

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE****Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service**

[Docket No. 01-103-2]

**Veterinary Services; Availability of an Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact****AGENCY:** Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** We are advising the public that the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has prepared an environmental assessment and a finding of no significant impact for a study to determine the disappearance rate of bison fetuses in the environment. The environmental assessment provides a basis for our conclusion that the implementation of the study will not have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment. Based on the finding of no significant impact, we have determined that an environmental impact statement need not be prepared.

**ADDRESSES:** Copies of the environmental assessment, the finding of no significant impact, and comments received on the environmental assessment are available for public inspection at USDA, room 1141, South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. To be sure someone is there to help you, please call (202) 690-2817 before coming.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Valerie Ragan, Senior Staff Veterinarian, National Animal Health Programs Staff, VS, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 36, Riverdale, MD 20737-1236; (301) 734-6954.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****Background**

The mission of Veterinary Services (VS) of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is to protect and improve the health, quality, and marketability of domestic animals by preventing, controlling, and/or eliminating animal diseases and monitoring and promoting animal health and productivity.

Brucellosis is a contagious disease that affects animals and humans, caused by bacteria of the genus *Brucella*. *Brucella abortus* principally affects bison and cattle. In bison and cattle, brucellosis localizes in the reproductive organs and/or the udder, causing abortion or birth of weak offspring. Female cattle infected with brucellosis

may suffer infertility and lowered milk production.

Brucellosis is spread when bacteria are shed in milk, aborted fetuses, afterbirth, or other reproductive tract discharges and are ingested by a susceptible animal. Cattle and bison have a tendency to sniff and lick an aborted fetus, which provides an avenue for the disease to spread if *Brucella* is present.

Brucellosis has caused devastating losses to farmers in the United States over the last century. It is estimated that the disease has cost the Federal Government, the States, and the livestock industry billions of dollars in direct losses and efforts to eliminate the disease. APHIS has estimated that if efforts to eradicate the disease were stopped, the costs of producing beef and milk would increase by an estimated \$80 million annually in less than 10 years.

Brucellosis infection occurs in bison in Yellowstone National Park. Bison roam wild in Yellowstone National Park, and during winter and spring, some migrate outside of the park onto U.S. Forest Service and private lands. The prevention of the spread of brucellosis from bison to cattle in and around the park is an issue of concern.

VS, in cooperation with other Federal and State agencies, will conduct an 11-week study in the West Yellowstone and Gardiner areas in Montana starting in March 2002 to determine how long a bison fetus remains in the environment as a potential source of *Brucella* organisms before it deteriorates or is consumed by scavengers.

On November 29, 2001, we published in the **Federal Register** (66 FR 59555-59556, Docket No. 01-103-1) a notice announcing that an environmental assessment for a proposed study to determine the disappearance rate of bison fetuses in the environment was available for public review and comment.

We solicited comments on the environmental assessment for 30 days ending on December 31, 2001. We received 166 comments by that date, and 7 additional comments had arrived as of January 28, 2002. They were from private citizens, including Native Americans, the State of Wyoming, and animal humane associations, among others. The commenters raised issues such as the nature of brucellosis in bison, transmission of brucellosis from bison to cattle, the need for the study, the design of the study, introduction of other diseases, impacts on predators, impacts on endangered and threatened species, and cultural concerns for Native Americans.

After carefully reviewing the issues, we have determined that the environmental assessment, which we have modified in response to some of the issues raised in the comments, adequately describes the potential environmental impacts associated with the study and supports our conclusion that the proposed study will not present a significant risk to the environment. Therefore, based on the environmental assessment, we have prepared a finding of no significant impact and have determined that an environmental impact statement need not be prepared.

The environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact may be viewed on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppd/es/vsdocs.html>. The environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact are also available for review in our reading room (the location and hours of the reading room are listed under the heading **ADDRESSES** at the beginning of this notice).

The environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact have been prepared in accordance with: (1) The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), (2) regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality for implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA (40 CFR parts 1500-1508), (3) USDA regulations implementing NEPA (7 CFR part 1), and (4) APHIS' NEPA Implementing Procedures (7 CFR part 372).

Done in Washington, DC, this 22nd day of February 2002.

**W. Ron DeHaven,***Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.*

[FR Doc. 02-4910 Filed 2-28-02; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-34-P****DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE****Forest Service****California Coast Provincial Advisory Committee****AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The California Coast Provincial Advisory Committee (PAC) will meet on March 27 and 28, 2002, in Arcata, California. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss issues relating to implementing the Northwest Forest Plan.

