

repayment to the United States in local currencies. These agreements were commonly referred to as constituting the "section 108 program."

On July 8, 1998, FAS published a notice in the **Federal Register** (63 FR 36872) announcing that FAS was inviting proposals to use Tunisian or Moroccan currencies acquired under the section 108 program for market development projects and technical assistance activities in those countries. That notice also set forth the criteria FAS would use in evaluating and accepting such proposals. The purpose of the present notice is to invite proposals to use Costa Rican, Dominican Republic, Guatemalan, Jamaican, and Sri Lankan currencies for market development projects and technical assistance activities in those countries. The procedures for submitting proposals and the FAS' evaluation criteria for any such proposals will be identical to that set forth in the July 8, 1998, **Federal Register** notice.

Signed at Washington D.C. on September 21, 1998.

Lon Hatamiya,

Administrator, Foreign Agricultural Service and Vice President, Commodity Credit Corporation.

[FR Doc. 98-26237 Filed 9-30-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-10-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

Opportunity To Comment on the Applicants for the Alton (IL) Area

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

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: GIPSA requests comments on the applicants for designation to provide official services in the geographic area assigned to Alton Grain Inspection Department (Alton).

DATES: Comments must be postmarked, or sent by telecopier (FAX) by October 31, 1998.

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 3, 1998, **Federal Register** (63 FR 41224), GIPSA asked persons interested in providing official services in the Alton area to submit an application for designation by September 1, 1998. There were two applicants: Alton and the Missouri Department of Agriculture. Each applied for designation to provide official services in the entire Alton area.

GIPSA is publishing this notice to provide interested persons the opportunity to present comments concerning the applicants. Commenters are encouraged to submit reasons and pertinent data for support or objection to the designation of the applicants. All comments must be submitted to the Compliance Division at the above address. Comments and other available information will be considered in making a final decision. GIPSA will publish notice of the final decision in the **Federal Register**, and GIPSA will send the applicants written notification of the decision.

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

Dated: September 24, 1998.

Neil E. Porter,

Director, Compliance Division.

[FR Doc. 98-26238 Filed 9-30-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-EN-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

Opportunity for Designation in the Central Illinois (IL), Plainview (TX), Barton (KY), and North Dakota (ND) Areas, and Request for Comments on the Central Illinois, Plainview, Barton, and North Dakota Agencies

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

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The designations of the official agencies listed below will end in May and June 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:

Central Illinois Grain Inspection, Inc. (Central Illinois);

Plainview Grain Inspection and Weighing Service, Inc. (Plainview);

J.W. Barton Grain Inspection Service, Inc. (Barton); and

North Dakota Grain Inspection Service, Inc. (North Dakota).

DATES: Applications and comments must be postmarked or sent by telecopier (FAX) on or before October 30, 1998.

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
Central Illinois	Bloomington, IL	6/1/1996	5/31/1999
Plainview	Plainview, TX	6/1/1996	5/31/1999
J.W. Barton	Owensboro, KY	7/1/1996	6/30/1999
North Dakota	Fargo, ND	7/1/1996	6/30/1999

a. Central Illinois

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

Bounded on the North by State Route 18 east to U.S. Route 51; U.S. Route 51 south to State Route 17; State Route 17 east to Livingston County; the Livingston County line east to State Route 47;

Bounded on the East by State Route 47 south to State Route 116; State Route 116 west to Pontiac, which intersects with a straight line running north and south through Arrowsmith to the southern McLean County line;

Bounded on the South by the southern McLean County line; the eastern Logan County line south to State Route 10; State Route 10 west to the Logan County line; the western Logan County line; the southern Tazewell County line; and

Bounded on the West by the western Tazewell County line; the western Peoria County line north to Interstate 74; Interstate 74 southeast to State Route 116; State Route 116 north to State Route 26; State Route 26 north to State Route 18.

