

Notices

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Office of the Secretary

Notice of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board Meeting

AGENCY: Research, Education, and Economics, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. 2, the United States Department of Agriculture announces a meeting of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board.

DATES: The National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board will meet March 23–25, 2004.

The public may file written comments before or up to two weeks after the meeting with the contact person.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will take place at the Hotel Washington, 515 15th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20004. Written comments from the public may be sent to the Contact Person identified in this notice at: The National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board; Research, Education, and Economics Advisory Board Office, Room 344–A, Jamie L. Whitten Building, United States Department of Agriculture, STOP 2255, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250–2255.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Deborah Hanfman, Executive Director, National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board; telephone: (202) 720–3684; fax: (202) 720–6199; or e-mail: ghanfman@csrees.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On Tuesday, March 23, 2004, the National Agricultural Research, Extension,

Education, and Economics Advisory Board will convene its meeting at 1 p.m. in the Washington Room of the Hotel Washington. A brief business meeting of the Board will be followed by reports of three Board working groups and by USDA responses to the Board's prior written recommendations on "Obesity Prevention." An evening reception and program to kickoff the next day's focus session titled, "Agriculture, National Resources and the Environment: Implications for Sustainable Agricultural Systems," will be held at 7 p.m. in the Capital Room, with a keynote speaker from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation.

On Wednesday, March 24, 2004, from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., the focus session will be held with briefings by USDA agencies of the Research, Education, and Economics (REE) mission area and the Natural Resources and Environment mission area. Distinguished speakers and leaders with expertise on the environment, natural resources, economics, and the social sustainability of agricultural systems will speak throughout the day. A meeting from noon to 1:30 p.m. will highlight agricultural research perspectives from Professional Majority and Minority Staff Members of the U.S. Congress House of Representatives Agriculture Committee. An informal focus session reception to highlight key issues of the day will be held from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

On Thursday, March 25, 2004, the Advisory Board will reconvene at 7:30 a.m. with the invited chairman of the REE Task Force to discuss progress being made on the Task Force's Congressional mandate. Wrap-up discussions on the findings of the Board's working groups and the focus session will follow. The Board will adjourn by 11:30 a.m.

Opportunities for public comment will be available at the end of each meeting day. Written comments for the public record on any of the topics discussed during the Advisory Board Meeting are welcomed before and up to two weeks following the meeting. All statements will become a part of the official record of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board and will be kept on file for public review in the Research, Education, and Economics Advisory Board Office.

Done at Washington, DC, this 5th day of March, 2004.

Joseph J. Jen,

Under Secretary, Research, Education, and Economics.

[FR Doc. 04–5845 Filed 3–15–04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

[No. TM–04–02]

Nominations for Members of the National Organic Standards Board

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Organic Foods Production Act (OFPA) of 1990, as amended, requires the establishment of a National Organic Standards Board (NOSB). The NOSB is a 15-member board that is responsible for developing and recommending to the Secretary a proposed National List of Approved and Prohibited Substances. The NOSB also advises the Secretary on all other aspects of the National Organic Program. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is requesting nominations to fill five (5) upcoming vacancies on the NOSB. The positions to be filled are: organic producer (2 positions), organic handler, retailer, and environmentalist. The Secretary of Agriculture will appoint a person to each position to serve a 5-year term of office that will commence on January 24, 2005, and run until January 24, 2010. USDA encourages eligible minorities, women, and persons with disabilities to apply for membership on the NOSB.

DATES: Written nominations, with resumes, must be post-marked on or before June 14, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Nominations should be sent to Ms. Katherine E. Benham, Advisory Board Specialist, USDA–AMS–TMP–NOP, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Room 4008–So., Ag Stop 0268, Washington, DC 20250.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Katherine E. Benham, (202) 205–7806; E-mail: katherine.benham@usda.gov; Fax: (202) 205–7808.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The OFPA of 1990, as amended (7 U.S.C. Section

6501 *et seq.*), requires the Secretary to establish an organic certification program for producers and handlers of agricultural products that have been produced using organic methods. In developing this program, the Secretary is required to establish an NOSB. The purpose of the NOSB is to assist in the development of a proposed National List of Approved and Prohibited Substances and to advise the Secretary on other aspects of the National Organic Program.

