

Board's examination program for the November 1998 pension actuarial examination and the May 1999 basic actuarial examinations will be discussed. In addition, establishing examination guidelines and credit for unanswered questions on the examinations will be addressed.

A determination has been made as required by section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463) that the portions of the meeting dealing with the discussion of questions which may appear on the Joint Board's examinations and review of the May 1998 Joint Board examinations fall within the exceptions to the open meeting requirement set forth in Title 5 U.S. Code, section 552(c)(9)(B), and that the public interest requires that such portions be closed to public participation.

The portion of the meeting dealing with the discussion of the other topics will commence at 9:00 a.m. on June 30 and will continue for as long as necessary to complete the discussion, but not beyond 10:30 a.m. This portion of the meeting will be open to the public as space is available. Time permitting, after discussion of the program, interested persons may make statements germane to this subject. Persons wishing to make oral statements are requested to notify the Committee Management Officer in writing prior to the meeting in order to aid in scheduling the time available, and should submit the written text, or, at a minimum, an outline of comments they proposed to make orally. Such comments will be limited to ten minutes in length. Any interested person also may file a written statement for consideration by the Joint Board and Committee by sending it to the Committee Management Officer. Notifications and statements should be mailed no later than June 18, 1998, to Mr. Robert I. Brauer, Joint Board for the Enrollment of Actuaries, c/o Office of Director of Practice, Internal Revenue Service (C:AP:P), 901 D Street, SW, Washington, DC 20024 or by facsimile transmission to 202-401-6657.

Dated: May 19, 1998.

**Robert I. Brauer,**

*Advisory Committee Management Officer,  
Joint Board for the Enrollment of Actuaries.*  
[FR Doc. 98-14306 Filed 5-29-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4830-01-U

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Notice of Solicitation for Membership to the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board

**AGENCY:** Research, Education, and Economics, USDA.

**ACTION:** Solicitation for Membership.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App., the United States Department of Agriculture announces solicitation for nominations to fill 11 vacancies on the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board.

**DATES:** Deadline for Advisory Board member nominations is June 15, 1998.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Section 1408 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 as amended by section 802 of the Federal Agricultural Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 authorized the creation of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board. The Board is composed of 30 members, each representing a specific category related to farming or ranching, food production and processing, forestry research, crop and animal science, land-grant institutions, food retailing and marketing, rural economic development, and natural resource and consumer interest groups, among many others. The Board was first appointed in September 1996 and one-third of the 30 members were appointed for a 1, 2, and 3 year term, respectively. As a result of the staggered appointments, the terms for 10 of the 30 members who represent 10 specific categories will expire September 30, 1998. Nominations for a 3-year appointment for all 10 of the vacant categories are sought. Nominees will be carefully reviewed for their broad expertise, leadership, and relevancy to a category. As a result of a resignation, another member's slot representing the category of "Scientific Community not closely associated with Agriculture" is also vacant. The replacement Board member for this category will serve the remainder of the term or 1 year, terminating September 30, 1999. The 11 vacancies are:

Category E: National Animal  
Commodity Organizations

Category H: National Food Animal  
Science Societies

Category I: National Crop, Soil,  
Agronomy, Horticulture or Weed  
Science Societies

Category N: 1890 Land-Grant Colleges  
and Universities

Category O: 1994 Equity in Education  
Land Grant Institutions

Category R: Scientific Community not  
closely associated with Agriculture (1-  
year term)

Category T: Food Retailing and  
Marketing Interests

Category V: Rural Economic  
Development

Category W: National Consumer Interest  
Groups

Category X: National Forestry Groups

Category Y: National Conservation or  
Natural Resource Groups

Nominations are being solicited from organizations, associations, societies, councils, federations, groups, and companies that represent a wide variety of food and agricultural interests.

Nominations for one individual who fits several of the categories listed above, or for more than one person who fits one category will be accepted. Please indicate the specific membership category for each nominee. Each nominee must fill out a form AD-755, "Advisory Committee Membership Background Information" and will be vetted before selection. Send nominations to the Office of the Advisory Board, Research, Education, and Economics, Room 3918 South Building, Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250-2255 no later than June 15, 1998.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Deborah Hanfman, Executive Director, National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board, Research, Education, and Economics Advisory Board Office, Room 3918 South Building, U.S. Department of Agriculture, STOP: 2255, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-2255. Telephone: 202-720-3684. Fax: 202-720-6199, or e-mail: lshea@reeusda.gov.

Done at Washington, D.C. this 26th day of May 1998.

**I. Miley Gonzalez.**

*Under Secretary, Research, Education, and Economics.*

[FR Doc. 98-14342 Filed 5-29-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-22-P

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Notice of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board Western Regional Listening Session

**AGENCY:** Research, Education, and Economics, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of listening session.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5

U.S.C. App., the United States Department of Agriculture announces a Western Regional Listening Session of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board, which represents 30 constituent categories, as specified in section 1408 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 as amended by section 802 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (Pub. L. No. 104-127), will send representatives of its membership (5 members, the Executive Director, and a USDA administrative support person) to the Western Region Joint Summer Meeting to hold a Western Regional Listening Session, 8:00 a.m. until noon on July 8, 1998.

