

communities deal with economic losses?

5. If the tobacco production control program is terminated by either producers voting in a triennial referendum or by legislative repeal, what do you see as the consequences to tobacco producers and tobacco dependent communities? If the tobacco production control program is eliminated, what health related consequences, if any, do you see occurring? In the absence of a tobacco control program, what initiatives should be taken to help maintain a level playing field for independent tobacco producers?

6. Based on the many internal and external factors affecting the tobacco program, do you feel that a buyout of production quotas and elimination of the tobacco production control program is a viable solution? If a buyout is a solution, should it be mandatory for all quota holders, tenants and producers or voluntary, with some form of tobacco production and price support program remaining in place? If a buyout is a solution, at what rate per pound should the compensation be set?

7. Small farms in the South have declined drastically over the past 10 years, with tobacco now being produced on approximately 85,000 farms, most being small farms. The reduction in tobacco quotas has added to the decline in small farms. Since many small farms are owned by African-American farmers and thus tobacco producers, to what extent do civil rights concerns, economic and rural conditions combine to further increase economic problems in tobacco dependent communities? What impact have recent changes in the economies of tobacco had on farm workers in tobacco dependent communities? What initiatives currently address farm workers economic and social needs created by this situation? What new initiatives are needed in this area?

8. What additional measures should be taken to prevent tobacco use, particularly by young people, and to help reduce disease caused by tobacco products?

Signed at Washington, DC, on October 18, 2000.

Keith Kelly,

Administrator, Farm Service Agency.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. 00-014R2]

Announcement of and Request for Comment Regarding Industry Petition on Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) Petition

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice, re-opening of comment period.

SUMMARY: The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is, for the second time, reopening the comment period on a notice published in the **Federal Register** on May 15, 2000, announcing the availability of and requesting comment on a petition received from several trade associations. The petitioners requested FSIS to amend sections of its Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) regulations. The comment period will be reopened for an additional 60 days.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before December 22, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Submit one original and two copies of written comments to: FSIS Docket Room, Docket #00-014R2, Room 102 Cotton Annex Building, 300 12th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20250-3700. All comments received in response to this notice will be considered part of the public record and will be available for viewing in the FSIS Docket Room between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Daniel L. Engeljohn, Director, Regulations Development and Analysis Division, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Washington, DC 20250-3700, Telephone (202) 720-5627, FAX (202) 690-0486.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On May 15, 2000, FSIS published a notice in the **Federal Register** announcing the availability of and requesting comment on a petition received from a group of trade associations (65 FR 30952). The petition asked FSIS to amend sections of the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) regulations (9 CFR part 417). The petitioners argued that the changes would increase the effectiveness of establishments' HACCP systems and would make the regulations more consistent with the HACCP principles published in 1997 by the National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Food (NACMCF). However, the petition was submitted with no data or specific examples to support the requests being

made. The notice provided a 60-day comment period, which ended on July 14, 2000.

FSIS has received a request from the National Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspection (NACMPI) to extend the comment period to allow the petitioners more time to provide specific examples and data to support the recommendations they posed in their petition. The NACMPI also requested that FSIS make available a set of side-by-side documents discussing definitions, principles, procedures, and prerequisites of FSIS, the Food and Drug Administration, the NACMCF, and the Codex Alimentarius Commission's HACCP procedures.

In response to the requests, FSIS reopened the comment period for 60 days (65 FR 45749), making comments due September 12, 2000. Also, FSIS prepared a set of side-by-side documents which are available on the FSIS homepage at www.fsis.usda.gov and also in the FSIS Docket Room (see **ADDRESSES**).

FSIS has received another request from a group of trade associations to reopen the comment period once again to allow more time for analysis and comment development. The group believes the additional time will improve their comments which will help to aid in the refinement of the HACCP regulations.

In response to this request, FSIS is reopening the comment period for an additional 60 days, making comments due December 22, 2000. Comments received from September 13, 2000, until the date of this publication will also be included in the official record.

Additional Public Notification

Public awareness of all segments of rulemaking and policy development is important. Consequently, in an effort to better ensure that minorities, women, and persons with disabilities are aware of this notice, FSIS will announce it and provide copies of this **Federal Register** publication in the FSIS Constituent Update. FSIS provides a weekly FSIS Constituent Update, which is communicated via fax to over 300 organizations and individuals. In addition, the update is available on-line through the FSIS web page located at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov>. The update is used to provide information regarding FSIS policies, procedures, regulations, **Federal Register** notices, FSIS public meetings, recalls, and any other types of information that could affect or would be of interest to our constituents/stakeholders. The constituent fax list consists of industry, trade, and farm groups, consumer interest groups, allied

health professionals, scientific professionals, and other individuals that have requested to be included. Through these various channels, FSIS is able to provide information to a much broader, more diverse audience. For more information and to be added to the constituent fax list, fax your request to the Congressional and Public Affairs Office, at (202) 720-5704.

