

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

National Commission on Small Farms; Meetings

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

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 chair of the Commission has decided that the Commission may hold subcommittee meetings in order to gather public input from different regions of the country. The Commission is scheduling three subcommittee meetings during the first week of September.

PLACES, DATES AND TIMES OF MEETINGS:

The Commission's first subcommittee meeting is September 2 at the Marriot, 189 Wolf Road, Albany, New York from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Printed in an earlier **Federal Register** notice.) The Commission's second subcommittee meeting is September 4 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, 330 Tijeras, Albuquerque, New Mexico from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Commission's third subcommittee meeting is September 5 at the Monarch Hotel, 12566 Southeast 93rd Avenue, Clackamas, Oregon which is in the Portland, Oregon area, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The meetings are open to the public. 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 at these subcommittee meetings must contact the office of the National Commission on Small Farms by August 28, 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 August 28, will be able to sign up as a presenter September 2 in Albany, New York, September 4 in Albuquerque, New Mexico and September 5 in Clackamas, Oregon. At each meeting location, sign up will

begin at 9:30 a.m. and end at 11 a.m. These presenters will testify on a first come, first served basis and comments will be limited based on the time available and the number of presenters. Written statements will be accepted at the meeting or may be mailed or faxed to the Commission office by September 12, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Comments and statements should be sent to National Commission on Small Farms, U.S. Department of Agriculture, PO Box 2890, Room 5237, South Building, Washington, DC 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 20, 1997.

Pearlie S. Reed,

Acting Assistant Secretary for Administration.

[FR Doc. 97-22539 Filed 8-22-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-16-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Docket No. PY-97-009]

Notice of Request for Extension 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 to a currently approved information collection in support of the Poultry Market News Program.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by October 24, 1997.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Contact Grover T. Hunter, Market News Branch, Poultry Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, STOP 0262, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456, (202) 720-6911 and FAX (202) 720-2403.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Market News Reports (Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946).

OMB Number: 0581-0033

Expiration Date of Approval: January 31, 1998

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

Abstract: Under the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, as amended, (7 U.S.C. 1621 *et seq.*) the Poultry Market News Branch provides nationwide coverage of broiler/fryers, turkeys, and eggs through field offices. Reporters in the Federal-State field offices make contact with trade members.

The mission of Market News is to provide current unbiased, factual information to all members of the Nation's agricultural industry, from farm to retailer, depicting current conditions on supply, demand, price, trend, movement, and other pertinent information affecting the trade in poultry and eggs, and their respective products. In order to accomplish this

mission, Market News observes, records, interprets, and reports trading levels of poultry and egg markets. Market reports assist producer-processors in their production planning, and help promote orderly marketing by placing producer-processors and others in the industry on a more equal bargaining basis.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 0.83 hours per response.

Respondents: Producers, processors, brokers, retailers.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1,720.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 123.69.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 17,657 hours.

Comments are invited on: (1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the methodology and assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to: Grover T. Hunter, Chief, Market News Branch, Poultry Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, STOP 0262, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: August 19, 1997.

D. Michael Holbrook,

Director, Poultry Division.

[FR Doc. 97-22521 Filed 8-22-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 97-075-1]

Secretary's Advisory Committee on Foreign Animal and Poultry Diseases; Meeting

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: We are giving notice of a meeting of the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Foreign Animal and Poultry Diseases.

Place, Dates, and Time of Meeting:

The meeting will be held in the Conference Center of the USDA Center at Riverside, 4700 River Road, Riverdale, MD 20737. Sessions will be held from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on September 9-10, 1997, and from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. on September 11, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Quita Bowman, Senior Staff Veterinarian, Emergency Programs Staff, VS, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 41, Riverdale, MD 20737-1231, (301) 734-7707; or e-mail: qbowman@aphis.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Secretary's Advisory Committee on Foreign Animal and Poultry Diseases (the Committee) advises the Secretary of Agriculture on actions necessary to prevent the introduction of foreign diseases of livestock and poultry into the United States. In addition, the Committee advises the Secretary on contingency planning and on maintaining a state of preparedness to deal with these diseases, if introduced.

The meeting will focus on emerging issues, the design of an emergency management system, and the foreign animal disease situation worldwide and its relevance to the United States. The meeting will be open to the public. However, due to the time constraints, the public will not be allowed to participate in the Committee's discussions. Written statements on meeting topics may be filed with the Committee before or after the meeting by sending them to Dr. Quita Bowman at the address listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. Written comments may also be filed at the time of the meeting. Please refer to Docket No. 97-075-1 when submitting your comments.

This notice of meeting is given pursuant to section 10 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

Done in Washington, DC this 19th day of August 1997.

Terry L. Medley,

Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 97-22524 Filed 8-22-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P