

USDA raises meat grading fees

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Effective Nov. 29, fees charged to meat packers and processors who use the U.S. Department of Agriculture's grading and certification services will be raised by \$3 an hour for work in regular time.

Thomas H. Porter, an official of USDA's Agricultural Marketing service, said the increase is needed because of pay increases to federal workers in October and other in-

creases in costs of conducting the grading and certification program.

Fees will be increased from \$20.20 to \$23.20 per hour for work performed between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Grading and certification work performed on Saturday, Sunday and between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m. Monday through Friday will increase from \$25.20 to \$28.20 per hour. Fees for work done on legal holidays will be increased from

\$40.40 to \$46.40.

Meat grading and certification are voluntary services provided to meat packers and processors for a fee, Porter said. Fees for these services must be about equal to the cost of providing the service.

Comments on the increase may be sent until Dec. 31 to David K. Hallett, livestock, meat, grain and seed division, rm. M-1, Annex,

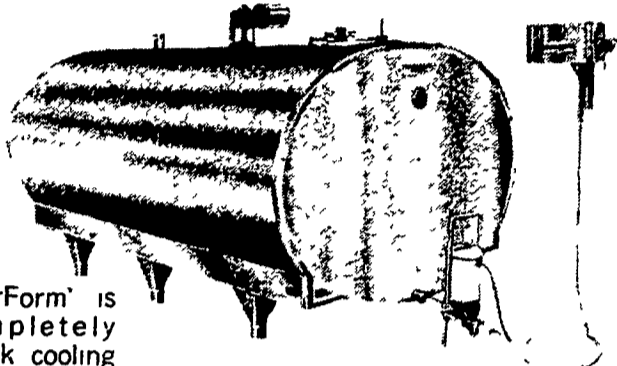
AMS, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250.

Notice of the fee increase were

published in the Oct. 14 Federal Register, available at most public libraries.

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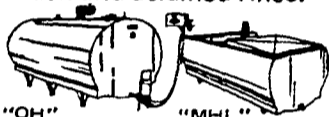
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