Central Illinois' assigned geographic area does not include the following grain elevator inside Central Illinois' area which has been and will continue to be serviced by the following official agency: Springfield Grain Inspection, Inc.: East Lincoln Farmers Grain Co., Lincoln, Logan County.

b. Plainview

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

Bounded on the North by the northern Deaf Smith County line east to U.S. Route 385; U.S. Route 385 south to FM 1062; FM 1062 east to State Route 217; State Route 217 east to Prairie Dog Town Fork of the Red River; Prairie Dog Town Fork of the Red River southeast to the Briscoe County line; the northern Briscoe County line; the northern Hall County line east to U.S. Route 287;

Bounded on the East by U.S. Route 287 southeast to the eastern Hall County line; the eastern Hall, Motley, Dickens, Kent, Scurry, and Mitchell County lines;

Bounded on the South by the southern Mitchell, Howard, Martin, and Andrews County lines; and

Bounded on the West by the western Andrews, Gaines, and Yoakum County lines; the northern Yoakum and Terry county lines; the western Lubbock County line; the western Hale County line north to FM 37; FM 37 west to U.S. Route 84; U.S. Route 84 northwest to FM 303; FM 303 north to U.S. Route 70; U.S. Route 70 west to the Lamb County line; the western and northern Lamb County lines; the western Castro County line; the southern Deaf Smith County line west to State Route 214; State Route 214 north to the northern Deaf Smith County line.

c. Barton

Pursuant to Section 7(f)(2) of the Act, the following geographic area, in the States of Indiana, Kentucky, and Tennessee, is assigned to Barton.

Clark, Crawford, Floyd, Harrison, Jackson, Jennings, Jefferson, Lawrence, Martin, Orange, Perry, Scott, Spencer, and Washington Counties, Indiana.

In Kentucky

Bounded on the North by the northern Daviess, Hancock, Breckinridge, Meade, Hardin, Jefferson, Oldham, Trimble, and Carroll County lines;

Bounded on the East by the eastern Carroll, Henry, Franklin, Scott, Fayette, Jessamine, Woodford, Anderson, Nelson, Larue, Hart, Barren, and Allen County lines;

Bounded on the South by the southern Allen and Simpson County lines; and

Bounded on the West by the western Simpson and Warren County lines; the southern Butler and Muhlenberg County lines; the Muhlenberg County line west to the Western Kentucky Parkway; the Western Kentucky Parkway west to State Route 109; State Route 109 north to State Route 814; State Route 814 north to U.S. Route Alternate 41; U.S. Route Alternate 41 north to the Webster County line; the northern Webster County line; the western McLean and Daviess County lines.

In Tennessee

Bounded on the North by the northern Tennessee State line from Sumner County east;

Bounded on the East by the eastern Tennessee State line southwest;

Bounded on the South by the southern Tennessee State line west to the western Giles County line; and

Bounded on the West by the western Giles, Maury, and Williamson County lines North; the northern Williamson County line east; the western Rutherford, Wilson, and Sumner County lines north.

d. North Dakota

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

Bounded on the North by the northern Steele County line from State Route 32 east; the eastern Steele County line south to State Route 200; State Route 200 east-southeast to the State line;

Bounded on the East by the eastern North Dakota State line;

Bounded on the South by the southern North Dakota State line west to State Route 1; and

Bounded on the West by State Route 1 north to Interstate 94; Interstate 94 east to the Soo Railroad line; the Soo Railroad line northwest to State Route 1; State Route 1 north to State Route 200; State Route 200 east to State Route 45; State Route 45 north to State Route 32; State Route 32 north.

North Dakota's assigned geographic area does not include the following grain elevators inside North Dakota's area which have been and will continue to be serviced by the following official agency Grain Inspection, Inc.: Norway Spur, and Oakes Grain, both in Oakes, Dickey County.

2. Opportunity for Designation

Interested persons, including Central Illinois, Plainview, Barton, and North Dakota, 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.

DESIGNATION TERM

Central Illinois ..	6/1/1999 to 5/31/2002.
Plainview	6/1/1999 to 5/31/2002.
Barton	7/1/1999 to 5/31/2002.

DESIGNATION TERM—Continued

North Dakota	7/1/1999 to 5/31/2002.
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Persons wishing to apply for designation should contact the Compliance Division at the address listed above for forms and information.

3. Request for Comments

GIPSA also is publishing this notice to provide interested persons the opportunity to present comments on the Central Illinois, Plainview, Barton, and North Dakota official agencies. Commenters are encouraged to submit pertinent data concerning the Central Illinois, Plainview, Barton, and North Dakota official agencies including information concerning 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, 1998.

Neil E. Porter,

Director, Compliance Division.

[FR Doc. 98-26094 Filed 9-30-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-EN-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration****Designation Amendment for Michigan To Provide Official Services in the Lima (OH) Area**

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

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The designation of Michigan Grain Inspection Services, Inc., (Michigan), has been amended to include the former Lima Ohio area.

