

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

Research, Education, and Economics; Nomination Solicitation

AGENCY: Research, Education, and Economics, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Nomination Solicitation.

SUMMARY: The United States Department of Agriculture is soliciting nominations for vacancies on the National Research, Education, Extension and Economics Advisory Board.

DATES: Submit nomination responses on or before August 15, 1997.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The 30 members on the National Research, Education, Extension, and Economics Advisory Board were appointed in 1996 with each member having a 1, 2, or 3-year term. The Department is seeking nominations for the following 10 vacancies representing the following categories:

- Category A: National Farm Organizations
- Category C: Food Animal Commodity Producers
- Category F: National Crop Commodity Organizations
- Category K: National Human Health Associations
- Category P: Hispanic-serving Institutions
- Category Q: American Colleges of Veterinary Medicine
- Category S: Transportation of Food and Agriculture Products (foreign and domestic)
- Category U: Food and Fiber Processors
- Category Z: International Development/Private Sector Organizations
- Category CC: National Social Science Associations

The incumbents in these categories can be reappointed. However, the Department seeks nominations for these vacancies and all nominations will be considered. Equal opportunity practice,

in line with USDA policies, will be followed in all appointments to the Board. To ensure that the recommendations of the Board have taken into account the needs of the diverse groups served by the Department, membership should include, to the extent practicable, individuals with demonstrated ability to represent minorities, women, and persons with disabilities.

Comments: The public may file nominations by submitting OMB form 0505-0001 to the Office of the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics, USDA, Room 217W, Jamie L. Whitten Federal Building, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington DC. 20250-2200.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mitch Geasler, Room 212W, Jamie L. Whitten Federal Building or phone (202) 720-3803.

Done at Washington DC, this 21st Day of July, 1997.

Catherine E. Woteki,

Acting Under Secretary Research, Education, and Economics.

[FR Doc. 97-19632 Filed 7-24-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 97-068-1]

Regulatory Science and Risk Analysis in Agriculture; Public Conference

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of public conference and request for agenda topics.

SUMMARY: The new USDA Center for Excellence in Regulatory Science and Risk Analysis at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff is holding a public conference on current models and emerging trends in agricultural regulation. The target audience for this conference includes persons from industry, academia, public interest groups, and Federal and State government who are interested in understanding and improving the regulatory process for agricultural issues. The agenda for this conference is still being planned and suggestions for topics of general interest are requested.

PLACE, DATES, AND TIME OF MEETING: The conference will be held at the University of Arkansas, Pine Bluff, AR, on September 16 and 17, 1997. If you plan to attend the conference, please register by August 19, 1997. Lodging for conference attendees is available at a special conference rate at the Holiday Inn-Pine Bluff, 2 Convention Center Plaza, Pine Bluff, AR 71601-5066 (telephone 501-535-3111).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To register for the conference, or for further information about it, contact Cecil Oliver, Regulatory Science Center of Excellence, School of Agriculture, Fisheries and Human Sciences, University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, P.O. Box 4990, Pine Bluff, AR; (501) 543-8564. To post or review suggested topics for the conference agenda, access the World Wide Web address <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppd/conference>. You may also mail suggested topics to Docket No. 97-068-1, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, suite 3C03, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238; or e-mail them to rkelly@aphis.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The USDA Center for Excellence in Regulatory Science and Risk Analysis at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff (the Center) exists to merge the experience of university faculty and Federal agencies in conducting research and outreach education that advances understanding of, and compliance with, Federal statutes. The Center brings together professionals from academic, government, industry, and public interest environments to explore regulatory issues, identify useful regulatory tools, and develop strategies to more effectively meet the goals of regulatory agencies and the public interest in a world where agricultural issues and policies are rapidly changing.

The United States Department of Agriculture believes its partnership with the Center supports worthwhile advances in the quality of regulatory science, and that the Center may also serve as the host for activities that develop strategies and tools that contribute to discussing and analyzing individual regulatory issues.

The upcoming Conference on Regulatory Science and Risk Assessment in Agriculture has two primary objectives:

1. To identify emerging regulatory issues in agriculture; and
2. To develop regulatory strategies for addressing these regulatory issues.

