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
Request for Nominations of Members for the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board and Specialty Crop Committee

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 the solicitation for nominations to fill vacancies on the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board and its subcommittees. There are 7 vacancies on the NAREE Advisory Board, 3 vacancies on the Specialty Crop Committee, 4 vacancies on the National Genetics Advisory Council, and 6 vacancies on the Citrus Disease Committee.

DATES: All nomination materials should be mailed in a single, complete package and postmarked by July 29, 2016.

ADDRESSES: The nominee’s name, resume or CV, completed Form AD–755, and any letters of support must be submitted via one of the following methods:

(1) Email to nareee@ars.usda.gov; or
(2) By mail delivery service to Thomas Vilsack, Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250, Attn: NAREE Advisory Board, Room 332A, Whitten Building.


SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Instructions for Nominations

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

In your nomination letter, please indicate the specific membership category for each nominee if applying for the NAREE Advisory Committee and also specify what committee(s) you are sending your nomination for. Each nominee must submit form AD–755, “Advisory Committee Membership Background Information” (which can be obtained from the contact person below or from: http://www.ocio.usda.gov/sites/default/files/docs/2012/AD-755_Master_2012_508%20Ver.pdf). All nominees will be vetted before selection.

Nominations are open to all individuals without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, mental or physical handicap, marital status, or sexual orientation. To ensure the recommendation of the Advisory Board take into account the needs of the diverse groups served by the USDA, membership shall include, to the extent practicable, individuals with demonstrated ability to represent the needs of all racial and ethnic groups, women and men, and persons with disabilities.

Please note that registered lobbyist and individuals already serving another USDA Federal Advisory Committee, are ineligible for nomination.

All nominees will be carefully reviewed for their expertise, leadership, and relevance. All nominees will be vetted before selection.

Appointments to the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board and its subcommittees will be made by the Secretary of Agriculture.

National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board

The National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board was established in 1996 via section 1408 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3123) to provide advice to the Secretary of Agriculture and land-grant colleges and universities on top priorities and policies for food and agricultural research, education, extension, and economics. Section 1408 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 was amended by the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to reduce the number of members on the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board to 25 members and required the Board to also provide advice to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate, the Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives, and the Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

Since the Advisory Boards inception by congressional legislation in 1996, each member has represented a specific category related to farming or ranching, food production and processing, forestry research, crop and animal science, land-grant institutions, non-land grant college or university with a historic commitment to research in the food and agricultural sciences, food retailing and marketing, rural economic development, and natural resource and consumer interest groups, among many others. The Board was first appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture in September 1996 and one-third of its members were appointed for a one, two, and three-year term, respectively. The terms for 7 members who represent specific categories will expire September 30, 2016. Nominations for a 3-year appointment for these 7 vacant categories are sought. All nominees will be carefully reviewed for their expertise, leadership, and relevance to a category.

The 7 slots to be filled are:
make recommendations for coordination of genetic resources plans of several domestic and international organizations; and to advise the Secretary of Agriculture and the National Genetic Resources Program of new and innovative approaches to genetic resources conservation. The National Genetic Resources Advisory Council will also advise the department on developing a broad strategy for maintaining plant biodiversity available to agriculture, and strengthening public sector plant breeding capacities. The National Genetic Resources Advisory Council membership is required to have two-thirds of the appointed members from scientific disciplines relevant to the National Genetic Resources Program including agricultural sciences, environmental sciences, natural resource sciences, health sciences, and nutritional sciences; and one-third of the appointed members from the general public including leaders in fields of public policy, trade, international development, law, or management.

The terms of 4 members of the National Genetic Resources Advisory Council will expire on September 30, 2016. We are seeking nominations for a 4-year appointment effective October 1, 2016 through September 30, 2020. The 4 slots to be filled are to be composed of 3 scientific members and 1 general public member.

Citrus Disease Subcommittee

The Citrus Disease Subcommittee was established by the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Sec. 7103) to advise the Secretary of Agriculture on citrus research, extension, and development needs, engage in regular consultation and collaboration with USDA and other organizations involved in citrus, and provide recommendations for research and extension activities related to citrus disease. The Citrus Disease Subcommittee will also advise the Department on the research and extension agenda of the Emergency Citrus Disease Research and Extension Program, a granting program of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

The subcommittee is composed of 9 members who must be a producer of citrus with representation from the following States: Three members from Arizona or California, five members from Florida, and one member from Texas.

The terms of 6 Citrus Disease Subcommittee will expire on September 30, 2015. The Citrus Disease Subcommittee is soliciting nominations to fill 6 vacant positions for membership; 4 positions are to represent Florida and 2 positions are to represent California. Appointed members will serve 2–3 years with their terms expiring in September 2017 or 2018.

Done at Washington, DC, this 28 day of June 2016.

Ann Bartuska,
Deputy Under Secretary, Research, Education, and Economics.

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