

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

National Nutrition Monitoring Advisory Council; Notice of Meeting

AGENCIES: Agricultural Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture; National Center for Health Statistics, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Health and Human Services.

ACTION: National Nutrition Monitoring Advisory Council; notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announce the meeting of the National Nutrition Monitoring Advisory Council.

DATES: The Council will meet September 18, 1997 for a full-day meeting (8:30 a.m.–5 p.m. e.s.t.) in the Williamsburg Room, 104–A, of USDA's Jamie L. Whitten Federal Building, 14th and Independence Avenues, SW., Washington, DC 20250.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Junko Alice Tamaki, M.P.H., USDA Co-Executive Secretary to the National Nutrition Monitoring Advisory Council, National Program Staff, Agricultural Research Service, 10300 Baltimore Blvd, Bldg. 005, Room 336, Beltsville, MD 20705, (301) 504–6216 or Ronette Briefel, Dr. P.H., HHS Co-Executive Secretary to the National Nutrition Monitoring Advisory Council, National Center for Health Statistics, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Health and Human Services, 6525 Belcrest Road, Room 1000, Hyattsville, MD 20782, (301) 436–3473 x157.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

National Nutrition Monitoring Advisory Council Task

The purpose of the nine member Council, consisting of 5 Presidential appointees and 4 Congressional appointees, is to provide scientific and

technical guidance to improve the National Nutrition Monitoring and Related Research Program and the Ten-Year Comprehensive Plan. The Council was established by an Executive Order of the President of the United States, pursuant to Public Law No. 101–445, the National Nutrition Monitoring and Related Research Act of 1990.

The agenda is in the process of being finalized. The tentative agenda includes discussion of welfare reform and nutrition data needs, survey coordination plans for the NHANES (National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey) and CSFII (Continuing Survey of Food Intakes by Individuals), and food composition-related projects. The final agenda is obtainable from the contact persons listed above after August 22, 1997.

Public Participation at Meeting

The meeting is open to the public. Written comments may be sent to the contact persons listed above before or after the meeting. Please call Junko Tamaki (301–504–6216) by September 5 if you will require a sign language interpreter at the meeting.

Dated: August 22, 1997.

I. Miley Gonzalez,

Under Secretary, Research, Education, and Economics, Department of Agriculture.

[FR Doc. 97–22987 Filed 8–28–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–03–M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Office of the Secretary

National Commission on Small Farms; Meeting

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Secretary of Agriculture by Departmental Regulation No. 1043–43 dated July 9, 1997, established the National Commission on Small Farms (Commission) and further identified the Natural Resources Conservation Service to provide support to the Commission. The purpose of the Commission is to gather and analyze information regarding small farms and ranches and recommend to the Secretary of Agriculture a national policy and strategy to ensure their continued viability. The Commission's next meeting is September 15 and 16, 1997.

PLACE, DATE AND TIME OF MEETING: The Commission's fourth public meeting is September 15 and 16 at the Beverly Garland Hotel and Conference Center, 1780 Tribute Road, Sacramento, California. The meeting is open to the public. On September 15, the Commission will meet from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. to hear public testimony. On September 16, the Commission will meet from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. to conduct Commission business. We are seeking testimony from various sources to arrive at conclusions and recommendations that will ensure the continued viability of small farms. The Commission requests that testimony and comments include ideas and recommendations based on the following questions. Concerns or problems of individual farms that relate to specific USDA programs should be addressed only in the context of a recommendation for the Commission to consider.

The questions are:

1. How are current USDA programs helping or hurting the viability of small farms?

2. What are the needs of small farms in terms of financing, research, extension, marketing and risk management and other areas? What recommendations would you make about these needs that could be part of a long-range strategy to ensure the continued viability of small farms?

3. Are there innovative non-governmental or state efforts to assist beginning and smaller independent farms that might be replicated or supplemented at the Federal level?

4. What changes in USDA policy or practices are needed to make USDA programs in the areas of credit, research, extension, marketing, risk management and other areas more effective in enabling small farms to survive and thrive?

5. What new programs could provide effective and affordable support for small farmers as commodity programs are phased out?

