

Frozen bean standards change proposed

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Agriculture wants to know what consumers think of a proposal to simplify grade standards for frozen green and wax beans and to revise the way their grades are determined.

Comments on the proposal

will be accepted until Sept. 30, 1981, according to Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Carol Tucker Foreman.

The proposal would also revise the grade standard to conform with USDA's policy of uniform grade nomenclature, Foreman said.

Under that policy, single-letter grades U.S. Grades A, B and C would replace the dual nomenclature of U.S. Grade A (U.S. Fancy), B (Extra Standard) and C (Standard). Moreover, the proposal provides that bean "character"—its tenderness, firmness and

maturity—be considered separately from other "classified defects," or flaws such as blemishes or mechanical damage, in determining the grade of frozen green and wax beans.

In addition, separate definitions for character requirements would be given

for frozen wax beans and green beans.

Because color is normally associated with maturity, the proposal will eliminate color as a separate quality requirement, Foreman said. However, brightness will be retained as a quality factor.

The proposal would provide separate quality requirements for multi-blended and regular beans. Multi-blended beans are pre-cooked for special packs and therefore need different quality requirements, Foreman said.

"Currently graders

examine lots after processing has been completed," Foreman said. "Under the proposal, graders may examine a lot at various stages during processing to determine whether it meets a specific grade. This proposal would give them an additional separate sampling procedure to determine grade."

Comments may be sent until Sept. 30, 1981, to executive secretariat, Attn: Annie Johnson, room 3807-S, FSQS, USDA, Washington, D.C., 20250.

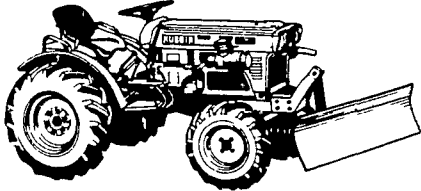
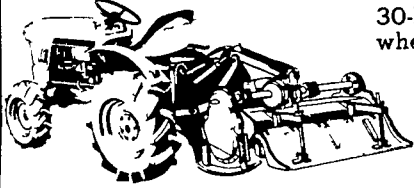
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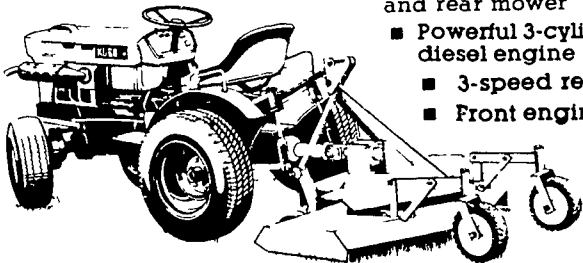
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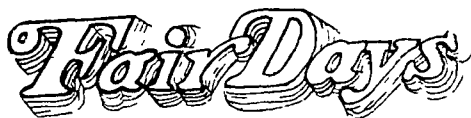


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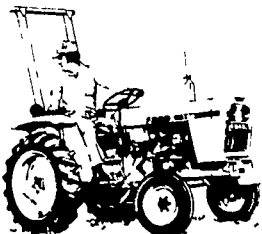
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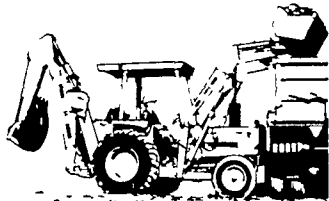
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