

# Notices

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Office of the Secretary

#### Proposed Uniform Guidelines for Conducting Farm Service Agency County Committee Elections

**AGENCY:** Department of Agriculture.

**ACTION:** Notice with request for comments: reopening and extension of comment period.

**SUMMARY:** The Farm Service Agency (FSA) is reopening and extending the comment period for the notice with request for comments, Proposed Uniform Guidelines for Conducting Farm Service Agency County Committee Elections. The original comment period for the proposed rule closed on September 16, 2004 and FSA is reopening and extending it until October 16, 2004. The Agency will also consider any comments received from September 16, 2004 to the date of this notice. This action responds to requests from the public to provide more time to comment on the proposed guidelines.

**DATES:** Comments must be submitted by October 16, 2004 to be assured consideration. Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practical.

**ADDRESSES:** The Agency invites interested persons to submit comments on this notice. Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

- E-Mail: Send comments to: [countyelectionguidelines@usda.gov](mailto:countyelectionguidelines@usda.gov)
- Mail: Send comments to: County Committee Election Reform Comments, Department of Agriculture, Room 3092-S, Mail Stop 0539, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250-0539.
- Hand Delivery or Courier: Deliver comments to the above address.

All comments, including names and addresses, provided by respondents become a matter of public record. Comments may be inspected in the

office of the Deputy Administrator for Field Operations, FSA, at the above address. Make inspection arrangements by calling (202) 720-7890.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On August 17, 2004, FSA published a notice with request for comments, Proposed Uniform Guidelines for Conducting Farm Service Agency County Committee Elections, in the **Federal Register** (69 FR 51052). The notice requested comments on the proposed guidelines to ensure that the County Committee election process is fair and transparent and that producers are fairly represented on FSA County Committees. The uniform guidelines make public the principles and procedures under which FSA will conduct such elections, thus contributing to the transparency and accountability of the process. FSA will be required to follow such guidelines in conducting County Committee elections, and FSA regulations and directives on conducting such elections must conform to these guidelines.

The Agency believes that the request for additional time to comment on the proposed guidelines is reasonable. As a result of the reopening and extension, the comment period for the proposed rule will close on October 16, 2004.

Signed in Washington, DC, September 16, 2004.

**James R. Little,**

*Administrator, Farm Service Agency.*

[FR Doc. 04-21292 Filed 9-21-04; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-05-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. 04-014N]

#### Availability of FSIS Form 10,240-1—Production Information on Post-Lethality Exposed Ready-to-Eat Products

**AGENCY:** Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is announcing the availability of FSIS Form 10,240-1, Production Information on Post-Lethality Exposed Ready-to-Eat Products. This form will be used to collect information about the ready-to-

eat products produced by establishments.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Arshad Hussain, Director, Data Analysis and Statistical Support Staff, Food Safety and Inspection Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, (202) 720-3219.

### Comments

FSIS invites interested persons to submit comments on the information required in this notice and the frequency of its collection. Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

- Mail, including floppy disks or CD-ROM's, and hand- or courier-delivered items: Send to Docket Clerk, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, 300 12th Street, SW., Room 102 Cotton Annex, Washington, DC 20250.

All submissions received must include the Agency name and docket number 04-014N. All comments submitted in response to this notice, as well as research and background information used by FSIS in developing this document, will be available for public inspection in the FSIS Docket Room at the address listed above between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. The comments also will be posted on the Agency's Web site at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OPPDE/rdad/FRDockets.htm>.

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### Background

FSIS is committed to developing strategies that address food safety hazards throughout the entire food production chain. Under the Federal Meat Inspection Act and the Poultry Products Inspection Act, FSIS has the authority and responsibility to provide for the safety of meat and poultry products during in-plant production and also through transportation, storage, and other handling.

On June 6, 2003, FSIS published an interim final rule (68 FR 34207) that amended its regulations to require that official establishments that produce certain ready-to-eat (RTE) meat and poultry products prevent product adulteration by the pathogen *Listeria monocytogenes* (*L. monocytogenes*). In this interim final rule, FSIS identified three alternative methods for addressing post-lethality contamination of RTE