

DATES: Applications must be postmarked or sent by telecopier (FAX) on or before January 15, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Applications must be submitted to USDA, GIPSA, Janet M. Hart, Chief, Review Branch, Compliance Division, STOP 3604, Room 1647-S, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20250-3604.

Applications may be submitted by FAX on 202-690-2755. If an application is submitted by FAX, GIPSA reserves the right to request an original application. All applications will be made available for public inspection at this address located at 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., during regular business hours.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Janet M. Hart, at 202-720-8525.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This Action has been reviewed and determined not to be a rule or regulation as defined in Executive Order 12866 and Departmental Regulation 1512-1; therefore, the Executive Order and Departmental Regulation do not apply to this Action.

Section 7(f)(1) of the Act authorizes GIPSA's Administrator to designate a qualified applicant to provide official services in a specified area after determining that the applicant is better able than any other applicant to provide such official services. GIPSA designated Eastern Iowa, main office located in Davenport, Iowa, to provide official inspection services under the Act on August 1, 1995.

Section 7(g)(1) of the Act provides that designations of official agencies shall end not later than triennially and may be renewed according to the criteria and procedures prescribed in Section 7(f) of the Act. The designation of Eastern Iowa ends on July 31, 1998, according to the Act.

Pursuant to Section 7(f)(2) of the Act, the following geographic area, in the States of Illinois and Iowa, is assigned to Eastern Iowa.

The Southern Area

Bounded on the North, in Iowa, by Interstate 80 from the western Iowa County line east to State Route 38; State Route 38 north to State Route 130; State Route 130 east to Scott County; the western and northern Scott County lines east to the Mississippi River;

Bounded on the East, from the Mississippi River, in Illinois, by the eastern Rock Island County line; the northern Henry and Bureau County lines east to State Route 88; State Route 88 south; the southern Bureau County line; the eastern and southern Henry

County lines; the eastern Knox County line;

Bounded on the South by the southern Knox County line; the eastern and southern Warren County lines; the southern Henderson County line west to the Mississippi River; in Iowa, by the southern Des Moines, Henry, Jefferson, and Wapello County lines; and

Bounded on the West by the western and northern Wapello County lines; the western and northern Keokuk County lines; the western Iowa County line north to Interstate 80.

The Northern Area

Bounded on the North, in Iowa, by the northern Delaware and Dubuque County lines; in Illinois, by the northern Jo Daviess, Stephenson, Winnebago, Boone, McHenry, and Lake County lines;

Bounded on the East by the eastern Illinois State line south to the northern Will County line; the northern Will County line west to Interstate 55; Interstate 55 southwest to the southern Dupage County line;

Bounded on the South by the southern Dupage, Kendall, Dekalb, and Lee County lines; and

Bounded on the West by the western Lee and Ogle County lines; by the southern Stephenson and Jo Daviess County lines; in Iowa, by the southern Dubuque and Delaware County lines; and the western Delaware County line.

Eastern Iowa's assigned geographic area does not include the export port locations inside Eastern Iowa's area which are serviced by GIPSA.

Interested persons, including Eastern Iowa, are hereby given the opportunity to apply for designation to provide official services in the geographic area specified above under the provisions of Section 7(f) of the Act and section 800.196(d) of the regulations issued thereunder. Designation in the Eastern Iowa is for the period beginning August 1, 1998, and ending May 31, 2001.

Persons wishing to apply for designation should contact the Compliance Division at the address listed above for forms and information.

Applications and other available information will be considered in determining which applicant will be designated.

Authority: Pub. L. 94-582, 90 Stat. 2867, as amended (7 U.S.C. 71 et seq.).

Dated: December 10, 1997.

Neil E. Porter,

Director, Compliance Division.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Notice of Proposed Changes to the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG)

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in North Dakota, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

ACTION: Notice of availability of proposed changes in Section IV of FOTG in North Dakota for review and comment.

SUMMARY: It is the intention of NRCS in North Dakota to issue a series of new and revised conservation practice standards in Section IV of the FOTG. These new standards include Cross Wind Stripcropping (589B); Residue Management, No-till and Strip Till (329A); Prescribed Grazing (528A); and Wildlife Watering Facility (648).

The revised standards are Field Border (386) and Riparian Forest Buffer (391A).

DATES: Comments will be received on or before January 30, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Inquire in writing to Myron P. Senechal, State Resource Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), PO Box 1458, Bismarck, ND 58502-1458. Copies of these standards will be made available upon written request.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 343 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 states that revisions made after enactment of the law, to NRCS state technical guides used to carry out highly erodible land and wetland provisions of the law, shall be made available for public review and comment. For the next 30 days, the NRCS in North Dakota will receive comments relative to the proposed changes. Following that period, a determination will be made by the NRCS of North Dakota regarding disposition of those comments and a final determination of changes will be made.

Dated: December 11, 1997.

Scott Hoag, Jr.,

State Conservationist, Bismarck, North Dakota.

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