

resource requests for the next Fiscal Year.

Annual Reporting Burden:

Respondents: 20.

Total annual responses: 20.

Total annual hours requested: 480 hours.

Dated: March 4, 2003.

Joanne Paskar,

*Chief, Information and Records Division,
Office of Administrative Services, Bureau for
Management.*

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AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Board for International Food and Agricultural Development, One Hundred and Thirty Seventh Meeting; Notice of Meeting

Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, notice is hereby given of the one hundred and thirty-seventh meeting of the Board for International Food and Agricultural Development (BIFAD). The meeting will be held from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on March 27, 2003 in the ground floor meeting room of the National Association of State Universities & Land Grant Colleges (NASULGC), at 1307 New York Avenue, NW., Washington, DC.

The program will address participation in international agriculture by "1890" (Second Morrill Act) institutions, and the Partnership to End Hunger in Africa; it will also hear progress reports on the BIFAD initiatives in long-term training and intellectual property.

The meeting is free and open to the public. Those wishing to attend the meeting or obtain additional information about BIFAD should contact Mr. Lawrence Paulson, the Designated Federal Officer for BIFAD. Write him in care of the U.S. Agency for International Development, Ronald Reagan Building, Office of Agriculture and Food Security, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Room 2.11-073, Washington, DC 20523-2110 or telephone him at (202) 712-1436 or fax (202) 216-3010.

Lawrence Paulson,

*USAID Designated Federal Officer for BIFAD,
Office of Agriculture and Food Security,
Bureau for Economic Growth, Agriculture &
Trade.*

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Docket # FV-03-329]

United States Standards for Grades of Frozen Onions

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) of the Department of Agriculture (USDA) is soliciting comments on its proposal to create new United States Standards for Grades of Frozen Onions. USDA received a petition from a trade association to create grade standards for frozen onions that will include a description of the product, style, sample unit size, grades, ascertaining the grade by sample, and ascertaining the grade by lot. This proposal will provide a common language for trade, a means of measuring value in the marketing of frozen onions, and provide guidance in the effective utilization of frozen onions.

DATES: Comments may be submitted on or before May 12, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Written comments may be submitted to: Chere L. Shorter, Processed Products Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, STOP 0247, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250-0247; fax (202) 690-1087; or e-mail chere.shorter@usda.gov.

Comments should reference the date and page of this issue of the **Federal Register**. All comments received will be made available for public inspection at the address listed above during regular business hours and on the Internet.

The draft of the proposed United States Standards for Grades of Frozen Onions is available either through the address cited above or by accessing AMS's Web site on the Internet at: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/fv/ppb.html>. Any comments received, regarding this proposed standard will also be posted on that site.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Chere L. Shorter at (202) 720-5021 or e-mail at chere.shorter@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 203(c) of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1621-1627), as amended, directs and authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture "to develop and improve standards of quality, condition, quantity, grade and packaging and recommend and demonstrate such standards in order to encourage

uniformity and consistency in commercial practices * * * AMS is committed to carrying out this authority in a manner that facilitates the marketing of agricultural commodities and makes copies of official standards available upon request. The United States Standards for Grades of Fruits and Vegetables no longer appear in the Code of Federal Regulations but are maintained by USDA/AMS/Fruit and Vegetable Programs.

AMS is proposing to establish the U.S. Standards for Grades of Frozen Onions using the procedures that appear in part 36, Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations (7 CFR part 36).

The American Frozen Food Institute (AFFI), a trade association for the frozen fruit and vegetable industry, requested that USDA develop a standard for frozen onions to be used by the industry. The petition provided information on style, sample size and description to AMS to develop the standard. AMS received samples of various styles to collect information on grades of frozen onions and how to ascertain the grade of a sample and of a lot.

AMS prepared a discussion draft of the proposed frozen onions standard, and distributed copies for input to AFFI. Input from the trade association's members was used to further develop the proposed standard.

AMS then published a notice on the proposed grade standard in April, 2001, **Federal Register** (66 FR 21116) and received two comments. The comments are posted on the AMS Web site at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/fv/ppb.html>. AMS then met with members of AFFI at their annual meeting in February 2002 to discuss the comments. AFFI had requested a change in the style designations for minced style, and a correction to the text. AFFI also agreed on the sample size of one pound or 450 grams per sample unit as requested by another commenter. Based on the comments and discussions at the meeting, AMS revised the proposed grade standard incorporating all the comments.

Based on the results of the information gathered, AMS is proposing to establish a standard for frozen onions following the standard format for U.S. Grade Standards using "individual attributes." Specifically, USDA is proposing to provide for the "individual attributes" procedure for product grading with sample sizes, acceptable quality levels (AQL's), tolerances and acceptance numbers (number of allowable defects); with single letter grade designations. AMS is defining "frozen onions" and establishing "strips", "diced", "whole", "chopped",