

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

obtained by contacting Michigan at 616-781-2711.

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

Dated: September 23, 1998.

Neil E. Porter,

Director, Compliance Division.

[FR Doc. 98-26093 Filed 9-30-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

Designation for the Amarillo (TX), Fostoria (OH), Schaal (IA), and Wisconsin Areas

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

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: GIPSA announces designation of the following organizations to provide official services under the United States Grain Standards Act, as amended (Act):

Amarillo Grain Exchange, Inc.

(Amarillo);

Fostoria Grain Inspection, Inc.

(Fostoria);

D.R. Schaal Agency, Inc. (Schaal) and; Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (Wisconsin).

EFFECTIVE DATE: December 1, 1998.

ADDRESSES: USDA, GIPSA, Janet M. Hart, Chief, Review Branch, Compliance Division, STOP 3604, Room 1647-S, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, 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 June 1, 1998, **Federal Register** (63 FR 29695), GIPSA asked persons interested in providing official services in the geographic areas assigned to Amarillo, Fostoria, Schaal, and Wisconsin to submit an application for designation. Applications were due by June 30, 1998. Amarillo, Fostoria, Schaal, and Wisconsin, the only applicants, each applied for designation to provide official services in the entire area currently assigned to them.

Since Amarillo, Fostoria, Schaal, and Wisconsin were the only applicants, GIPSA did not ask for comments on them.

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 Amarillo, Fostoria, Schaal, and Wisconsin are able to provide official services in the geographic areas for which they applied.

Official agency	Designation start	Designation end
Amarillo	12/1/1998	11/30/2001
Fostoria	12/1/1998	11/30/2001
Schaal	12/1/1998	11/30/2001
Wisconsin	12/1/1998	11/30/2001

Effective December 1, 1998, and ending November 30, 2001, Amarillo, Fostoria, Schaal, and Wisconsin are designated to provide official services in the geographic area specified in the June 1, 1998, **Federal Register**.

Interested persons may obtain official services by contacting Amarillo at 806-372-8511, Fostoria at 419-435-3804, Schaal at 515-444-3122, and Wisconsin at 715-392-7851.

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. 98-26092 Filed 9-30-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

Protein Certification

AGENCY: Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) is soliciting comments on its proposal to certify wheat protein content results on any specified moisture basis requested by applicants, in addition to certifying results on the current 12.0 percent moisture basis. This change has been requested by importers of U.S. wheat.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before November 30, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Written comments must be submitted to Sharon Vassiliades at GIPSA, USDA, STOP 3649, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C., 20250-3649; FAX (202) 720-4628; or E-mail svassili@fgisd.usda.gov.

All comments received will be made available for public inspection at the above address during regular business hours (8:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Giler at (202) 720-0252.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On May 1, 1978, GIPSA (then the Federal Grain Inspection Service or FGIS) began offering official wheat protein testing for Hard Red Winter and Hard Red Spring wheat to interested parties in the grain industry. In calculating protein content, an "as-is" moisture basis was also used (though protein content could also be determined and recorded using any specified moisture basis if requested by the applicant for inspection). By calculating protein content using the as-is moisture basis, GIPSA received numerous complaints, mostly from foreign buyers. These complaints were generally about low protein levels which, in part, appeared due to the difference between the U.S. and Canadian methods for computing and stating protein content. Canada was using a fixed 13.5 percent moisture basis compared to the as-is moisture basis calculation which was commonly used for U.S. shipments. When using an as-is moisture basis to certify protein, the certified protein result is directly dependent on the moisture level of the wheat. Protein content is inversely proportional to the moisture content when results are based on the as-is reporting basis. Consequently, as the moisture content of the wheat gets lower, the protein content reported on an as-is basis gets larger. Further, a given lot's protein content could theoretically "change" as the wheat's actual moisture content changed over time when using the as-is reporting basis.

To address these concerns, FGIS proposed, in 1986, to revise its Grain Inspection Handbook to provide that protein content be certified on a constant 12.0 percent moisture basis, instead of the as-is moisture basis or another fixed moisture basis. It was thought that this would add uniformity to the official protein reporting procedure. When reporting on an as-is basis, the protein quantity of wheat which has different moisture levels cannot be compared easily. A 12.0 percent moisture basis was recommended by various grower and processor organizations, as well as the Grain Quality Workshops, because this percentage represented the average moisture content of wheat exported from the United States. The agency believed that protein content, certified on a constant moisture basis of 12.0 percent, would provide buyers, sellers, and users of U.S. wheat with results that could be easily evaluated and compared. Also, use of a constant