

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.*

[FR Doc. 03-5941 Filed 3-11-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6116-01-M

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.*

[FR Doc. 03-5847 Filed 3-11-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6116-01-P

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",

and "other" as the style designations. The proposal also defines the quality factors, acceptable quality levels (AQL), and tolerances (TOL) for defects that affect frozen onions and determine sample unit sizes for this commodity.

This proposal would establish the grade levels "A", "B" and "Substandard". The proposed AQLs, tolerances, and acceptance numbers for each quality factor as defined for each grade level would also be established.

The grade of a sample unit of frozen onions will be ascertained by considering the factors of varietal characteristics, flavor, odor, color, defects, and character. 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. The official grade of a lot of frozen onions covered by these standards will be determined by the procedures set forth in the Regulations Governing Inspection and Certification of Processed Products Thereof, and Certain Other Processed Foods Products (§§ 52.1 to 52.83).

This notice provides for a 60 day comment period for interested parties to comment on the proposed U.S. Standards for Grades of Frozen Onions.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 1621–1627.

Dated: March 6, 2003.

A.J. Yates,

Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 03–5846 Filed 3–11–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–02–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Docket # FV–03–331]

United States Standards for Grades of Canned Sweet Potatoes

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), prior to undertaking research and other work associated with revising an official grade standard, is soliciting comments on the petition to change the United States Standards for Grades of Canned Sweet Potatoes. AMS received two petitions from food processors asking USDA to consider revising the current definition for the style of "Whole" in the U.S. Grade Standard for Canned Sweet Potatoes.

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

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments concerning this notice. Comments must be sent to Chere L. Shorter, Standardization Section, Processed Products Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Room 0709, South Building; STOP 0247, Washington, DC 20250; fax (202) 690–1527, e-mail Chere.Shorter@usda.gov. The United States Standards for Grades of Canned Sweet Potatoes is available either through the address cited above or by accessing the AMS Web site on the Internet at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/fv/ppb.html>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

AMS received two petitions from food processors requesting the revision of the United States Standards for Grades of Canned Sweet Potatoes.

The petitioners are requesting the USDA to revise the definition of the style of "Whole" to reflect newer varieties, new sorting techniques, and canning processes. The "Beauregard" variety, a new variety widely used in canned sweet potatoes is oddly shaped and must be cut and trimmed to give the appearance of a whole sweet potato. This variety may or may not be tapered on one end and because of mechanical trimming, may not meet the definition of whole.

The current definition for the style of "Whole" states, "Whole means the canned sweet potatoes have the appearance of being essentially whole or almost whole in that the units retain the approximate shape of whole sweet potatoes."

The petitioners want to revise the definition for canned whole sweet potatoes to allow for those that are cylindrical in shape, two inches plus or minus 0.5 inches in length, by 1.5 inches plus or minus .25 inches in diameter for 404 times 307 and 603 times 700 can sizes and 1.0 inch plus or minus 0.25 inches in diameter for smaller can sizes.

The petitioners believe changing the standard will promote uniformity in the grading of canned whole sweet potatoes. A copy of the petitioners' requests are located on the AMS Web site at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/fv/ppb.html>.

Agricultural Marketing Service

Prior to undertaking detailed work to develop a proposed revised standard AMS is soliciting comments on the petitions to revise the standard for Grades of Canned Sweet Potatoes. In particular, AMS would welcome

comments and information regarding the likely utility of a revised definition for style of "whole" in the standard for canned sweet potatoes and the probable impact on consumers, processors, and growers.

This notice provides for a 60-day comment period for interested parties to comment on changes to the standard. Should AMS conclude that there is a need for the change in the standard, the revised standard will be published in the **Federal Register** with a request for comments in accordance with 7 CFR Part 36.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 1621–1627.

Dated: March 6, 2003.

A.J. Yates,

Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 03–5845 Filed 3–11–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–02–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food and Nutrition Service

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC): Income Eligibility Guidelines

AGENCY: Food and Nutrition Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department announces adjusted income eligibility guidelines to be used by State agencies in determining the income eligibility of persons applying to participate in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC Program). These income eligibility guidelines are to be used in conjunction with the WIC Regulations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Debra Whitford, Branch Chief, Policy and Program Development Branch, Supplemental Food Programs Division, FNS, USDA, 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, Virginia 22302, (703) 305–2746.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Executive Order 12866

This notice is exempt from review by the Office of Management and Budget under Executive Order 12866.

Regulatory Flexibility Act

This action is not a rule as defined by the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601–612) and thus is exempt from the provisions of this Act.