

minorities, women, and persons with disabilities are aware of this notice, FSIS will announce it on-line through the FSIS web page located at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations/2005_Notices_Index/.

FSIS also will make copies of this **Federal Register** publication available through the FSIS Constituent Update, which is used to provide information regarding FSIS policies, procedures, regulations, **Federal Register** notices, FSIS public meetings, recalls, and other types of information that could affect or would be of interest to our constituents and stakeholders. The update is communicated via Listserv, a free electronic mail subscription service for industry, trade, and farm groups, consumer interest groups, allied health professionals, scientific professionals, and other individuals who have requested to be included. The update is available on the FSIS web page. Through Listserv and the web page, FSIS is able to provide information to a much broader, more diverse audience.

In addition, FSIS offers an electronic mail subscription service which provides an automatic and customized notification when popular pages are updated, including **Federal Register** publications and related documents. This service is available at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/news_and_events/email_subscription/ and allows FSIS customers to sign up for subscription options across eight categories. Options range from recalls to export information to regulations, directives, and notices.

Customers can add or delete subscriptions themselves and have the option to protect their accounts with passwords.

Done at Washington, DC, on May 26, 2005.

F. Edward Scarbrough,

U.S. Manager for Codex Alimentarius.

[FR Doc. 05-10876 Filed 5-31-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-DM-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. 05-017N]

Availability of Question and Answer Documents

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The Food Safety and Inspection Service is announcing the availability of two question and answer (Q&A) documents concerning FSIS Directives 5000.2 ("Review of

Establishment Data by Inspection Program Personnel"), 6420.2 ("Verification of Procedures for controlling Fecal Material, Ingesta, and Milk in Slaughter Operations"), and 10,010.1, Revision 1 ("Microbiological Testing Program and Other Verification Activities for *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 in Raw Ground Beef Products and Raw Ground Beef Components and Beef Patty Components") (see **ADDRESSES**). The Agency is announcing the availability of these documents now because they contain information about *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) O157:H7, which is particularly relevant at this time because the United States is in the seasonal period when the prevalence of *E. coli* O157:H7 may be higher than during other times of the year.

ADDRESSES: The Q&A documents are available in Room 102, Cotton Annex, 300 12th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20250-3700, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. They are also available on the Internet at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OPPDE/rdad/fsisdirectives/10010_1/Ecoli_QA.pdf and http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OPPDE/rdad/fsisdirectives/10010_1/Directives_Q&A.pdf.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rachel Edelstein, Regulations and Petitions Policy Staff, Food Safety and Inspection Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture (202) 720-5627.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Significance of *E. Coli* O157:H7 and FSIS' Actions To Address the Pathogen

Exposure to *E. coli* O157:H7 has been linked to serious, life-threatening human illnesses (hemorrhagic colitis and hemolytic uremic syndrome). In the United States, outbreaks of human illnesses caused by foodborne *E. coli* O157:H7 infection have often been linked to ground beef.

FSIS administers a regulatory program under the Federal Meat Inspection Act (FMIA) (21 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*) to protect the health and welfare of consumers by preventing the distribution of meat products that are unwholesome, adulterated, or misbranded.

In 1994, FSIS notified the public that raw ground beef products contaminated with *E. coli* O157:H7 are adulterated within the meaning of the FMIA (21 U.S.C. 601(m)(1)), unless the ground beef is further processed to destroy this pathogen. On January 19, 1999, FSIS published a policy statement in the **Federal Register** that explained that, if non-intact beef products (e.g., beef that has been mechanically tenderized by needling or cubing) or intact cuts of muscle that are to be further processed

into non-intact product prior to distribution for consumption are found to be contaminated with *E. coli* O157:H7, they must be processed into ready-to-eat product, or they would be deemed to be adulterated (64 FR 2803).

In the October 7, 2002, **Federal Register**, FSIS informed the public that *E. coli* O157:H7 prevalence may be higher in April through September than during other times of the year, based on several studies and establishment testing data (67 FR 62332).

Availability of Qs&As

FSIS is making available two documents that include Qs&As concerning FSIS Directives 5000.2, 6420.2, and 10,010.1, Revision 1. The Qs&As address concerns that were raised by interested parties at public meetings conducted by FSIS in 2004. At those meetings, FSIS presented information on these directives to the public, particularly small and very small plants. The Qs&As regarding Directive 10,010.1, Revision 1, provide information on establishment verification testing for *E. coli* O157:H7, establishment controls for *E. coli* O157:H7, and establishment responsibilities in the event that the establishment finds raw beef product positive for the pathogen or positive in a screening test for the pathogen.

