

USDA increases meat grading fees

WASHINGTON D.C. — The U.S. Department of Agriculture will increase its fees for meat

grading and certification services April 4. The fee increase of \$3

an hour for work in regular time was put into effect on an interim basis in November

during a period in which meat-packers and processors who use the service were invited to comment on the increase.

Thomas H. Porter, an official of USDA's

Lancaster Farming, Saturday, April 17, 1982—D21

Agricultural Marketing Service, said the increase is necessary because of increased costs of the grading and certification program. Meat grading and certification are

voluntary services provided to meat-packers and processors for a fee, Porter said. Fees for these services must be approximately equal to the cost of providing the service.

Under the increase, meat-packers and processors will be charged \$23.20 per hour for work performed between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Work performed on Saturday, Sunday and between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m. Monday through Friday is \$28.20 per hour. Work performed on legal holidays is \$46.40 per hour.

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