

provide sufficient care for, representative samples of the crop in locations acceptable to us (the amount of production to count for such acreage will be based on the harvested production or appraisals from the samples at the time harvest should have occurred. If you do not leave the required samples intact, or you fail to provide sufficient care for the samples, our appraisal made prior to giving you consent to put the acreage to another use will be used to determine the amount of production to count); or

(B) If you elect to continue to care for the crop, the amount of production to count for the acreage will be the harvested production, or our reappraisal if additional damage occurs and the crop is not harvested; and

(2) All harvested production from the insurable acreage, including any mature cotton retrieved from the ground.

(d) Mature white cotton may be adjusted for quality when production has been damaged by insured causes. Such production to count will be reduced if the price quotation for cotton of like quality (price quotation "A") for the applicable growth area is less than 75 percent of price quotation "B." Price quotation "B" is defined as the price quotation for the applicable growth area for cotton of the color and leaf grade, staple length, and micronaire reading designated in the Special Provisions for this purpose. Price quotations "A" and "B" will be the price quotations contained in the Daily Spot Cotton Quotations published by the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service on the date the last bale from the unit is classed. If the date the last bale classed is not available, the price quotations will be determined on the date the last bale from the unit is delivered to the warehouse, as shown on the producer's account summary obtained from the gin. If eligible for adjustment, the amount of production to be counted will be determined by multiplying the number of pounds of such production by the factor derived from dividing price quotation "A" by 75 percent of price quotation "B."

(e) Colored cotton lint will not be eligible for quality adjustment.

11. Prevented Planting

(a) In addition to the provisions contained in section 18 of the Basic Provisions, your prevented planting final guarantee will be based on your approved yield without adjustment for skip-row planting patterns.

(b) Your prevented planting coverage will be 45 percent of your final guarantee for timely planted acreage. If you have limited or additional levels of

coverage, as specified in 7 CFR part 400, subpart T, and pay an additional premium, you may increase your prevented planting coverage to a level specified in the actuarial documents.

Signed in Washington, D.C. on March 26, 1998.

Kenneth D. Ackerman,
Manager, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation.

[FR Doc. 98-8590 Filed 4-1-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-08-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food and Nutrition Service

Nutrition Program for the Elderly; Initial Level of Assistance From October 1, 1997 to September 30, 1998

AGENCY: Food and Nutrition Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the initial level of per-meal assistance for the Nutrition Program for the Elderly (NPE) for Fiscal Year 1998. The Fiscal Year 1998 initial level of assistance is set at \$.5607 for each eligible meal in accordance with section 311(a)(4) of the Older Americans Act of 1965, as amended by section 310 of the Older Americans Act Amendments of 1992 and preempted by the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1996.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ellen Henigan, Chief, Schools and Institutions Branch, Food Distribution Division, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, Virginia 22302-1594 or telephone (703) 305-2644.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Executive Order 12372

This program is listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under Nos. 10.550 and 10.570 and is subject to the provisions of Executive Order 12372, which requires intergovernmental consultation with State and local officials (7 CFR Part 3015, Subpart V, and final rule-related notices published at 48 FR 29114, June 24, 1983 and 49 FR 22676, May 31, 1984.)

Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995

This notice imposes no new reporting or recordkeeping provisions that are subject to Office of Management and Budget review in accordance with the

Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3507).

Regulatory Flexibility Act

This action has been reviewed with regards to the requirements of the Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 (5 U.S.C. 601-612). The Administrator of the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) has certified that this action will not have a significant economic impact and will not affect a substantial number of small entities. The procedures in this notice would primarily affect FNS regional offices, and the State Agencies on aging and local meal providers. While some of these entities constitute small entities, a substantial number will not be affected. Furthermore, any economic impact will not be significant.

Legislative Background

Section 310 of Pub. L. 102-375, the Older Americans Act Amendments of 1992, amended section 311(a)(4) of the Older Americans Act of 1965, 42 U.S.C. 3030a(a)(4), to require the Secretary of Agriculture to maintain an annually programmed level of assistance equal to the greater of: (1) The current appropriation divided by the number of meals served in the preceding fiscal year; or (2) 61 cents per meal adjusted annually beginning with Fiscal Year 1993 to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index. Section 311(c)(2) of the Older Americans Act (42 U.S.C. 3030a(c)(2)) was amended to provide that the final reimbursement claims must be adjusted so as to utilize the entire program appropriation for the fiscal year for per-meal support. However, the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 1996 (Pub. L. 104-37) imposed, for Fiscal Year 1996 and succeeding years, the same NPE rate management requirements as applied to Fiscal Year 1994. That is, Title IV, Domestic Food Programs, of the Appropriations Act provides that "* * * hereafter notwithstanding any other provision of law, for meals provided pursuant to the Older Americans Act of 1965, a maximum rate of reimbursement to States will be established by the Secretary, subject to reduction if obligations would exceed the amount of available funds, with any unobligated funds to remain available only for obligation in the fiscal year beginning October 1, 1996."

