

Notices

Federal Register

Vol. 80, No. 132

Friday, July 10, 2015

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

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Doc. No. AMS-FV-15-0025; FV15-996-1]

Peanut Standards Board

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice; request for nominations.

SUMMARY: The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (2002 Farm Bill) requires the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a Peanut Standards Board (Board) for the purpose of advising the Secretary on quality and handling standards for domestically produced and imported peanuts. The initial Board was appointed by the Secretary and announced on December 5, 2002. USDA seeks nominations for individuals to be considered for selection as Board members for a term of office ending June 30, 2018. Selected nominees would replace three producers and three industry representatives who currently serve on the Board and have terms of office that end on June 30, 2015. The Board consists of 18 members representing producers and the industry. In an effort to obtain diversity among candidates, USDA encourages the nomination of men and women of all racial and ethnic groups and persons with a disability.

DATES: Written nominations must be received on or before August 24, 2015.

ADDRESSES: Nominations should be sent to Jennie M. Varela of the Southeast Marketing Field Office, Marketing Order and Agreement Division, Fruit and Vegetable Program, AMS, USDA, 1124 1st Street South, Winter Haven, FL 33880; Telephone: (863) 324-3375; Fax: (863) 291-8614; Email: Jennie.Varela@ams.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 1308 of the 2002 Farm Bill requires the Secretary of Agriculture to establish and consult with the Board for the purpose

of advising the Secretary regarding the establishment of quality and handling standards for all domestic and imported peanuts marketed in the United States.

The 2002 Farm Bill provides that the Board's makeup will include three producers and three peanut industry representatives from states specified in each of the following producing regions: Southeast (Alabama, Georgia, and Florida); Southwest (Texas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico); and Virginia/Carolina (Virginia and North Carolina).

The term "peanut industry representatives" includes, but is not limited to, representatives of shellers, manufacturers, buying points, and marketing associations and marketing cooperatives. The 2002 Farm Bill exempted the appointment of the Board from the requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

USDA invites individuals, organizations, and groups affiliated with the categories listed above to nominate individuals for membership on the Board. Nominees sought by this action would fill two positions in the Southeast region, two positions in the Southwest region, and two positions in the Virginia/North Carolina region.

Nominees should complete a Peanut Standards Board Background Information form and submit it to Jennie Varela at the address provided in the "Addresses" section above. Copies of this form may be obtained at the internet site <http://www.ams.usda.gov/PeanutStandardsBoard>, or from the Southeast Marketing Field Office. USDA seeks a diverse group of members to represent the peanut industry.

Equal opportunity practices will be followed in all appointments to the Board in accordance with USDA policies. To ensure that the recommendations of the Board have taken into account the needs of the diverse groups within the peanut industry, membership shall include, to the extent practicable, individuals with demonstrated abilities to represent minorities, women, persons with disabilities, and limited resource agriculture producers.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 7958.

Dated: July 7, 2015.

Rex A. Barnes,

Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 2015-16899 Filed 7-9-15; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Document No. AMS-ST-15-0024]

Plant Variety Protection Board; Open Teleconference Meeting

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is announcing a meeting of the Plant Variety Protection Board (Board). The meeting is being held to discuss a variety of topics including, but not limited to, work and outreach plans, subcommittee activities, and proposals for procedure changes. The meeting is open to the public. This notice sets forth the schedule and location for the meeting.

DATES: Thursday, August 6, 2015, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The Board meeting will be held at the United States Department of Agriculture, Room 3543, South Building, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Maria Pratt, Program Analyst, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), AMS, Science and Technology Programs, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250. Telephone: (202) 720-1104; Fax: (202) 260-8976, or Email: maria.pratt@ams.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to the provisions of section 10(a) of the FACA (5 U.S.C., Appendix 2), this notice informs the public that the Plant Variety Protection Office (PVPO) is having a Board meeting earlier than the 15 day requirement of the FACA. The Plant Variety Protection Act (PVPA) (7 U.S.C. 2321 *et seq.*) provides legal protection in the form of intellectual property rights to developers of new varieties of plants, which are reproduced sexually by seed or are tuber-propagated. A Certificate of Plant Variety Protection (PVP) is awarded to an owner of a crop variety after an examination shows that it is new, distinct from other varieties, genetically uniform and stable through successive generations. The term of protection is 20 years for most crops and 25 years for trees, shrubs, and vines. The PVPA also

provides for a statutory Board (7 U.S.C. 2327). The PVPA Board is composed of 14 individuals who are experts in various areas of development and represent the private or seed industry sector, academia and government. The duties of the Board are to: (1) Advise the Secretary concerning the adoption of rules and regulations to facilitate the proper administration of the PVPA; (2) provide advisory counsel to the Secretary on appeals concerning decisions on applications by the PVP Office and on requests for emergency public-interest compulsory licenses; and (3) advise the Secretary on any other matters under the Regulations and Rules of Practice and on all questions under Section 44 of the PVPA, "Public Interest in Wide Usage" (7 U.S.C. 2404).