The current NOSB made recommendations to the Secretary regarding the establishment of the initial organic program. It is anticipated that the NOSB will continue to make recommendations on various matters, including recommendations on substances it believes should be allowed or prohibited for use in organic production and handling.

The NOSB is composed of 15 members; 4 organic producers, 2 organic handlers, a retailer, 3 environmentalists, 3 public/consumer representatives, a scientist, and a certifying agent. Nominations are being sought to fill the following five (5) upcoming NOSB vacancies: organic producer (2 positions), organic handler, retailer, and environmentalist. Individuals desiring to be appointed to the NOSB at this time must be either an owner or operator of an organic production operation, an owner or operator of an organic handling operation, an individual who owns or operates a retail establishment with significant trade in organic products, or an individual with expertise in areas of environmental protection and resource conservation. Selection criteria will include such factors as: demonstrated experience and interest in organic production, handling and retailing; diverse commodity and geographic representation; support of consumer and public interest organizations; demonstrated experience with environmental matters; and such other factors as may be appropriate for specific positions.

Nominees will be supplied with a biographical information form that must be completed and returned to USDA within 10 working days of its receipt. Completed biographical information forms are required for a nominee to receive consideration for appointment by the Secretary.

Equal opportunity practices will be followed in all appointments to the NOSB in accordance with USDA policies. To ensure that the members of the NOSB take into account the needs of the diverse groups that are served by the Department, membership on the NOSB will include, to the extent

practicable, individuals who demonstrate the ability to represent minorities, women, and persons with disabilities.

The information collection requirements concerning the nomination process have been previously cleared by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under OMB Control No. 0505-0001.

Dated: March 10, 2004.

A.J. Yates,

Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 04-5894 Filed 3-15-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Docket No. FV-04-301]

United States Standards for Grades of Greenhouse Tomatoes

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Reopening and extension of the comment period.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the comment period on possible changes to the United States Standards for Greenhouse Tomatoes is reopened and extended.

DATES: Comments must be received by March 31, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments to the Standardization Section, Fresh Products Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Room 1661 South Building, Stop 0240, Washington, DC 20250-0240; fax (202) 720-8871; E-mail FPB.DocketClerk@usda.gov, or you may also send your comments by the electronic process available at Federal eRulemaking portal at <http://www.regulations.gov>. Comments should make reference to the dates and page number of this issue of the **Federal Register** and will be made available for public inspection in the above office during regular business hours.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

David L. Priester, at the above address or call (202) 720-2185; E-mail David.Priester@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: A notice was published in the **Federal Register**, December 10, 2003, (Vol. 68, No. 237, Pages 68859-68860) requesting comments on the possible revisions of the United States Standards for Grades

of Greenhouse Tomatoes. The possible revisions include: amending the method for determining percentages from a weight to count basis, and changing the size classifications from ounces to diameter. Additionally, the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is seeking comments regarding any other revisions that may be necessary to better serve the industry. The comment period ended February 9, 2004.

A comment was received from an industry association representing fresh tomato production in North America, requesting additional time to consider possible revisions. The association requested the comment period be extended to allow the association an opportunity to meet with their members to discuss possible revisions.

After reviewing the request, AMS is reopening and extending the comment period in order to allow sufficient time for interested persons, including the association, to file comments.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 1621-1627.

Dated: March 12, 2004.

A.J. Yates,

Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 04-5990 Filed 3-15-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Ravalli County Resource Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Ravalli County Resource Advisory Committee will be meeting to discuss 2004 projects and the Fred Burr 80 project, receive reports on Forest Plan Revision community groups, discuss public outreach methods, and hold a short public forum (question and answer session). The meeting is being held pursuant to the authorities in the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463) and under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-393). The meeting is open to the public.

DATES: The meeting will be held on March 23, 2004, 6:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Ravalli County Administration Building, 215 S. 4th Street, Hamilton, Montana. Send written comments to Jeanne Higgins, District Ranger, Stevensville Ranger District, 88 Main Street, Stevensville, MT 59870, by