The Western Regional Listening Session will engage western regional stakeholders (small farmers, producers/ranchers, academia including 1890 and 1994 institutions, the private sector, and other stakeholder groups) in panel sessions to present statements to Advisory Board members on agricultural research and education priorities and other issues of significant concern to the Western Region. Findings of this Listening Session will be presented to the full Advisory Board for consideration in its ongoing effort to advise USDA on future agricultural research and education priorities. Time will be allowed at the end of Listening Session panels for open discussion and audience participation.

**DATES:** Western Regional Listening Session, July 8, 1998, 8:00 a.m. until noon.

**PLACE:** Yarrow Hotel, Park City, Utah.

**TYPE OF MEETING:** Open to the public.

**COMMENTS:** The public may file written comments before or within 2 weeks after the meeting with the contact person. All statements will become a part of the official records of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board and will be kept on file for public review in the Office of the Advisory Board; Research, Education, and Economics; U.S. Department of Agriculture; Washington, D.C. 20250-2255.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Deborah Hanfman, Executive Director, National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board, Research, Education, and Economics Advisory Board Office, Room 3918 South Building, U.S.

Department of Agriculture, STOP: 2255, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-2255. Telephone: 202-720-3684. Fax: 202-720-6199, or e-mail: lshea@reeusda.gov.

Done at Washington, D.C. this 26th day of May 1998.

**I. Miley Gonzalez,**

*Under Secretary, Research, Education, and Economics.*

[FR Doc. 98-14343 Filed 5-29-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-22-P

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Agricultural Marketing Service

[Docket No. TB-97-17]

#### Tobacco Inspection; Growers' Referendum Results

**AGENCY:** Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of referendum results.

**SUMMARY:** This document announces the results of the referendum on the merger of Tabor City-Whiteville, North Carolina, and Loris, South Carolina, flue-cured tobacco markets. A mail referendum was conducted during the period of April 27-May 1, 1998, among tobacco growers who sold tobacco on these markets in 1997. A required two-thirds majority of voters did not favor merging these markets into a single consolidated market.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** June 2, 1998.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** William O. Coats, Associate Deputy Administrator, Tobacco Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, United States Department of Agriculture, PO Box 96456, Washington, DC 20090-6456; telephone number (202) 205-0508.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** A notice was published in the April 20, 1998, issue of the **Federal Register** (63 FR 19414) announcing that a referendum would be conducted among active flue-cured producers who sold tobacco on either Tabor City-Whiteville or Loris during the 1997 season to ascertain if such producers favored the consolidation.

The notice of referendum announced the determination by the Secretary that the consolidated market of Tabor City-Whiteville, North Carolina, and Loris, South Carolina, would be designated as a flue-cured tobacco auction market and receive mandatory Federal grading of tobacco sold at auction for the 1998 and succeeding seasons, subject to the results of the referendum. The determination was based on the

evidence and arguments presented at a public hearing held in Tabor City, North Carolina, on November 5, 1997, pursuant to applicable provisions of the regulations issued under the Tobacco Inspection Act, as amended. The referendum was held in accordance with the provisions of the Tobacco Inspection Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 511d) and the regulations set forth in 7 CFR 29.74.

Ballots for the April 27-May 1, 1998, referendum were mailed to 1,470 producers. Approval required votes in favor of the proposal by two-thirds of the eligible voters who cast valid ballots. The Department received a total of 375 responses: 89 eligible producers voted in favor of the consolidation; 189 eligible producers voted against the consolidation; and 97 ballots were determined to be invalid.

Dated: May 26, 1998.

**Enrique E. Figueroa,**

*Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.*

[FR Doc. 98-14424 Filed 5-29-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-U

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Southwestern Region, Arizona, New Mexico, West Texas, and West Oklahoma

#### Amendment of Land and Resource Management Plans in the Southwestern Region

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

**SUMMARY:** The Southwestern Region of the Forest Service is planning to prepare an environmental impact statement on a proposal to amend National Forest land and resource management plans to incorporate standards and guidelines for management of habitat for American peregrine falcon, Little Colorado River spinedace, loach minnow, spikedace, Apache trout, Chihuahua chub, Gila trout, Gila top minnow, razorback sucker, southwest willow flycatcher, cactus ferruginous pygmy owl, Sonora tiger salamander, New Mexico ridgenose rattlesnake, and Pima pineapple cactus. The amendment would add new standards and guidelines which strengthen and clarify existing direction for the protection of federally listed threatened and endangered species. The amendment would apply to all subsequent project-level resource management decisions which will