

repayment to the United States in local currencies. These agreements were commonly referred to as constituting the "section 108 program."

On July 8, 1998, FAS published a notice in the **Federal Register** (63 FR 36872) announcing that FAS was inviting proposals to use Tunisian or Moroccan currencies acquired under the section 108 program for market development projects and technical assistance activities in those countries. That notice also set forth the criteria FAS would use in evaluating and accepting such proposals. The purpose of the present notice is to invite proposals to use Costa Rican, Dominican Republic, Guatemalan, Jamaican, and Sri Lankan currencies for market development projects and technical assistance activities in those countries. The procedures for submitting proposals and the FAS' evaluation criteria for any such proposals will be identical to that set forth in the July 8, 1998, **Federal Register** notice.

Signed at Washington D.C. on September 21, 1998.

**Lon Hatamiya,**

*Administrator, Foreign Agricultural Service and Vice President, Commodity Credit Corporation.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

#### Opportunity To Comment on the Applicants for the Alton (IL) Area

**AGENCY:** Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** GIPSA requests comments on the applicants for designation to provide official services in the geographic area assigned to Alton Grain Inspection Department (Alton).

**DATES:** Comments must be postmarked, or sent by telecopier (FAX) by October 31, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments must be submitted in writing 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. Telecopier (FAX) users may send comments to the automatic telecopier machine at 202-690-2755, attention:

Janet M. Hart. All comments received will be made available for public inspection at the above address located at 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., during regular business hours.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Janet M. Hart, telephone 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.

In the August 3, 1998, **Federal Register** (63 FR 41224), GIPSA asked persons interested in providing official services in the Alton area to submit an application for designation by September 1, 1998. There were two applicants: Alton and the Missouri Department of Agriculture. Each applied for designation to provide official services in the entire Alton area.

GIPSA is publishing this notice to provide interested persons the opportunity to present comments concerning the applicants. Commenters are encouraged to submit reasons and pertinent data for support or objection to the designation of the applicants. All comments must be submitted to the Compliance Division at the above address. Comments and other available information will be considered in making a final decision. GIPSA will publish notice of the final decision in the **Federal Register**, and GIPSA will send the applicants written notification of the decision.

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

Dated: September 24, 1998.

**Neil E. Porter,**

*Director, Compliance Division.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

#### Opportunity for Designation in the Central Illinois (IL), Plainview (TX), Barton (KY), and North Dakota (ND) Areas, and Request for Comments on the Central Illinois, Plainview, Barton, and North Dakota Agencies

**AGENCY:** Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The designations of the official agencies listed below will end in May and June 1999. GIPSA is asking persons interested in providing official services in the areas served by these agencies to submit an application for designation. GIPSA is also asking for comments on the services provided by these currently designated agencies:

Central Illinois Grain Inspection, Inc. (Central Illinois);

Plainview Grain Inspection and Weighing Service, Inc. (Plainview);

J.W. Barton Grain Inspection Service, Inc. (Barton); and

North Dakota Grain Inspection Service, Inc. (North Dakota).

**DATES:** Applications and comments must be postmarked or sent by telecopier (FAX) on or before October 30, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Applications and comments must be submitted to USDA, GIPSA, Janet M. Hart, Chief, Review Branch, Compliance Division, STOP 3604, Room 1647-S, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-3604. Applications and comments 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 and comments will be made available for public inspection at this address located at 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, 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 United States Grain Standards Act, as amended (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.

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.

#### 1. Current Designations Being Announced for Renewal