The conference agenda will include a mixture of speaker presentations, discussion groups, and workshops. Some of the themes explored at the conference will include:

1. Adapting regulatory systems to facilitate trade under World Trade Organization principles (transparency, equivalency, science-based);
2. Deciding when to regulate, and how to develop threshold criteria to determine when an agricultural problem requires government regulation;
3. Developing alternatives to government regulation such as voluntary compliance and self-regulation by industry, or risk reduction through public awareness and education;
4. Formal partnerships between industries and government agencies; and
5. How risk analysis is changing concepts of regulation development, compliance, inspections, and tolerances.

We are in the process of planning the agenda for the conference, which will be held in Pine Bluff, AR, on September 16 and 17, 1997. We are seeking specific suggestions for discussion or workshop topics from potential attendees before finalizing the agenda. Consistent with efforts to reinvent government and to improve how programs are delivered, we would like to invite potential attendees to present their ideas and suggestions concerning fruitful topics for the agenda.

Please submit, on or before August 15, 1997, proposed titles and descriptions for new agenda topics, or comments on the agenda topics identified above. If you wish to make a presentation or lead a discussion on a particular topic, please state so and indicate the amount of time you believe your topic would require. We cannot guarantee that all suggested topics will be included in the final agenda, but we will try to include all topics to the extent the time scheduled for the conference allows.

The best way to suggest topics for the conference is to post them to the World Wide Web address identified under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** above. Suggestions posted to that address will be visible on the Web, and may provoke support or discussion by other commenters.

Done in Washington, DC, this 21st day of July 1997.

Charles P. Schwalbe,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 97-19630 Filed 7-24-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Farm Service Agency

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

AGENCY: Farm Service Agency, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the intention of the Farm Service Agency (FSA) to request an extension for and revision to an information collection currently approved in support of the Fresh Irish Potato Diversion Program, 1996 Crop pursuant to section 32 of the Act of August 24, 1935, as amended (Section 32).

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received on or before September 23, 1997 to be assured consideration.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Contact James K. Tegeler, Agricultural Program Specialist, Price Support Division, FSA, USDA, STOP 0512, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-0512; telephone (202) 720-3110.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Regulations Governing the Fresh Irish Potato Diversion Program, 1996 Crop.

OMB Control Number: 0560-0145.

Expiration Date: November 30, 1997.

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

Abstract: The information collected under Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Control Number 0560-0145, as identified above, is needed to enable FSA to effectively implement the Fresh Irish Potato Diversion Program, 1996 Crop, under related reporting and record keeping requirements.

The Secretary of Agriculture has determined that the 1996 crop of fresh Irish potatoes is in surplus supply, and that the domestic consumption of such potatoes will be encouraged by using funds allocated under section 32 to divert the fresh Irish potatoes. The program is administered by the Agricultural Marketing Service, and implemented by the Farm Service

Agency. The application and reporting process is implemented by the county FSA office.

Potato producers must complete a FSA-117, Potato Diversion Program Application for Participation (FSA-117), for each method of diversion requested. The general purpose of Form FSA-117 is to provide AMS and FSA a basis to determine whether or not the producer meets the eligibility requirements to participate in the program. The program will be carried out provided funding is available, and provided further that participant's potatoes meet grading criteria.

The general purpose of an Invoice and Certificate of Inspection and Diversion (FSA-118), is: (1) To allow producers to certify and file a claim for payment; (2) to allow Federal or Federal-State inspectors to certify the quantity and quality of the potatoes; and (3) in the case of the livestock feed diversion method, allow the producer to provide additional information relative to disposition to the county FSA office.

The general purpose of "Letter of Release Potato Diversion Program" (FSA-120), is to allow the producer to release potatoes that will not be diverted.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this information collection is estimated to average 14 minutes per response.

Respondents: Individual, partnership, association, or corporation that grew 1996 crop potatoes for market and are in possession of the potatoes as of May 30, 1997.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1,800.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 6.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 11,000 hours.

Proposed topics for comments include but are not limited to the following: (a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; or (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments should be sent to the Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of