The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss the PVPO's 2015 achievements, the electronic application system, the reports of the subcommittees to change PVP forms and to evaluate molecular techniques for PVP distinctness characterization, and PVP cooperation with other countries.

Agenda Items: The agenda will include, welcome and introductions, discussions on program activities that discourage the development of new plant varieties and also address appeals to the Secretary. There will be presentations on 2015 accomplishments, the electronic PVP application system, proposed changes to PVP forms, the use of molecular markers for PVP applications, and PVP cooperation with other countries. The meeting will be open to the public. Those wishing to participate are encouraged to pre-register by July 30, 2015 by contacting Maria Pratt, Program Analyst; Telephone: (202) 720-1104; Email: maria.pratt@ams.usda.gov.

Meeting Accommodation: If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this public meeting, please notify Maria Pratt at: Email: maria.pratt@ams.usda.gov or (202) 720-1104. Determinations for reasonable accommodation will be made on a case-by-case basis. Minutes of the meeting will be available for public review 30 days following the meeting at the internet Web site <http://www.ams.usda.gov/PVPO>.

Dated: July 7, 2015.

Rex A. Barnes,

Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 2015-16900 Filed 7-9-15; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

National Stakeholder Forum— Biorefinery, Renewable Chemical, and Biobased Product Manufacturing Assistance Program

AGENCY: Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of a public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS), an Agency within USDA Rural Development, is holding a forum to introduce the new "Biorefinery, Renewable Chemical, and Biobased Product Manufacturing Assistance Program" (Section 9003 Program), formerly the Biorefinery Assistance Program (BAP), as found in the new regulation and the Notice of Solicitation of Applications (NOSA). Major changes to the Section 9003 Program include the addition of renewable chemicals and biobased product manufacturing to the program area and a two-phase application process to streamline the application process and limit the expense to applicants.

Speakers from the Agency will discuss the changes to the 9003 Program in order to educate applicants on changes to program eligibility and the new application process. The National Stakeholder Forum can be attended via webinar or in person.

DATES:

National Stakeholder Forum: The National Stakeholder Forum will be held on Thursday, July 16, 2015, from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time.

Registration: It is requested that you register by 12 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time July 14, 2015, to attend the forum in person. See the Instructions for Attending the Meeting section of this notice for additional information. If you wish to participate via webinar, you must register for the webinar at <http://www.webcaster4.com/Webcast/Page/789/9401> prior to or during the webinar.

ADDRESSES: The National Stakeholder Forum will take place in Room 107-A of the Whitten Building on 1400 Jefferson Drive SW., located between 12th and 14th streets SW., in Washington DC 20250.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Todd Hubbell, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, Room 6865, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250, Telephone: (202) 690-2516. Email: Todd.Hubbell@wdc.usda.gov. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for

communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 9003 of the 2008 Farm Bill authorized the Agency to provide loan guarantees for the construction of advanced biofuel biorefineries under the Biorefinery Assistance Program (often referred to as the Section 9003 Program). The 2014 Farm Bill modified the provisions associated with the Section 9003 Program. In response to the 2014 Farm Bill, the Agency published a new interim rule for the program, now entitled the Biorefinery, Renewable Chemical, and Biobased Product Manufacturing Assistance Program. This interim final rule was published in the **Federal Register** on June 24, 2015 (<https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2015/06/24/2015-14989/biorefinery-renewable-chemical-and-biobased-product-manufacturing-assistance-program>).

In order to familiarize the public with the new Section 9003 Program rule, representatives from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) are conducting this National Stakeholder Forum. Discussion points will include the expansion of the program to include renewable chemicals and biobased product manufacturing and the new two-phase application process. Participants will be afforded the opportunity to ask questions on the material in the presentation through the webinar software or in person.

Date: July 16, 2015.

Time: 12:30 p.m.–2:30 p.m., Eastern Daylight Time.

Location information: USDA Whitten Building, 1400 Jefferson Drive SW., Room 107-A, Washington, DC 20250.

Instructions for Attending the Meeting

Space for attendance at the meeting is limited. Due to USDA headquarters security and space requirements, all persons wishing to attend the forum in person must send an email to energydivision@wdc.usda.gov by 12 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time July 14, 2015, to register the names of those planning to attend. Registrations will be accepted until maximum room capacity is reached. Seating will be available on a first come, first serve basis.

To register, provide the following information:

- First and Last Names
- Organization
- Title
- Email
- City, State

Upon arrival at the USDA Whitten Building, registered persons must