

technologies, if any, do agencies use to analyze comments? How formal or informal is the process?

5. How do agencies develop responses to public comments? How does this stage of the process relate to prior stages? How does the development of comment responses relate to other aspects of developing the final rule? How do public comments affect the substance of final rules?

6. What aspects of agency comment processing procedures seem to be working well and why? For areas where things are not working well, what seem to be the sources of the problems and what are the potential solutions?

(Authority: 5 U.S.C. 595.)

Dated: October 21, 2026.

Shawne C. McGibbon,
General Counsel.

[FR Doc. 2026-21742 Filed 10-23-26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6110-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Doc. No. AMS-NOP-26-0199]

National Organic Standards Board Call for Applications and Nominations

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice; call for applications or nominations to the Board.

SUMMARY: Through this notice, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is announcing its call for applications and nominations to fill three vacancies on the National Organic Standards Board (Board): one individual who owns or operates an organic farming operation or employee of such individual; one individual who represents a public interest or consumer interest group; and one individual with expertise in the fields of toxicology, ecology, or biochemistry. Appointees will serve a 5-year term beginning in January 2027 and ending in January 2032. Additionally, USDA seeks applications or nominations for a pool of candidates that the Secretary of Agriculture can draw upon as replacement appointees if unexpected vacancies occur.

DATES: Application packages must be received by mail or postmarked on or before December 28, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Applications can be sent via email to Andrew Malone at Andrew.Malone@usda.gov, or mailed to: USDA-AMS-NOP, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Room 2642-S., Ag Stop 0268, Washington, DC 20250-0268. Electronic submittals are preferred.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michelle Arsenault, (202) 997-0115; email: nosb@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: For information on how to apply, please see the applications process page: <https://www.ams.usda.gov/rules-regulations/organic/nosb/nomination-process>.

The Organic Foods Production Act (OFPA), as amended (7 U.S.C. 6501–6524), required the Secretary to establish the National Organic Standards Board (Board) in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The Board was established to assist in the development of standards for substances to be used in organic production and to advise the Secretary on the implementation of the OFPA.

The Board is composed of 15 members:

- Four individuals who own or operate an organic farming operation, or employees of such individuals;
- Two individuals who own or operate an organic handling operation, or employees of such individuals;
- One individual who owns or operates a retail establishment with significant trade in organic products, or employees of such individuals;
- Three individuals with expertise in areas of environmental protection and resource conservation;
- Three individuals who represent public interest or consumer interest groups;
- One individual with expertise in the fields of toxicology, ecology, or biochemistry; and
- One individual who is a certifying agent.

Per OFPA, under 7 U.S.C. 6518, individuals seeking appointment to the Board must meet the qualifications for the relevant vacancy (e.g., demonstrated experience and interest in organic production and organic certification, demonstrated experience with respect to agricultural products produced and handled on certified organic farms, or experience with consumer and public interest organizations). Applicants may also consider the additional selection criteria the Board recommended on June 10, 1999, included below and on the following web page: <https://www.ams.usda.gov/rules-regulations/organic/nosb/nomination-process>.

- A general understanding of organic principles and practical experience in the organic community;
- Demonstrated experience in the development of public policy such as participation on public or private advisory boards, boards of directors, or other comparable organizations;

• Participation in standards development or involvement in educational outreach activities;

• A commitment to the integrity and growth of the organic food and fiber industry;

• The ability to evaluate technical information and to fully participate in Board deliberation and recommendations;

• The willingness to commit the time and energy necessary to assume Board duties; and

• Other factors that may be appropriate for specific positions.

To apply, submit the following: a resume (required); Form AD-755 (required), which can be accessed at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-755-advisory-committee-commodity-board-background-information.pdf>; a cover letter (optional); and letters of recommendation (optional). Resumes should be no longer than five (5) pages and should include the following information: the position for which the candidate is applying; current and past organization affiliations; areas of expertise; education; career positions held; and any other notable, relevant positions held. Previous applicants who wish to be considered must reapply.

If USDA receives a request under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) for records relating to Board nominations, application materials may be released to the requester. Prior to the release of the information, personally identifiable information protected by the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a) will be redacted.

Equal opportunity practices, in accordance with USDA policies, will be followed in all membership appointments to the Committee.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the State

or local Agency that administers the program or contact USDA through the Telecommunications Relay Service at 711 (voice and TTY). Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at <https://www.usda.gov/about-usda/general-information/staff-offices/office-assistant-secretary-civil-rights/how-file-usda-discrimination-complaint/how-file-program-discrimination-complaint>, and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Mail Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) previously cleared the information collection requirements concerning the nomination process under OMB Control No. 0505-0001.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Dated: October 21, 2026.

Egypt Simon,

Acting USDA Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 2026-21722 Filed 10-23-26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Office of the Secretary

Civil Monetary Penalties Inflation Adjustments for 2026

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is issuing this notice to announce that civil monetary penalty (CMP) amounts assessed or enforced will not increase for calendar year 2026. USDA is generally required by statute to amend its regulations annually to adjust for inflation the civil monetary penalties assessed or enforced by its components. However, in accordance with guidance from the Office of Management and Budget (“OMB”), USDA will continue to use the 2025 civil monetary penalty levels

because there will be no cost-of-living adjustment for 2026.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Michael Poe, Office of the General Counsel, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250-1400, (202) 769-8247.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Statutory Process for Implementing Annual Inflation Adjustments

In accordance with the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act of 1990 (28 U.S.C. 2461 note), USDA is required to adjust civil monetary penalties periodically for inflation. The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 (Pub. L. 114-74) revised the methodology, requiring agencies to adjust penalties annually based on the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the month of October of the preceding year. USDA has issued annual inflation adjustments pursuant to this authority, most recently in its final rule on May 29, 2025 (90 FR 22607).

II. No Adjustments for 2026

The annual inflation adjustment is based on October CPI-U data. Due to the October–November 2025 lapse in appropriations, the Bureau of Labor Statistics did not produce October 2025 CPI-U data. The statute provides no alternative method for calculating the adjustment. On April 17, 2026, the Office of Management and Budget issued Memorandum M-26-11, instructing all Federal agencies to retain 2025 civil monetary penalty amounts for calendar year 2026. Accordingly, USDA will not make inflation adjustments for 2026.

Consistent with the guidance provided in M-26-11, USDA is not making any adjustments to civil money penalties under the Inflation Adjustment Act in 2026.

In 2027, USDA will undertake a thorough review of the civil penalties assessed or enforced by its components pursuant to the Inflation Adjustment Act and in accordance with guidance issued by the Office of Management and Budget.

Eric D. Still,

Associate Chief Financial Officer, Financial Policy and Planning, Office of the Chief Financial Officer.

[FR Doc. 2026-21727 Filed 10-23-26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-14-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The Department of Agriculture has submitted the following information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. Comments are requested regarding: 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; the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and 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 and other forms of information technology.

Comments regarding this information collection received by November 25, 2026 will be considered. Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be submitted within 30 days of the publication of this notice on the following website www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain. Find this particular information collection by selecting “Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments” or by using the search function. An agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number and the agency informs potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information that such persons are not required to respond to the collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Forest Service

Title: Special Uses—SF-299 Application for Transportation, Utility Systems, Telecommunications and Facilities on Federal Lands and Property.

OMB Control Number: 0596-0249.

Summary of Collection: This information collection is used by the Forest Service to evaluate and ensure that authorized uses of National Forest System (NFS) lands are in the public interest and are compatible with the agency's mission. The information helps the agency identify environmental and social impacts of special uses for