

# 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.

## AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Notice of Advisory Committee Public Meeting

**AGENCY:** Agency for International Development (USAID).

**ACTION:** Notice of Advisory Committee public meeting and request for public comment.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), notice is hereby given of Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid (ACVFA) public meeting on Friday December 2, 2022.

**ADDRESSES:** To view additional information related to ACVFA please visit <http://www.usaid.gov/who-we-are/organization/advisory-committee>.

You may submit comments regarding the work of ACVFA to [acvfa@usaid.gov](mailto:acvfa@usaid.gov) OR the committee's public comment form at: <https://www.usaid.gov/who-we-are/organization/advisory-committee/acvfa-contact-us>. Include "Public Comment, ACVFA Meeting, December 2" in the subject line. All public comments and questions will be included in the official record of the meeting and posted publicly on the USAID website.

If you require a reasonable accommodation, please email [reasonableaccommodations@usaid.gov](mailto:reasonableaccommodations@usaid.gov). Include "Request for Reasonable Accommodation, ACVFA Meeting, December 2" in the subject line.

You may register to watch the live public meeting at this link: [https://usaid.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN\\_oJoCBxYQ6y-1lb0z-BsFw](https://usaid.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_oJoCBxYQ6y-1lb0z-BsFw).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Sophia Lajaunie, Designated Federal Officer for ACVFA, at [slajaunie@usaid.gov](mailto:slajaunie@usaid.gov) or 917-804-3674.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** ACVFA is USAID's external advisory committee, bringing together representatives from

private voluntary organizations, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), academia, advocacy, and the private sector. Its membership of internationally recognized leaders represent a broad range of sectors who support the Agency's mission and goals by advising on key development challenges and priorities.

ACVFA was re-established earlier this year and pursuant to its charter, is holding an annual public meeting on December 2, 2022, from 10:15 a.m.–11:45 a.m. ET. This meeting is free and open to the public. The Committee welcomes public participation and comment before, during, and after the meeting via the web and/or email addresses provided above.

American Sign Language interpretation will be provided during the public meeting. If you require a reasonable accommodation, please email [reasonableaccommodations@usaid.gov](mailto:reasonableaccommodations@usaid.gov). Include "Request for Reasonable Accommodation, ACVFA Meeting, December 2" in the subject line.

Due to technical reasons, AID is providing notice announcing this meeting with less than a 15-day notice.

**Sophia Lajaunie,**

*ACVFA Designated Federal Officer.*

[FR Doc. 2022-25326 Filed 11-21-22; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6116-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The Department of Agriculture will submit the following information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 on or after the date of publication of this notice. Comments are requested regarding: whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to

respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology Comments regarding these information collections are best assured of having their full effect if received by December 22, 2022. Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be submitted within 30 days of the publication of this notice on the following website [www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain](http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain). Find this particular information collection by selecting "Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments" or by using the search function.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number and the agency informs potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information that such persons are not required to respond to the collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

### Agricultural Marketing Service

*Title:* Almonds Grown in California (7 CFR part 981).

*OMB Control Number:* 0581-0242.

*Summary of Collection:* Marketing Order No. 981 (7 CFR part 981) regulates the handling of almonds grown in California and emanates from the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, (Act) Secs. 1-19, 48 Stat. 31, as amended (7 U.S.C. 601-674) to provide the respondents the type of service they request, and to administer the California almond marketing order program. The board has developed forms as a means for persons to file required information with the board relating to the treatment of almonds to reduce the potential for Salmonella bacteria prior to shipment.

*Need and Use of the Information:* The information collected is used only by authorized representatives of USDA, including AMS, Specialty Crops Program's regional and headquarters' staff, and authorized employees and agents of the Board. Authorized Board employees, agents, and the industry are the primary users of the information, and AMS is the secondary user.

*Description of Respondents:* Business or other for-profit.

*Number of Respondents:* 175.

*Frequency of Responses:*  
Recordkeeping; Reporting: Annually;  
On occasion.

*Total Burden Hours:* 4,200.

**Levi S. Harrell,**

*Departmental Information Collection  
Clearance Officer.*

[FR Doc. 2022-25414 Filed 11-21-22; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-18-P

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. FSIS-2022-0019]

#### Use of a Non-Destructive Surface Sampling Device To Sample Domestic Beef Manufacturing Trimmings and Bench Trim

**AGENCY:** Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

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

**SUMMARY:** On February 1, 2023, FSIS intends to stop using the N60 excision sampling method to sample domestic beef manufacturing trimmings and bench trim for adulterant Shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) (STEC) and *Salmonella*. FSIS intends to replace the N60 excision sampling method with a non-destructive surface sampling method that uses a cloth manual sampling device. FSIS has found that the cloth sampling method is as effective as the N60 excision sampling method at recovering organisms in beef manufacturing trimmings. Additionally, the cloth sampling method is faster and safer for FSIS inspection program personnel (IPP) to use because it does not require IPP to use hooks or knives to collect samples. Moreover, the cloth sampling method allows FSIS to sample without destroying product, which reduces food waste.