**DATES:** A business meeting will be held from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on March 27, 2002, at the Quality Inn conference room, Arcata. A field tour at the Redwood

National Park will be held on March 28, 2002, from 8 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The March 27 business meeting will be held at the Quality Inn conference room, 3535 Janes Road, Arcata, CA. The March 28 field tour will begin at the Quality Inn, Arcata.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Phebe Brown, Committee Coordinator, USDA, Mendocino National Forest, 825 N. Humboldt Avenue, Willows, CA, 95988, (530) 934-3316; EMAIL [pybrown@fed.us](mailto:pybrown@fed.us).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Agenda items to be covered include: (1) Presentation on barred owls (competing for habitat with northern spotted owls); (2) Regional Ecosystem Office (REO) update; (3) Presentation and discussion concerning Mendocino and Six Rivers National Forest Roads Analysis Processes; (4) Presentation on the proposal to expand designated Wilderness areas in California; (5) Presentation on Headwaters Forest Reserve Draft Environmental Impact Statement; (6) Planning for a Province fire ecology/fuels treatment workshop; (8) Aquatic Conservation Subcommittee report on next steps for the Watershed Atlas; (9) PAC attendance and use of alternates; and (1) Public comment. The meeting is open to the public. Public input opportunity will be provided at 11:45 a.m. March 27 and individuals will have the opportunity to address the Committee at that time.

Dated: February 22, 2002.  
**Arthur Quintana,**  
*Acting Forest Supervisor.*  
 [FR Doc. 02-4904 Filed 2-28-02; 8:45 am]  
**BILLING CODE 3410-11-M**

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration**

[01-03-S]

**Designation for the Barton (KY), Central Illinois (IL), North Dakota (ND), and Plainview (TX) Areas**

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** GIPSA announces designation of the following organizations to provide official services under the United States Grain Standards Act, as amended (Act): J. W. Barton Grain Inspection Service, Inc. (Barton); Central Illinois Grain Inspection, Inc. (Central Illinois); North Dakota Grain Inspection Service, Inc. (North Dakota); and Plainview Grain Inspection and Weighing Service, Inc. (Plainview).

**EFFECTIVE DATES:** April 1, 2002.

**ADDRESSES:** USDA, GIPSA, Janet M. Hart, Chief, Review Branch, Compliance Division, STOP 3604, Room 1647-S, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-3604.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Janet M. Hart at 202-720-8525, e-mail [janhart@gipsadc.usda.gov](mailto:janhart@gipsadc.usda.gov).

**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 September 1, 2001, **Federal Register** (66 FR 46254), GIPSA asked persons interested in providing official services in the geographic areas assigned to the official agencies named above to submit an application for designation. Applications were due by October 1, 2001.

Barton, Central Illinois, North Dakota, and Plainview were the sole applicants for designation to provide official services in the entire area currently assigned to them, so GIPSA did not ask for additional comments on them.

GIPSA evaluated all available information regarding the designation criteria in section 7(f)(1)(A) of the Act and, according to Section 7(f)(1)(B), determined that Barton, Central Illinois, North Dakota, and Plainview are able to provide official services in the geographic areas specified in the September 4, 2001, **Federal Register**, for which they applied. Interested persons may obtain official services by calling the telephone numbers listed below.

Official agency	Headquarters location and telephone	Designation start-end
Barton .....	Owensboro, KY; Additional Service Location: Jeffersonville, IN; 270-683-0616.	4/01/2002-3/31/2005
Central Illinois .....	Bloomington, IL; Additional Service Location: Pekin, IL; 309-827-7121	4/01/2002-3/31/2005
North Dakota .....	Fargo, ND; Additional Service Locations: Enderlin and Hillsboro, ND, and Cahokia, East St. Louis, Fairfield, And Teutopolis, IL; 701-293-7420.	4/01/2002-3/31/2005
Plainview .....	Plainview, TX; 806-293-1364	4/01/2002-3/31/2005

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

Dated: February 25, 2002.

**David R. Shipman,**

*Acting Administrator, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration.*

[FR Doc. 02-4912 Filed 2-28-02; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-EN-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration**

[02-01-A]

**Opportunity for Designation in the Aberdeen (SD), Decatur (IL), Grand Forks (ND), Hastings (NE), McCrea (IA), Missouri, and South Carolina Areas, and Request for Comments on the Official Agencies Serving These Areas**

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The designations of the official agencies listed below will end in

September 2002. 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: Aberdeen Grain Inspection, Inc. (Aberdeen); Decatur Grain Inspection, Inc. (Decatur); Grand Forks Grain Inspection Department, Inc. (Grand Forks); Hastings Grain Inspection, Inc. (Hastings); John R. McCrea Agency, Inc. (McCrea); Missouri Department of Agriculture (Missouri) and South Carolina Department of Agriculture (South Carolina).

**DATES:** Applications and comments must be postmarked or sent by