

Minnesota to submit an application for designation. Applications were due by April 1, 2003.

There were six applicants for the Minnesota area: Minnesota, North Dakota Grain Inspection Service, Inc. (North Dakota), D. R. Schaal Agency, Inc. (Schaal), and Sioux City Inspection and Weighing Service Company (Sioux City), all currently designated official agencies; Paul B. Bethke, Terry D. Pladson, and Ryan M. Kuhl proposing to do business as Northern Plains Grain Inspection Service, Inc. (Northern Plains), and Kathleen Duea, Kyle Duea, Ben Duea, and Nicole Youel proposing to do business as Southern Minnesota Grain Inspection (Southern Minnesota). Minnesota applied for designation to provide official services in the entire area currently assigned to them. North Dakota and Northern Plains applied for all or part of the area currently assigned to Minnesota. Schaal made application but subsequently withdrew their application. Sioux City applied for all or part of the following Minnesota Counties: Brown, Cottonwood, Jackson, Lincoln, Lyon, Martin, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, Redwood, Renville, Rock, Watonwan, and Yellow Medicine. Southern Minnesota Grain Inspection applied for all or part of the area currently assigned to Minnesota, and specified all or part of the following Minnesota Counties: Blue Earth, Cottonwood, Faribault, Jackson, Martin, Murray, Nobles, and Watonwan.

GIPSA asked for comments on the applicants for providing service in the Minnesota area in the May 1, 2003, **Federal Register** (68 FR 23279). Comments were due by May 1, 2003. GIPSA received 203 comments by the due date. Minnesota received four favorable comments, one from current Minnesota employees, one from an elevator manager, and two from managers representing grain elevator trade groups; and one unfavorable comment from a member of the Minnesota House of Representatives. North Dakota received five favorable comments from elevator managers. Northern Plains received 12 favorable comments and one unfavorable comment from grain elevator managers.

Southern Minnesota received a total of 180 favorable comments, seven from grain elevator managers, two from current employees, one from a Minnesota State Senator, one from a Montana grain elevator trade association, one from a banker, one from an accounting firm, one from a crop insurance company, one from a railroad manager, and 165 from members of a grain coop. Sioux City received no 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, effective October 1, 2003, and ending March 31, 2005, Minnesota is better able to provide official services in the geographic area specified in the March 3, 2003, **Federal Register** for which they applied.

Minnesota is designated for 18 months to provide official services in the geographic area for which they applied. Interested persons may obtain official services by calling Minnesota at 612-297-2200.

During the upcoming designation period GIPSA plans to announce a pilot program in Minnesota, which would allow multiple official agencies to provide official inspection and weighing services within the State of Minnesota.

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

Donna Reifschneider,

Administrator, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

[03-01-S]

Designation for the Idaho (ID), Lewiston (ID), Ohio Valley (IN), and Utah Areas

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

ACTION: Notice.

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

Idaho Grain Inspection Service, Inc. (Idaho);

Lewiston Grain Inspection Service, Inc. (Lewiston);

Ohio Valley Grain Inspection, Inc. (Ohio Valley); and

Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (Utah).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2003.

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, e-mail Janet.M.Hart@usda.gov.

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 March 3, 2003, **Federal Register** (68 FR 9971), GIPSA asked persons interested in providing official services in the geographic areas assigned to the official agencies named above to submit an application for designation. Applications were due by April 1, 2003.

Idaho, Lewiston, Ohio Valley, and Utah were the sole applicants for designation to provide official services in the entire area currently assigned to them, so GIPSA did not ask for additional 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 Idaho, Lewiston, Ohio Valley, and Utah are able to provide official services in the geographic areas specified in the March 3, 2003, **Federal Register**, for which they applied. Interested persons may obtain official services by calling the telephone numbers listed below.