DATE: Effective on September 18, 1998.

ADDRESSES: USDA, GIPSA, Janet M. Hart, Chief, Review Branch, Compliance Division, STOP 3604, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, 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 April 1, 1998, **Federal Register** (63 FR 15827), GIPSA announced the designation of Michigan to provide official inspection services under the Act, effective May 1, 1998, and ending April 30, 2001. In July 1998, Michigan asked GIPSA to amend their geographic area to include the former Lima, Ohio, area, due to the purchase of the designated corporation, Lima Grain Inspection Service, Inc. (Lima).

In the July 16, 1998, **Federal Register** (63 FR 38367), GIPSA announced the purchase of the Lima agency by Michigan, effective August 1, 1998. GIPSA also announced the amendment of Michigan's designation to provide official inspection services under the Act, to include the former Lima, Ohio, area, effective August 1, 1998. Lima voluntarily canceled their designation effective July 31, 1998. Michigan subsequently advised GIPSA that the purchase of the Lima agency would not be completed. GIPSA, in the August 28, 1998, **Federal Register** (63 FR 45995), announced that the sale will not be completed, withdrew the amendment as published in the July 16, 1998, **Federal Register**, and asked persons interested in providing official services in the former Lima, Ohio, area to submit an application for designation.

Michigan subsequently completed the purchase of the Lima agency on September 18, 1998. Accordingly, GIPSA is withdrawing its request for applications from persons interested in providing services in the former Lima, Ohio, area as published in the August 28, 1998, **Federal Register**. GIPSA is announcing the designation of Michigan to provide official inspection services under the Act, in the former Lima, Ohio, area effective September 18, 1998, and ending April 30, 2001, concurrently with the end of Michigan's current designation.

Section 7A(c)(2) of the Act authorizes GIPSA's Administrator to designate an agency to perform official services within a specified geographic area, if such agency is qualified under Section 7(f)(1)(A) of the Act. GIPSA evaluated all available information regarding the designation criteria in Section 7(f)(1)(A) of the Act, and determined that Michigan is qualified. GIPSA is announcing the change in Michigan's assigned geographic area, and that Michigan is the officially designated service provider in the area of Ohio formerly assigned to Lima. The Michigan geographic area, in the States of Michigan and Ohio is:

Bounded on the North by the northern Michigan State line;

Bounded on the East by the eastern Michigan State line south and east to State Route 53; State Route 53 south to State Route 46; State Route 46 west to Sheridan Road; Sheridan Road south to Barnes Road; Barnes Road west to State Route 15; State Route 15 south to the Genesee County line; the northern Genesee County line west to the Shiawassee County line; the northern Shiawassee County line west to State Route 52; State Route 52 south to State Route 21; State Route 21 west to Clinton County; the eastern and northern Clinton County lines west to U.S. Route 27; U.S. Route 27 south to U.S. Route 127; U.S. Route 127 south to the Michigan-Ohio State line. In Ohio, the northern State line west to the Williams County line; the eastern Williams County line south to the Defiance County line; the northern and eastern Defiance County lines south to U.S. Route 24; U.S. Route 24 northeast to State Route 108; State Route 108 south to Putnam County; the northern and eastern Putnam County lines; the eastern Allen County line; the northern Hardin County line east to U.S. Route 68; U.S. Route 68 south to U.S. Route 47;

Bounded on the South by U.S. Route 47 west-southwest to Interstate 75 (excluding all of Sidney, Ohio); Interstate 75 south to the Shelby County line; the southern and western Shelby County lines; the southern Mercer County line; and

Bounded on the West by the Ohio-Indiana State line from the southern Mercer County line to the northern Williams County line; in Michigan, by the southern Michigan State line west to the Branch County line; the western Branch County line north to the Kalamazoo County line; the southern Kalamazoo and Van Buren County lines west to the Michigan State line; the western Michigan State line north to the northern Michigan State line.

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

1. Detroit Grain Inspection Service, Inc.: St. Johns Coop., St. Johns, Clinton County, Michigan.

2. Northeast Indiana Grain Inspection: E.M. P. Grain, Payne, Paulding County, Ohio.

Effective September 18, 1998, Michigan's present geographic area is amended to include part of Ohio. Michigan's designation to provide official inspection services terminates April 30, 2001. Official services may be