The information concerning *E. coli* O157:H7 is particularly relevant at this time because the United States is in the seasonal period when the prevalence of this pathogen may be higher than during other times of the year. Based on information from the Qs&As, establishments may decide to take actions to improve their *E. coli* O157:H7 verification testing programs or their controls to address the pathogen.

Additional Public Notification

Public awareness of all segments of rulemaking and policy development is important. Consequently, in an effort to ensure that the public and in particular minorities, women, and persons with disabilities, are aware of this notice, FSIS will announce it on-line through the FSIS web page located at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations/2005_Notices_Index/index.asp.

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Done at Washington, DC, on May 25, 2005.

Barbara J. Masters,
Acting Administrator.

[FR Doc. 05-10790 Filed 5-31-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-DM-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Forest Counties Payments Committee Meeting

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Forest Counties Payments Committee has scheduled a business meeting to discuss how it will provide Congress with the information specified in Section 320 of the Fiscal Year 2001 Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. The meeting is open to the public.

DATES: The meeting will be held on June 29, 2005, from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. and June 30, 2005, from 8 a.m. until 12 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held in the Georgetown Conference Room, 2nd floor at the Brown Palace Hotel, 321 17th Street, Denver, CO 80202.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Randle G. Phillips, Executive Director, Forest Counties Payments Committee, at (202) 208-6574 or via e-mail at rphillips01@fs.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 320 of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2001 created the Forest Counties Payments Committee to make recommendations to Congress on

a long-term solution for making Federal payments to eligible States and counties in which Federal lands are situated. The Committee will consider the impact on eligible States and counties of revenues from the historic multiple use of Federal lands; evaluate the economic, environmental, and social benefits which accrue to counties containing Federal lands; evaluate the expenditures by counties on activities occurring on Federal lands, which are Federal responsibilities; and monitor payments and implementation of The Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (Pub. L. 106-393).

Dated: May 25, 2005.

Timothy Decoster,
Director, Legislative Affairs.

[FR Doc. 05-10824 Filed 5-31-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Tehama County Resource Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Tehama County Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) will meet in Red Bluff, California. Agenda items to be covered include: (1) Introductions, (2) Approval of minutes, (3) Public Comment, (4) Project Proposals/Possible Action, (6) Vegetation Opportunities on the Lassen, (7) General Discussion, (8) County Update, (9) Next Agenda.

DATES: The meeting will be held on June 9, 2005 from 9 a.m. and end at approximately 12 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Lincoln Street School, Conference Room A, 1135 Lincoln Street, Red Bluff, CA. Individuals wishing to speak or propose agenda items must send their names and proposals to Jim Giachino, DFO, 825 N. Humboldt Ave., Willows, CA 95988.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Bobbin Gaddini, Committee Coordinator, USDA, Mendocino National Forest, Grindstone Ranger District, P.O. Box 164, Elk Creek, CA 95939. 530-968-5329; e-mail ggaddini@fs.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting is open to the public. Committee discussion is limited to Forest Service staff and Committee members. However, persons who wish to bring matters to the attention of the Committee may file written statements

with the Committee staff before or after the meeting. Public input sessions will be provided and individuals who made written requests by June 6, 2005 will have the opportunity to address the committee at those sessions.

Dated: May 23, 2005.

James F. Giachino,
Designated Federal Official.

[FR Doc. 05-10789 Filed 5-31-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

[05-02-A]

Opportunity for Designation in the Alabama, Essex (IL), Springfield (IL), and Washington 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 December 2005. 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: Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries (Alabama); Kankakee Grain Inspection, Inc. (Kankakee); Springfield Grain Inspection, Inc. (Springfield); and Washington Department of Agriculture (Washington).

DATES: Applications and comments must be postmarked or electronically dated on or before July 1, 2005.

ADDRESSES: We invite you to submit applications and comments on this notice. You may submit applications and comments by any of the following methods:

- Hand Delivery or Courier: Deliver to Janet M. Hart, Chief, Review Branch, Compliance Division, GIPSA, USDA, Room 1647-S, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250.

- Fax: Send by facsimile transmission to (202) 690-2755, attention: Janet M. Hart.

- E-mail: Send via electronic mail to Janet.M.Hart@usda.gov.

- Mail: Send hardcopy to Janet M. Hart, Chief, Review Branch, Compliance Division, GIPSA, USDA, STOP 3604,