**DATES:** FSIS will implement the cloth sampling on February 1, 2023, unless the Agency receives substantive comments that warrant further review. Submit comments on or before January 23, 2023.

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

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* This website provides commenters the ability to type short comments directly into the comment field on the web page or to attach a file for lengthier comments. Go to <https://www.regulations.gov>. Follow

the on-line instructions at that site for submitting comments.

- *Mail:* Send to Docket Clerk, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Mailstop 3758, Washington, DC 20250-3700.

- *Hand- or Courier-Delivered Submittals:* Deliver to 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Jamie L. Whitten Building, Room 350-E, DC 20250-3700.

*Instructions:* All items submitted by mail or electronic mail must include the Agency name and docket number FSIS-2022-0019. Comments received in response to this docket will be made available for public inspection and posted without change, including any personal information, to <https://www.regulations.gov>.

*Docket:* For access to background documents or comments received, call (202) 205-0495 to schedule a time to visit the FSIS Docket Room at 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250-3700.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Rachel Edelstein, Assistant Administrator, Office of Policy and Program Development by telephone at (202) 205-0495.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

Under the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*), FSIS carries out an inspection program to ensure that carcasses, parts, and products of amenable species of livestock are wholesome, not adulterated, and properly marked, labeled, and packaged. FSIS conducts microbiological sampling to verify that establishments maintain control of their production processes and meet regulatory requirements, including requirements under the hazard analysis and critical control point (HACCP) regulations. Ongoing FSIS sampling and testing at official establishments allows FSIS to verify that establishments effectively address pathogens reasonably likely to occur in their products. The HACCP regulations (9 CFR part 417) require that establishments conduct a hazard analysis to determine the food safety hazards reasonably likely to occur in the production process and to identify the preventive measures an establishment can apply to control those hazards in the production of particular products.

Currently, FSIS samples and tests for *E. coli* O157:H7, non-O157 STEC (O26, O45, O103, O111, O121, or O145), and *Salmonella* in raw beef manufacturing trimmings and *E. coli* O157:H7 and *Salmonella* in bench trim verification

samples using the N60 excision sampling method, as described in FSIS Directive 10,010.1, Sampling Verification Activities for Shiga Toxin-Producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC) in Raw Beef Products.<sup>1</sup> The N60 excision sampling method is a destructive sampling method that requires inspection personnel to use knives or hooks to cut and collect at least 60 thin slices (approximately 3 inches long by 1 inch wide and 1/8 inch thick) from the external surface of beef tissues in a product lot.<sup>2</sup> The 60 samples are combined into one or more 325-gram units for analytical testing.

In recent years, FSIS and other agencies have been researching different methods for collecting samples from beef manufacturing trimmings that are less destructive and safer for inspectors to collect, yet still produce comparable results to the N60 excision sampling method.<sup>3</sup> Findings from these studies provide strong scientific support for the use of cloth-based sampling for verification testing. Below is a discussion of the findings from different studies.

#### Agricultural Research Service (ARS) Sampling Studies

In 2018, USDA's ARS performed studies comparing the N60 excision sampling method and the N60 Plus<sup>4</sup> to the cloth sampling method using a continuous sampling device and a manual sampling device.<sup>5</sup> The continuous sampling device used a cloth held by a cassette attached to a bracket at the end of a conveyor line to collect samples as the meat rubbed across the cloth<sup>6</sup> and fell into the combo bins. The manual sampling device used the same type of cloth as the continuous sampling device, and it was used to manually rub all trim across the entire top surface of the combo bin to collect a sample. The manual sampling device

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.fsis.usda.gov/policy/fsis-directives/10010.1>.

<sup>2</sup> Establishments determine their lot size. A lot is usually made up of no more than five, 2,000-pound combo bins of beef trimmings or less than 10,000 pounds if the establishment is using boxes.

<sup>3</sup> See 85 FR 34397 and FSIS' *Constituent Update—December 18, 2020* √ *Food Safety and Inspection Service* ([usda.gov](https://www.fsis.usda.gov/news-events/news-press-releases/constituent-update-december-18-2020)), which is available at: <https://www.fsis.usda.gov/news-events/news-press-releases/constituent-update-december-18-2020>.

<sup>4</sup> N60 Plus is similar to the N60 excision sampling method, but it uses a stainless-steel sampling device on a drill to collect surface tissue.

<sup>5</sup> Wheeler, T.L. & Arthur T.M. (2018). Novel Continuous and Manual Sampling Methods for Beef Trim Microbiological Testing. *Journal of Food Protection*, 81(10), 1605-1613. <https://doi.org/10.4315/0362-028X.JFP-18-197>.

<sup>6</sup> ARS initially used the continuous sampling device with a cellulose sponge. However, ARS quickly determined that the cellulose sponge was too expensive for commercial implementation.