

Conclusion

The primary reason for extensive carcass palpation in lambs is to detect lesions of caseous lymphadenitis. This disease does not cause foodborne illness and has an extremely low prevalence in lambs. Other diseases routinely present in lamb carcasses that are of public health concern are not detected by carcass palpation. Therefore, there is little basis to find that selective carcass palpation will cause foodborne illness or cause diseased carcasses or parts to reach consumers.

On the other hand, the cited literature attests to the fact that hands are capable of spreading or adding microorganisms. Although it has not been proven directly that extensive carcass palpation by lamb inspectors causes microbial contamination or actually spreads such contamination, the evidence from the sheep industry and allied industries strongly suggests that this can occur. Thus, current inspection procedures using extensive carcass palpation can spread or add contamination to carcasses.

FSIS, therefore, announced in the October 27, 1997, **Federal Register** notice that it was taking a hands-off inspection approach to lambs. As stated previously, this approach is more accurately described as selective carcass palpation. Adopting this approach entails a number of steps, including consultation with employee organizations. Additional information may be found in a new FSIS directive on the Agency's planned inspection procedures for lambs, which will be effective upon publication and after consultations have been completed.

FSIS will continue to monitor condemnation rates in plants that slaughter lambs to identify the impact, if any, of the change. Further, the Agency intends to look at the implications of handling product during inspection procedures with regard to the production of all meat and poultry products.

Done at Washington, DC, on: November 4, 1998.

Thomas J. Billy,
Administrator.

References

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[FR Doc. 98-30182 Filed 11-10-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-DM-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Sunshine Act Meeting

AGENCY: Rural Telephone Bank, USDA.

ACTION: Staff Briefing for the Board of Directors.

TIME AND DATE: 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, November 18, 1998.

PLACE: Room 5030, South Building, Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC.

STATUS: Open.

MATTERS TO BE DISCUSSED: Introduction of board directors and staff and general discussion involving:

- 1999 agency budget.
- Current telecommunications industry issues.
- Liquidating account and Federal Credit Reform.
- Status of PBO planning.
- Legal advisor to privatization committee.
- Administrative issues.

ACTION: Board of Directors Meeting.

TIME AND DATE: 9:00 a.m., Thursday, November 19, 1998.

PLACE: The Williamsburg Room, Room 104-A, Jamie L. Whitten Building, Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC.

STATUS: Open.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED: The following matters have been placed on the agenda for the Board of Directors meeting:

1. Call to order.
2. Report on board election results.
3. Oath of office.
4. Election of board officers; Chairperson, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer.
5. Action on the August 21, 1998, Minutes.
6. Report on loans approved in FY 1998.
7. Summary of financial activity for FY 1998.
8. Report on interest earned on amounts in the liquidating account.
9. Governor's report on PBO planning.
10. Consideration of resolution to re-establish the privatization committee.
11. Consideration of resolution to approve Roberta D. Purcell to serve as the Assistant Governor.
12. Establish date and location of next regular board meeting.
13. Adjournment.

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION: Roberta D. Purcell, Assistant Governor, Rural Telephone Bank, (202) 720-9554.

Dated: November 5, 1998.

Christopher A. McLean,

Deputy Governor, Rural Telephone Bank.

[FR Doc. 98-30390 Filed 11-9-98; 2:18 pm]

BILLING CODE 3410-15-M

COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Agenda and Notice of Public Meeting of the Iowa Advisory Committee

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, that a meeting of the Iowa Advisory Committee to the Commission will convene at 10:00 a.m. and adjourn at 12:30 p.m. on December 7, 1998, at the Marriott Hotel, 700 Grand Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa 50309. The purpose of the meeting is to hold orientation for new members and plan future activities.

Persons desiring additional information, or planning a presentation to the Committee, should contact Melvin L. Jenkins, Director of the Central Regional Office, 913-551-1400 (TDD 913-551-1414). Hearing-impaired persons who will attend the meeting

and require the services of a sign language interpreter should contact the Regional Office at least ten (10) working days before the scheduled date of the meeting.

The meeting will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the Commission.

Dated at Washington, DC, .

Carol-Lee Hurley

Chief, Regional Programs Coordination Unit

[FR Doc. 98-30202 Filed 11-10-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6335-01-F

COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Agenda and Notice of Public Meeting of the Maine Advisory Committee

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, that a meeting of the Maine Advisory Committee to the Commission will convene at 9:00 a.m. and adjourn at 1:30 p.m. on December 4, 1998, at the Central Maine Power Offices, Conference Room, 83 Edison Drive, Augusta, Maine 04336. The Committee will be briefed by invited civil rights advocates on the status of civil rights issues in Maine. The Committee will also plan future events and review a draft of the Committee report, *Limited English Proficient Students in Maine: An Assessment of Equal Educational Opportunities*.

Persons desiring additional information, or planning a presentation to the Committee, should contact Committee Chairperson Gerald Talbot, 207-772-6098 or Ki-Taek Chun, Director of the Eastern Regional Office, 202-376-7533 (TDD 202-376-8116). Hearing-impaired persons who will attend the meeting and require the services of a sign language interpreter should contact the Regional Office at least ten (10) working days before the scheduled date of the meeting.

The meeting will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the Commission.

Dated at Washington, DC, .

Carol-Lee Hurley

Chief, Regional Programs Coordination Unit

[FR Doc. 98-30200 Filed 11-10-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6335-01-F

COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Agenda and Notice of Public Meeting of the Mississippi Advisory Committee

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on

Civil Rights, that a meeting of the Mississippi Advisory Committee to the Commission will convene at 6:00 p.m. and adjourn at 8:00 p.m. on December 9, 1998, at the Crowne Plaza Downtown Jackson, 200 East Amite, Jackson, Mississippi 39201. The purpose of the meeting is to hold orientation for new members and plan future activities.

Persons desiring additional information, or planning a presentation to the Committee, should contact Melvin L. Jenkins, Director of the Central Regional Office, 913-551-1400 (TDD 913-551-1414). Hearing-impaired persons who will attend the meeting and require the services of a sign language interpreter should contact the Regional Office at least ten (10) working days before the scheduled date of the meeting.

The meeting will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the Commission.

Dated at Washington, DC, November 5, 1998.

Carol-Lee Hurley,

Chief, Regional Programs Coordination Unit.

[FR Doc. 98-30203 Filed 11-10-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6335-01-P

COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Agenda and Notice of Public Meeting of the Rhode Island Advisory Committee

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, that a meeting of the Rhode Island Advisory Committee to the Commission will convene at 4:00 p.m. and adjourn at 7:30 p.m. on December 1, 1998, at the Office of the Rhode Island General Treasurer, Conference Room, State House, Providence, Rhode Island 02903. The Committee will be briefed by invited civil rights advocates on the status of civil rights issues in Rhode Island. The Committee will also plan future events and review a draft of the Committee's statement of concern, *The Impact of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 on Legal Immigrants in Rhode Island*.

Persons desiring additional information, or planning a presentation to the Committee, should contact Committee Chairperson Olga Noguera, 401-464-1876 or Ki-Taek Chun, Director of the Eastern Regional Office, 202-376-7533 (TDD 202-376-8116). Hearing-impaired persons who will attend the meeting and require the services of a sign language interpreter should contact the Regional Office at