000 and raised the dollar limitation of permitted sales for poultry products from \$37,900 to \$39,000.

Done in Washington, DC, on: July 28, 1998.

Thomas J. Billy,

Administrator.

[FR Doc. 98–20694 Filed 8–3–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–DM–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. 98–042N]

Meeting on Surviving in a HACCP World

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is co-sponsoring, with the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) and the Livestock Conservation Institute's Education Fund for Animal Agriculture (LCI), three one-day workshops on "Surviving in a HACCP World." This notice provides information of the dates and locations of these workshops.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Dan Vitiello, Domestic Program Manager, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Room 0002 South Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-3700. Telephone: (202) 690-2683.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: FSIS and the CSREES are cosponsoring a series of one-day workshops with the Livestock Conservation Institute's Education Fund for Animal Agriculture (LCI), entitled "Surviving in a HACCP World." These workshops will assist those involved in livestock production to better understand the complex issues associated with the implementation of the FSIS Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point Systems (HACCP)/Pathogen Reduction final rule in slaughter establishments and its potential effects on the animal production community. The intended audience includes animal producers and those who communicate regularly with producers, especially small producers, to provide information regarding the potential effects of the FSIS HACCP/Pathogen Reduction rule on the marketing of livestock.

The one-day workshops will include discussions on: the Advent of HACCP and its Impact on Food Animal Production; an Overview of HACCP Implementation; Interpreting the Consumer Response to Food Safety; Achieving Buyer Expectation; Creating State-Level Partnerships for Producer Food Safety Programs; and Applying Good Management Practices in Food Animal Production. A registration fee will be charged—\$125.00 pre-registration and \$150.00 on site.

To pre-register contact the LCI at: LCI Food Safety Workshops, 1910 Lyda Drive, Bowling Green, KY 42104. Telephone: (502) 782-9798, FAX: (502) 782-0188, E-mail: lci@premiernet.net.

The one-day workshops will be held as follows:

August 25, 1998

Columbus, Ohio, Radisson Airport Hotel & Conference Center, 1375 N. Cassady Avenue, Phone (614) 475-7551.

August 26, 1998

Omaha, Nebraska, Embassy Suites Downtown/Old Market, 555 10th Street, (402) 346-9000.

August 27, 1998

Denver, Colorado, Doubletree Hotel Denver, 3203 Quebec Street, (303) 321-3333.

LCI has reserved rooms for the workshop. The cutoff for room reservations is August 10, 1998 in Columbus and Omaha and August 12, 1998 in Denver.

Done in Washington, DC on: July 28, 1998.

Thomas J. Billy,
Administrator.

[FR Doc. 98-20695 Filed 8-4-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-DM-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Loon Mountain Ski Area Improvements and Expansion

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare a Supplement to the Loon Mountain Ski Area South Mountain Expansion Project Final Environmental Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service will prepare a Supplement to the Loon Mountain Ski Area South Mountain Expansion Project Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for Loon Mountain Recreation Corporation's proposal to improve and expand recreational facilities at Loon Mountain Ski Area. The project area is located on the Pemigewasset Ranger District of the White Mountain National Forest, Grafton County, New Hampshire. The agency invites written comments that are specific to new information or changed conditions that pertain to the proposed action in respect to the issues, affected environment, and environmental effects as they were disclosed in the original FEIS.

DATES: Written comments concerning the scope of the analysis should be received on or before September 15, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Beth LeClair, Eastern Region Winter Sports Team Leader, U.S. Forest Service, RR 2, Box 35, Rochester, Vermont 05767. Donna Hepp, Forest Supervisor, White Mountain National Forest, Federal Building, 719 Main Street, Laconia, New Hampshire 03246 is the Responsible Official for this Supplement to the FEIS.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jay Strand, Project Coordinator, U.S. Forest Service, RR 2, Box 35, Rochester, Vermont 05767; voice and TTY phone (802) 767-4261; FAX (802) 767-4777; E-mail, jstrand/r9_gmfl@fs.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Loon Mountain Recreation Corporation (LMRC) operates Loon Mountain Ski Area, a portion of which is under a special use permit on the White Mountain National Forest (WMNF). The total acres under the existing 1976 special use permit on National Forest lands is 785 acres. In 1986, LMRC submitted a proposal to develop and

expand the existing ski area to meet the demand for additional skiing on the WMNF, and meet the demand for more capacity at Loon Mountain Ski Area. The environmental effects on the proposal and five alternatives were disclosed and documented in the Loon Mountain Ski Area South Mountain Expansion Project FEIS which was completed in late 1992. The Record of Decision (ROD) was issued on March 1, 1993 and authorized the implementation of Alternative 6 to meet the stated purpose and need.

The 1993 ROD was litigated and the subsequent court ruling found that parts of the FEIS analysis were inadequate. Specifically, the court found that: (1) The public did not have an opportunity to review and comment on Alternative 6 before its selection in the ROD; and (2) the FEIS did not include a reasonable range of alternatives in the analysis, in particular the alternative that water storage ponds be used for snowmaking needs. A court order dated May 5, 1997 invalidated the 1993 ROD and prohibited any further activities related to Alternative 6 pending the outcome of a new analysis and ROD that addresses the identified FEIS inadequacies. The No Action Alternative for this analysis would include the removal of all approved and constructed improvements related to the 1993 ROD.

The purpose and need for LMRC's current proposal is essentially the same as the original purpose and need for the expansion activities disclosed in the 1992 FEIS. However, the original preferred alternative (Alternative 6) has been modified in order for the proposal to: (1) Meet the intentions of the May 5, 1997 Court Order; (2) respond to current conditions at Loon Mountain Ski Area; (3) reflect changed ski market demands; (4) reflect changed ski industry technology; and (5) include new information that is available for this analysis.

Change ski market expectations and new ski industry technology have created market conditions that are different than those existing when the 1993 ROD was released. Destination ski resorts such as Loon Mountain Ski Area compete in a skier market that expects a quality skiing experience. Ski resorts need a proper mixture and variety of ski terrain that caters to all ability levels with support facilities (i.e. lifts, lodges and parking) that provides a multiple day destination resort opportunity. Additionally, the amount of snow coverage and depth needed on ski terrain has changed to meet today's desired skier demands necessitated by developments such as snowboards and shaped skis. New England area