Notwithstanding the initial rates established by the Older Americans Act, the Department is required to comply with the spending clause of the U.S. Constitution and 31 U.S.C. 1341(a)(1)(A) (known as the Antideficiency Act),

which prohibit the obligation or expenditure of funds in excess of the available appropriation. Thus the Department is required to establish (and if necessary, adjust) rates in such a manner as to not exceed the program appropriation.

Fiscal Year 1997 Level of Assistance

Based on its projection of the number of meals to be claimed during the fiscal year, and in light of constitutional and statutory prohibitions on obligating or spending funds in excess of the available appropriation, the Department announced an initial per-meal reimbursement rate of \$.5857 for Fiscal Year 1997, the highest rate which it believed could be sustained throughout the fiscal year. This initial level of per-meal assistance was announced in the April 8, 1997 **Federal Register** (62 FR 16757).

The Department's meal service projection for Fiscal Year 1997 assumed a slightly higher rate of growth than occurred in the preceding fiscal year. This initial per-meal support level of \$.5857 was sustained throughout Fiscal Year 1997, and thus no adjustment was necessary to keep expenditures within the limit of the \$140 million NPE appropriation established by Pub. L. 104-180. Funds in the estimated amount of \$500 thousand were not paid out for Fiscal Year 1997 and will, in accordance with the legislative mandate in Pub. L. 104-180, be carried over into Fiscal Year 1998 and expended in per-meal reimbursement for that year.

Fiscal Year 1998 Initial Level of Assistance

It is the Department's goal to establish the highest rate that can be sustained throughout the fiscal year so as to maximize the flow of program funds to States during the fiscal year. However, the Department wants also to minimize the possibility of a rate reduction and the hardship it causes to program operators. In order to guard against the need for a reduction, the Department, once again, has projected a slightly higher rate of growth in meal service than occurred in the preceding fiscal year. Based on its projections, the Department announces an initial per-meal support level of \$.5607, which will not be increased, and which will be decreased only if necessary to keep expenditures within the limit of the \$140 million NPE Fiscal Year 1998 appropriation established by Pub. L. 105-86 and the \$500 thousand estimated to be available from Fiscal Year 1997. Any of these funds not paid out for Fiscal Year 1998 reimbursement will, in accordance with Pub. L. 105-86,

remain available through Fiscal Year 1999. In the unlikely event that the rate needs to be decreased, States will be notified directly.

Dated: March 9, 1998.

Yvette Jackson,

Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service.

[FR Doc. 98-8587 Filed 4-1-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-30-U

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. 98-015N]

The National Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspection; Nominations for Membership

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Agriculture (USDA) is soliciting nominations for membership on the National Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspection. The full Committee consists of 16-members, and each person selected is expected to serve a 2-year term.

DATES: The names of the nominees and their typed curricula vitae or resumes must be postmarked no later than June 30, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Nominating materials should be submitted to Ms. Margaret O'K. Glavin, Deputy Administrator, Office of Policy, Program Development, and Evaluation, Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA, Room 350-E, Administration Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-3700.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Michael Micchelli, Evaluation and Analysis Division, FSIS, Room 3833, South Agriculture Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-3700; telephone (202) 720-6269; FAX (202) 690-1030; E-mail: michael.micchelli@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: USDA again is seeking nominees for membership on the National Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspection. The Committee provides advice and recommendations to the Secretary on the meat and poultry inspection programs, pursuant to sections 7(c), 24, 301(a)(3) and 301(c) of the Federal Meat Inspection Act, 21 U.S.C. 607(c), 624, 645, 661(a)(3) and 661(c) and to sections 5(a)(3), 5(c), 8(b), and 11(e) of the Poultry Products Inspection Act, 21 U.S.C. 454(a)(3), 454(c), 457(b), and 460(e). Nominations

for membership are being sought from persons representing producers; processors; exporters and importers of meat and poultry products; academia; Federal and State government officials; and consumers.

Appointments to the Committee will be made by the Secretary. To ensure that recommendations of the Committee take into account the needs of the diverse groups served by the Department, membership should include, to the extent practicable, persons with demonstrated ability to represent minorities, women, and persons with disabilities. It is anticipated that the Committee will meet at least annually.

Done at Washington, DC, on: March 26, 1998.

Thomas J. Billy,

Administrator.

[FR Doc. 98-8652 Filed 4-1-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-DM-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. 98-002N]

Pathogen Reduction Performance Standards: Salmonella Testing Data

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: At its December 16, 1997, Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) Implementation Meeting, FSIS discussed its strategy for testing raw meat and poultry products to determine establishment compliance with the pathogen reduction performance standards for *Salmonella*. The Agency also presented its views on the public release of *Salmonella* testing results. The issue papers on these subjects that were made available at the meeting are published in this notice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Patricia F. Stolfa, Assistant Deputy Administrator, Office of Policy, Program Development, and Evaluation, Food Safety and Inspection Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250-3700; (202) 205-0699.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On December 16, 1997, in Washington, D.C., FSIS held the first of four one-day meetings to brief managers of large (500+ employees) official meat and poultry establishments on how the Agency will conduct inspection operations after January 26, 1998. This is the date when, under the "Pathogen Reduction (PR); Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) Systems"