

USDA extends margarine comment period

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. Department of Agriculture has extended to May 28 the comment period for the proposal to change its standard on margarine and oleomargarine to make it more consistent with both international and Food and Drug Administration standards.

According to Donald L. Houston, administrator of USDA's Food Safety and In-

spection Service, the National Association of Margarine Manufacturers requested an extension to allow additional time to study the proposal and submit comments.

The original deadline for comments was March 29.

The proposed standard would allow food processors to use a wider variety of substances in the manufacture of

margarine and oleomargarine, Houston said. It also would specify that any future revisions in the FDA standard would be carefully studied by USDA and corresponding changes in the USDA standard considered.

Comments should be sent in duplicate to Regulations Office, FSIS Hearing Clerk, Rm. 2637-S, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250.

Forest Service calls for volunteers

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Thousands of volunteers are needed to help maintain and improve America's 191 million acres of national forest system lands, R. Max Peterson, chief of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest

Service, said recently.

"In an effort to reduce operating costs without reducing services, we are asking people to use their time and talents to help the Forest Service continue to provide visitors with a rewarding experience,"

Peterson said.

"Volunteers also can help improve the environment and contribute to the wise use of our natural resources by assisting in our research and cooperative forestry programs."

Peterson said volunteers perform a wide range of duties such as trail construction and maintenance. They also serve as campground hosts, wilderness rangers, guides and lecturers, research assistants, tree planters and clerks.

"Since the passage of the Volunteers in the National Forests Act in 1972, the use of volunteers has played an increasingly important role in our work," Peterson said. "The number of Forest Service volunteers has increased by 700 percent since 1972. Last year, the work accomplished by 16,445 volunteers was valued at \$8.3 million."

Although volunteers do not receive monetary pay for their work, Peterson said, there are other compensations which are even more important to many people.

"The work hours are flexible—volunteers can work on a full-time, part-time, or even one-time basis — the jobs are both interesting and educational, and they get a great deal of personal satisfaction in knowing they have helped make our world a little better place to live for all of us," he said.

Major qualifications for the volunteers are good health and a willingness to work, and people with special skills are particularly welcome. There's no maximum or minimum age, but a volunteer under age 18 needs written consent from a parent or guardian.

Volunteers are not federal employees, but they do receive legal protection as well as insurance for work-related injuries. In some cases, they can be compensated for travel, food and lodging expenses.

Entire organizations may volunteer, Peterson said. For instance, through the "Adopt-A-Trail" program, an organization can volunteer to maintain and improve a trail in the national forests.

Roads and wildlife habitats are among other national forest resources and facilities available for "adoption."

Persons interested in becoming a Forest Service volunteer should contact their nearest Forest Service office. Additional information on how to become a Forest Service volunteer also may be obtained by writing: Forest Service Volunteer, Box 37483, Washington, D.C. 20013.

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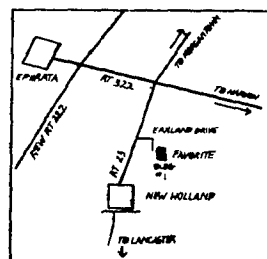
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