

inch cotton, C.I.F. northern Europe (U.S. Northern Europe price), adjusted for the value of any cotton user marketing certificates issued, exceeds the Northern Europe price by more than 1.25 cents per pound. This condition was met during the consecutive 10-week period that ended September 5, 1996.

Therefore, a quota referenced as the Secretary of Agriculture's Special Cotton Import Quota Announcement Number 14, effective November 30, 1996, is hereby established.

Because there are only 20 subheadings available for designating upland cotton special import quotas in subchapter III of chapter 99 of the HTS, only 20 such quotas can be in effect at one time. Each subheading corresponds to a Secretary of Agriculture's Special Cotton Import Quota Announcement specifying that a particular amount of upland cotton may be imported during a particular 180-day period. The special import quota described in this notice cannot take effect until HTS subheading 9903.52.14 becomes available upon the expiration of the Secretary of Agriculture's Special Cotton Import Quota Announcement Number 14, effective June 3, 1996, through November 29, 1996. Therefore, the special import quota described in this notice opens on November 30, 1996, the day after the previous special import quota 14 ends.

The quota amount, 44,403,388 kilograms (97,892,793 pounds), is equal to 1 week's consumption of upland cotton by domestic mills at the seasonally-adjusted average rate of the most recent 3 months for which data are available—May 1996 through July 1996. The special import quota identifies a quantity of imports that is not subject to the over-quota tariff rate of a tariff-rate quota. The quota is not divided by staple length or by country of origin. The quota does not affect existing tariff rates or phytosanitary regulations. The quota does not apply to Extra Long Staple cotton.

Authority: Sec. 136, Pub.L. 104-127 and U.S. Note 6(a), Subchapter III, Chapter 99 of the HTS.

Signed at Washington, D.C., on October 15, 1996.

Dan Glickman,

Secretary.

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Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

Opportunity for Designation in the Lincoln (NE), Memphis (TN), and Omaha (NE) Areas

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

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The United States Grain Standards Act, as amended (Act), provides that official agency designations will end not later than triennially and may be renewed. The designations of Lincoln Inspection Service, Inc. (Lincoln), and Omaha Grain Inspection Service, Inc. (Omaha), will end April 30, 1997, according to the Act, and the designation of Memphis Grain Inspection Service (Memphis) will end May 31, 1997, according to the Act, and GIPSA is asking persons interested in providing official services in the Lincoln, Memphis, and Omaha areas to submit an application for designation.

DATES: Applications must be postmarked or sent by telecopier (FAX) on or before December 2, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Applications must be submitted to USDA, GIPSA, Janet M. Hart, Chief, Review Branch, Compliance Division, STOP 3604, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20250-3604.

Applications 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 will be made available for public inspection at this 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.

Section 7(f)(1) of the 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. GIPSA designated Lincoln, main office located in Lincoln, Nebraska, and Omaha, main office located in Omaha, Nebraska, to provide official inspection services under the act on May 1, 1994. GIPSA designated Memphis, main office located in

Memphis, Tennessee, to provide official inspection services under the act on June 1, 1994.

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. The designations of Lincoln and Omaha end on April 30, 1997, and the designation of Memphis ends on May 31, 1997.

Pursuant to Section 7(f)(2) of the USGSA, 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.

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

Craighead, Crittenden, Cross, Lee, Mississippi, Phillips, Poinsett, and St. Francis Counties, Arkansas.

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

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); and Lockhart-Coleman Grain Company, Augusta, Woodruff County, Arkansas (located inside Arkansas Grain Inspection Service's area).

Pursuant to Section 7(f)(2) of the USGSA, 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 Association, Rising City, Butler County, Nebraska; Farmers Coop Business Association (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.

Interested persons, including Lincoln, Memphis, and Omaha, 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 in the Lincoln and Omaha geographic areas is for the period beginning May 1, 1997, and ending April 30, 2000. Designation in the Memphis geographic area is for the period beginning June 1, 1997, and ending April 30, 2000. Persons wishing to apply for designation should contact the Compliance Division at the address listed above for forms and information.

Applications 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: October 15, 1996

Neil E. Porter

Director, Compliance Division

[FR Doc. 96-26912 Filed 10-21-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-EN-F

Designation for the Aberdeen (SD) Area and the State of Missouri

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

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: GIPSA announces the designation of Aberdeen Grain Inspection, Inc. (Aberdeen), and the Missouri Department of Agriculture (Missouri) to provide official services under the United States Grain Standards Act, as amended (Act).

EFFECTIVE DATE: December 1, 1996.

ADDRESSES: USDA, GIPSA, Janet M. Hart, Chief, Review Branch, Compliance Division, STOP 3604, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., 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 May 30, 1996, Federal Register (61 FR 27045), GIPSA asked persons interested in providing official services in the geographic areas assigned to Aberdeen and Missouri to submit an application for designation.

Applications were due by June 29, 1996. There were three applicants: Aberdeen applied for designation to provide official services in the entire area currently assigned to them. Missouri applied for designation to provide official services in the entire area currently assigned to them, and Grain Belt Inspection Service (Grain Belt), an organization to be formed by Larry and Peggy Aschermann that plans to establish its main office in Jefferson City, Missouri, applied for designation to provide official services in the area currently assigned to Missouri.

Since Aberdeen was the only applicant for the Aberdeen area, GIPSA did not ask for comments on the applicant. GIPSA requested comments on the applicants for the Missouri area in the August 1, 1996, Federal Register (61 FR 40192). Comments were due by September 2, 1996. GIPSA received 43 comments by the deadline.

Thirty-five comments; 7 grain firms currently served by Missouri, 1 official agency, 2 grain associations, 11 State government officials, 2 farm organizations, and 12 individuals, supported designation of Missouri. These comments noted with satisfaction Missouri's past performance of official services, experience in providing official services, and overall good service. Many of the comments were of the view that Missouri was best able to continue to provide official services. Seven comments, 3 grain firms, 3 nongrain businesses, and 1 individual supported designation of Grain Belt based on their view that Grain Belt was qualified to provide official services, that grain inspection services should be privatized, and their concerns about the fees charged and the cost of official services provided by Missouri.

One commentor asked for information.

Six additional comments were received after the due date and these comments did not differ significantly from previously received 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 Aberdeen is able to provide official services in the geographic area for which they applied,