Official agency	Headquarters location and telephone	Designation start—end
Idaho	Pocatello, ID, 208-233-8303	10/01/2003-09/30/2006
Lewiston	Lewiston, ID, 208-746-0451	10/01/2003-09/30/2006
Ohio Valley	Evansville, IN, 513-251-6571	10/01/2003-09/30/2006
Utah	Salt Lake City, UT, 801-538-7100	10/01/2003-09/30/2006

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

Donna Reifschneider,
Administrator, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

[03–03–A]

Opportunity for Designation in the Champaign (IL), Detroit (MI), Eastern Iowa (IA), Enid (OK), Keokuk (IA), and Michigan (MI) Areas, and Request for Comments on the Official Agencies Serving These Areas

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

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The designations of the official agencies listed below will end in March 2004. Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (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 quality of services provided by these currently designated agencies: Champaign-Danville Grain Inspection Departments, Inc. (Champaign); Detroit Grain Inspection Service, Inc. (Detroit); Eastern Iowa Grain Inspection and Weighing Service, Inc. (Eastern Iowa); Enid Grain Inspection Company, Inc. (Enid); Keokuk Grain Inspection Service (Keokuk); and Michigan Grain Inspection Services, Inc. (Michigan).

DATES: Applications and comments must be postmarked or electronically dated on or before October 1, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Submit applications and comments to USDA, GIPSA, Janet M. Hart, Chief, Review Branch, Compliance Division, STOP 3604, Room 1647–S, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250–3604; FAX 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 Room 1647–S, 1400 Independence

Avenue, SW., during regular business hours.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Janet M. Hart at 202–720–8525, e-mail Janet.M.Hart@usda.gov.

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
Champaign	Champaign, IL	6/01/2001	3/31/2004
Detroit	Emmett, MI	5/01/2001	3/31/2004
Eastern Iowa	Davenport, IA	6/01/2001	3/31/2004
Enid	Enid, OK	6/01/2001	3/31/2004
Keokuk	Keokuk, IA	5/01/2001	3/31/2004
Michigan	Marshall, MI	5/01/2001	3/31/2004

a. Pursuant to section 7(f)(2) of the Act, the following geographic area, in the States of Illinois and Indiana, is assigned to Champaign.

Bounded on the North by the northern Livingston County line from State Route 47; the eastern Livingston County line to the northern Ford County line; the northern Ford and Iroquois County lines east to the Illinois-Indiana State line; the Illinois-Indiana State line south to U.S. Route 24; U.S. Route 24 east to U.S. Route 41;

Bounded on the East by U.S. Route 41 south to the northern Parke County line; the northern Parke and Putnam County lines; the eastern Putnam, Owen and Greene County lines;

Bounded on the South by the southern Greene County line; the southern Sullivan County line west to U.S. Route 41(150); U.S. Route 41(150) south to U.S. Route 50; U.S. Route 50 west across the Indiana-Illinois State line to Illinois State Route 33; Illinois State Route 33 north and west to the Western Crawford County line; and

Bounded on the West by the western Crawford and Clark County lines; the Southern Coles County line; the western Coles and Douglas County lines; the western Champaign County line north to Interstate 72; Interstate 72 southwest to the Piatt County line; the western Piatt County line; the southern McLean County line west to a point 10 miles west of the western Champaign County line, from this point through Arrowsmith to Pontiac along a straight line running north and south which intersects with State Route 116; State Route 116 east to State Route 47; State Route 47 north to the northern Livingston County line.

The following grain elevators, all in Illinois, located outside of the above contiguous geographic area, are part of this geographic area assignment: Moultrie Grain Association, Cadwell, Moultrie County; Tabor Grain Company (3 elevators), Farmer City, Dewitt County; and Topflight Grain Company,

Monticello, Piatt County (located inside Decatur Grain Inspection, Inc.'s, area).

Champaign's assigned geographic area does not include the following grain elevators inside Champaign's area which have been and will continue to be serviced by the following official agency: Titus Grain Inspection, Inc.: Kentland Elevator and Supply, Boswell, Benton County, Indiana; ADM, Dunn, Benton County, Indiana; and ADM, Raub, Benton County, Indiana.

b. Pursuant to section 7(f)(2) of the Act, the following geographic area, in the State of Michigan, is assigned to Michigan.

Bounded on the North by the northern Clinton County line; the eastern Clinton County line south to State Route 21; State Route 21 east to State Route 52; State Route 52 north to the Shiawassee County line; the northern Shiawassee County line east to the Genesee County line; the western Genesee County line; the northern Genesee County line east to State Route 15; State Route 15 north to Barnes Road; Barnes Road east to