Done at Washington, DC on: October 13, 2000.

Thomas J. Billy,
Administrator.

[FR Doc. 00-27106 Filed 10-20-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. 00-040N]

National Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspection

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The National Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspection (NACMPI) will hold an open meeting on October 31–November 1, 2000, to review and discuss three issues: (1) Residue Control in a HACCP Environment, (2) Sharing Recall Information with State and Other Federal Authorities, and (3) HACCP—Phase II. The three subcommittees of the full Committee will also meet on October 31, 2000, to continue working on issues discussed during the full Committee session. All interested parties are welcome to attend the meeting and to submit written comments and suggestions concerning issues the Committee will review and discuss.

DATES: The full Committee will hold an open meeting on Tuesday October 31, and Wednesday, November 1, 2000, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Subcommittees will hold open meetings on Tuesday, October 31, 2000, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

ADDRESSES: All Committee meetings will take place at Loews L'Enfant Plaza Hotel, 480 L'Enfant Plaza, SW., Washington, DC 20024; telephone (202) 484-1000. The full committee will meet in Ballroom B & C on October 31 and Ballroom C on November 1. The Subcommittees will meet in the Montcalm, Marquette, and Lafayette Rooms. A meeting agenda is available on the FSIS Web Site at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OPPDE/nacmpi>

which is a sub-web page of the FSIS Homepage at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov>. Submit one original and two copies of written comments to the FSIS Docket Room, Docket #00-040N, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Room 102 Cotton Annex, 300 12th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20250-3700. Comments may also be sent by facsimile (202) 205-0381. The comments and the official transcript of the meeting, when they become available, will be kept in the FSIS Docket Room at the address provided above. All comments received in response to this notice will be considered part of the public record and will be available for viewing in the FSIS Docket Room between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Cheryl Green at (202) 720-6290, FAX (202) 690-1030, or E-mail cheryl.green@usda.gov. Persons requiring a sign language interpreter or other special accommodations should notify Ms. Green by October 24, 2000, at the above numbers or by e-mail. Information is also available on FSIS Web Site at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OPPDE/nacmpi>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On March 22, 1999, the Secretary of Agriculture renewed the charter for the NACMPI. The Committee provides advice and recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture pertaining to Federal and State meat and poultry inspection programs pursuant to sections 7(c), 24, 205, 301(a)(3), and 301(c) of the Federal Meat Inspection Act and sections 5(a)(3), 5(c), 8(b), and 11(e) of the Poultry Products Inspection Act. The FSIS Administrator is the chairperson of the Committee. Membership of the Committee is drawn from representatives of consumer groups; producers, processors, and marketers from the meat and poultry industry; and State government officials. The current members of the NACMPI are: Magdi Abadir, Cuisine Solutions; Terry Burkhardt, Wisconsin Bureau of Meat Safety and Inspection; Dr. James Denton, University of Arkansas; Caroline Smith-DeWaal, Center for Science in the Public Interest; Nancy Donley, Safe Tables Our Priority; Carol Tucker Foreman, Food Policy Institute, Consumer Federation of America; Dr. Cheryl Hall, Zacky Farms, Inc.; Kathleen Hanigan, Farmland Foods; Dr. Lee C. Jan, Texas Department of Health; Alice Johnson, National Turkey Federation; Dr. Collette Schultz Kaster, Premium Standard Farms; Dr. Daniel E.

LaFontaine, South Carolina Meat-Poultry Inspection Department; Michael Mamminga, Iowa Department of Agriculture; Dr. Dale Morse, New York Office of Public Health; Rosemary Mucklow, National Meat Association; Donna Richardson, Howard University Cancer Center; and Gary Weber, National Cattlemen's Beef Association.

The Committee has three subcommittees that deliberate on specific issues and make recommendations to the whole Committee. The Committee makes recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture.

Members of the public will be required to register before entering the meeting.

Additional Public Notification

Public awareness of all segments of rulemaking and policy development is important. Consequently, in an effort to better ensure that minorities, women, and persons with disabilities are aware of this notice, FSIS will announce it and provide copies of this **Federal Register** publication in the FSIS Constituent Update. FSIS provides a weekly FSIS Constituent Update, which is communicated via fax to over 300 organizations and individuals. In addition, the update is available on-line through the FSIS web page located at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov>. The update is used to provide information regarding FSIS policies, procedures, regulations, **Federal Register** notices, FSIS public meetings, recalls, and any other types of information that could affect or would be of interest to our constituents/stakeholders. The constituent fax list consists of industry, trade, farm, and consumer interest groups, allied health professionals and scientific professionals, and other individuals that have requested to be included. Through these various channels, FSIS is able to provide information to a much broader, more diverse audience. For more information and to be added to the constituent fax list, fax your request to the FSIS Congressional and Public Affairs Office, at (202) 720-5704.

Done at Washington, DC on: October 13, 2000.

Thomas J. Billy,
Administrator.

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