

There will be no pre-registration for this meeting. Persons requiring a sign language interpreter or other special accommodations should contact Sheila Johnson at (202) 690-6498, fax: (202) 690-6500, or e-mail: [Sheila.johnson@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Sheila.johnson@fsis.usda.gov) as soon as possible.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The scientific community continues to work with animal agriculture to investigate methods to reduce food safety risks through the use of specific production practices. Although much has been learned about the ecology of biological, chemical, and physical hazards during animal production, there are as of yet no specific production practices addressing biological hazards that consistently and predictably lead to improvement in food safety. Results are promising in some cases, and investigation of those avenues continues. A key point to recognize is that risk reduction interventions that can be expected will arise from those areas under research or from new areas that are added to the research agenda. It is important, therefore, for producers to be aware of the practices being explored, so that they can have input into the process and raise concerns about (1) areas that are not under investigation but that should be, (2) the economic impact of implementing new practices on the farm, and (3) the impact of food safety hazards on the marketability of their products.

To further pursue initiatives related to production practices, FSIS is holding a public meeting on pre-harvest food safety issues and *E. coli* O157:H7. The meeting has three goals.

The first goal is to determine whether interventions available to producers can form the basis for best management practices to reduce the load of *E. coli* O157:H7 in livestock before slaughter. The second goal is to identify promising interventions and determine what steps need to be taken to make the interventions available at the livestock production level. The third goal is to identify which research gaps should be the focus of the research community, including government, academia, and industry.

Based on the input from the conference, and any other information available to the Agency, FSIS will develop materials for producers that address pre-harvest food safety issues and *E. coli* O157:H7 and take other actions that appear to advance its food safety goals.

#### 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 make copies of this **Federal Register** publication available through the FSIS Constituent Update. FSIS provides a weekly Constituent Update, which is communicated via Listserv, a free e-mail subscription service. 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 Listserv 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 the Listserv and web page, FSIS is able to provide information to a much broader, more diverse audience.

For more information contact the Congressional and Public Affairs Office, at (202) 720-9113. To be added to the free e-mail subscription service (Listserv) go to the "Constituent Update" page on the FSIS Web site at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/oa/update/update.htm>. Click on the "Subscribe to the Constituent Update Listserv" link, then fill out and submit the form.

Done in Washington, DC on August 27, 2003.

Garry L. McKee,  
Administrator.

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Foreign Agricultural Service

#### Assessment of Fees for Dairy Import Licenses for the 2004 Tariff-Rate Import Quota Year.

**AGENCY:** Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces that the fee to be charged for the 2004 tariff-rate quota (TRQ) year for each license issued to a person or firm by the Department of Agriculture authorizing the importation of certain dairy articles which are subject to tariff-rate quotas set forth in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS) will be \$170.00 per license.

**EFFECTIVE DATES:** January 1, 2004.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Michael Hankin, Dairy Import Quota Manager, Import Policies and Programs Division, STOP 1021, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-1021 or telephone at (202) 720-9439 or e-mail at [Michael.Hankin@fsa.usda.gov](mailto:Michael.Hankin@fsa.usda.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Dairy Import Tariff-Rate Quota Licensing Regulation promulgated by the Department of Agriculture and codified at 7 CFR 6.20-6.37 provides for the issuance of licenses to import certain dairy articles that are subject to TRQs set forth in the HTS. Those dairy articles may only be entered into the United States at the in-quota TRQ tariff-rates by or for the account of a person or firm to whom such licenses have been issued and only in accordance with the terms and conditions of the regulation.

Licenses are issued on a calendar year basis, and each license authorizes the license holder to import a specified quantity and type of dairy article from a specified country of origin. The use of licenses by the license holder to import dairy articles is monitored by the Dairy Import Quota Manager, Import Policies and Programs Division, Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the U.S. Customs Service.

The regulation at 7 CFR 6.33(a) provides that a fee will be charged for each license issued to a person or firm by the Licensing Authority in order to reimburse the Department of Agriculture for the costs of administering the licensing system under this regulation.

The regulation at 7 CFR 6.33(a) also provides that the Licensing Authority will announce the annual fee for each license and that such fee will be set out in a notice to be published in the **Federal Register**. Accordingly, this notice sets out the fee for the licenses to be issued for the 2004 calendar year.

#### Notice

In order to establish a fee appropriate to defray the costs of administering the licensing system, the Department of Agriculture has reviewed the costs estimated to be incurred during the 2003 quota year and will base the fee for the 2004 quota year on those costs. The total cost to the Department of Agriculture of administering the licensing system during 2003 has been determined to be \$433,000 and the estimated number of licenses expected to be issued is 2,560. Of the total cost, \$200,000 represents staff and supervisory costs directly related to administering the licensing system for 2003; \$50,000 represents the total