

## Grain designations revised

WASHINGTON, D.C. - A change in the U.S. grain standards announced last week by the U.S. Department of Agriculture will require federal, state, and private grain inspectors to certify a load of grain as "equal to or better than" the minimum grade called for in the sales contract, beginning July 12.

Under the revision, when a

seller or shipper does not have enough grain on hand that qualifies for the grade required in the sales contract, he can substitute, without separate certification, an unlimited amount of grain that qualifies for a higher grade. For example, if an exporter in the Pacific Northwest has to use No. 1 Western White

Wheat to fill a contract calling for No. 2, he can ask the inspector to certify the lot as "U.S. No. 2 or better Western White Wheat," and meet the contract grade requirement. Under previous rules, the exporter would have had to accept a grade certificate for U.S. No. 1 Western White Wheat and risk a claim from the foreign buyer that the wheat sold did not meet the contract grade.

Grain exporters and other interested parties have advised officials of USDA's Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) - and FGIS concurs - that delivery of a higher grade of grain than that specified in the sales contract should not be objectionable to foreign buyers and should not be construed as a failure to meet contract requirements.

Official inspection and grading of grain is mandatory for all grain sold by grade for export and voluntary for domestic trade in grain.

## County Council elects officers



Lancaster County 4-H County Council elected officers at their meeting Wednesday. Front row from left: Kerry Boyd, Ephrata, co-president; June Grube, Manheim, co-president; Robin Espenshade, Manheim, secretary. Back row from left: Bob Hess, Millersville, treasurer; Sarah Brubaker, Lancaster, recreation leader; Jim Stauffer, Lancaster, recreation leader. Absent: Martha Gregory, Lititz, news reporter.

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## USDA proposes report change

NEW YORK, NY - Market news issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) would report by weight the volume of fresh fruits and vegetables moving through marketing channels under a proposal announced by USDA. This reporting method would replace the current practice of converting truckload quantities of produce to carlot

equivalents - that is, the size of rail car loadings.

Officials of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), which provides the market news service, said USDA began measuring shipments by carlot units over 50 years ago when much of the produce going to market was carried by rail. Now, however, about 75 per cent of fresh fruits and

vegetables is transported by truck; and carlot equivalents mean little in areas where rail transportation is not used.

Under the proposal, daily and weekly market news reports on produce shipments would be shown in units of 10,000 pounds. Annual summaries would be shown in units of 1,000 hundredweights. AMS officials said this method will make it possible to include low volume commodities, such as artichokes and

avocados, in daily reports but will permit consolidating data for more rapid processing and use in annual reports.

Interested persons have until July 11 to comment on the proposal, which was published in the June 9 Federal Register. Written comments should be sent in duplicate to the Hearing Clerk, Room 1077-S, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250, where they will be available for public inspection.

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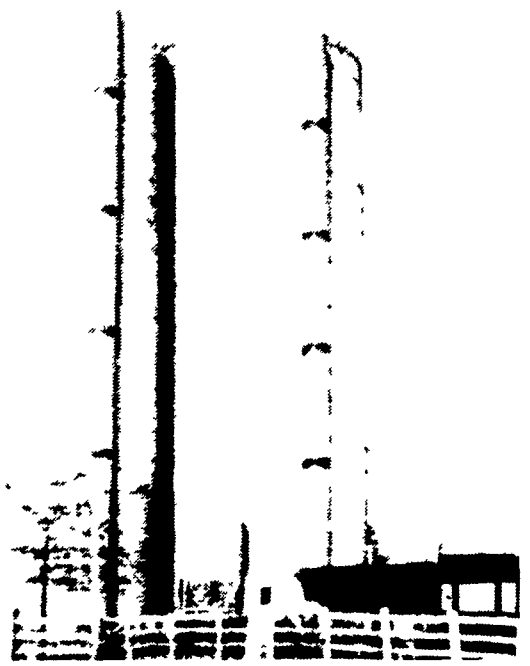
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