6. What can be done to assist beginning farmers and farm workers to become farm owners?

7. What role should the Federal government play to ensure a diversified, decentralized and competitive farm structure?

8. What do small farms contribute to your community and your state?

9. What other generic issues pertaining to small farms should the Commission consider?

Interested parties wishing to testify must contact the office of the National Commission on Small Farms by September 8, 1997, in order to be placed on a list of witnesses. Oral presentations will be limited to 5 minutes. Those wishing to testify, but unable to notify the Commission office by September 8, will be able to sign up as a presenter September 15 in Sacramento from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. These presenters will testify on a first come, first served basis. Written statements will be accepted at the meeting or may be mailed or faxed to the Commission office by September 17, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Written statements should be sent to National Commission on Small Farms, USDA, P.O. Box 2890, Room 5237, South Building, Washington, D.C. 20013.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jennifer Yezak Molen, Director, National Commission on Small Farms, at the address above or at (202) 690-0648 or (202) 690-0673. The fax number is (202) 720-0596.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the Commission is to gather and evaluate background information, studies, and data pertinent to small farms and ranches, including limited-resource farmers. On the basis of the review, the Commission shall analyze all relevant issues and make findings, develop strategies, and make recommendations for consideration by the Secretary of Agriculture toward a national strategy on small farms. The national strategy shall include, but not be limited to: changes in existing policies, programs, regulations, training, and program delivery and outreach systems; approaches that assist beginning farmers and involve the private sectors and government, including assurances that the needs of minorities, women, and persons with disabilities are addressed; areas where new partnerships and collaborations are needed; and other approaches that it would deem advisable or which the Secretary of Agriculture or the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service may request the Commission to consider.

The Secretary of Agriculture has determined that the work of the Commission is in the public interest and within the duties and responsibilities of USDA. Establishment of the Commission also implements a recommendation of the USDA Civil Rights Action Report to appoint a

diverse commission to develop a national policy on small farms.

Dated: August 26, 1997.

Pearlie S. Reed,

Acting Assistant Secretary for Administration.

[FR Doc. 97-23100 Filed 8-28-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-16-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Docket No. FV97-356]

Notice of Request for Extension and Revision of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), this notice announces the Agricultural Marketing Service's (AMS) intention to request an extension for and revision to a currently approved information collection for the Reporting and Record Keeping Requirements Under Regulations (Other Than Rules of Practice) Under the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act (PACA) (7 U.S.C. 499a-499t).

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received on or before October 28, 1997, to be assured of consideration.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS: Contact Charles W. Parrott, Assistant Chief, PACA Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 96456, Room 2095-South, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456; telephone (202) 720-4180; fax (202) 690-3244.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Reporting and Record Keeping Requirements Under Regulations (Other Than Rules of Practice) Under the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act, 1930.

OMB Number: 0581-0031.

Expiration Date of Approval: October 31, 1999.

Type of Request: Extension and revision of a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: The PACA was enacted by Congress in 1930 to establish a code of fair trading practices covering the marketing of fresh and frozen fruits and vegetables in interstate or foreign commerce. It protects growers, shippers, and distributors dealing in those

commodities by prohibiting unfair and fraudulent practices.

The law provides for the enforcement of contracts by providing a forum for resolving contract disputes, and for the collection of damages from anyone who fails to meet contractual obligations. In addition, the PACA impresses a statutory trust on licensees for perishable agricultural commodities received, products derived from them, and any receivables or proceeds due from the sale of the commodities for the benefit of suppliers, sellers, or agents that have not been paid.

The PACA is enforced through a licensing system and is user-fee financed through a license fee. All commission merchants, dealers, and brokers engaged in business subject to the PACA must be licensed. The license is effective for one (1) year unless withdrawn by USDA for valid reasons, and must be renewed annually. Those who engage in practices prohibited by the PACA may have their licenses suspended or revoked.

The information collected from respondents is used to administer licensing provisions under the PACA. The records maintained are used to adjudicate reparation and administrative complaints filed against licensees to determine the imposition of sanctions on firms and responsibly connected individuals who have engaged in unfair trading practices. We estimate the paperwork and time burden as follows:

Form FV-211, Application for License: Average of 15 minutes per application per response.

Form FV-231, Application for Renewal of License: Average of 5 minutes per application per response.

Form FV-232, Business Reply Card: Average of 2 minutes with approximately 10,000 respondents.

Regulations Section 46.13—Letters to Notify USDA of Changes in Business Operations: Average of 5 minutes per notice per response.

Regulations Section 46.20—Records Reflecting Lot Numbers: Average of 8.25 hours with approximately 1,000 record keepers.

Regulations Section 46.46(d)(2)—Waiver of Rights to Trust Protection: Average of 15 minutes per notice with approximately 100 principals.

Regulations Sections 46.46(f) and 46.2(aa)(11)—Copy of Written Agreement Reflecting Times for Payment: Average of 20 hours with approximately 2,000 record keepers.

Estimate of Burden: The total public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 2.78011 hours per response.