

# 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 Under Secretary, Research, Education, and Economics; Notice of the Advisory Committee on Biotechnology and 21st Century Agriculture Meeting

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

**ACTION:** Notice of meetings.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. 2, the United States Department of Agriculture announces two meetings of the Advisory Committee on Biotechnology and 21st Century Agriculture (AC21).

**DATES:** The meeting dates are November 14, 2011, from 11 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. and November 15, 2011, from 10:30 a.m. until 12 noon.

**ADDRESSES:** The meetings will be conducted in Webinar format entirely by telephone and Internet.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Michael Schechtman, Designated Federal Official, Office of the Deputy Secretary, USDA, 202B Jamie L. Whitten Federal Building, 12th and Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250; *Telephone* (202) 720-3817; *Fax* (202) 690-4265; *Email* AC21@ars.usda.gov.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The AC21 provides information and advice to the Secretary of Agriculture on topics related to the use of biotechnology in agriculture. Background information regarding the work and membership of the AC21 is available on the USDA Web site at <http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentid=AC21Main.xml&contentidonly=true>.

The immediate work of the AC21 is to address the following two questions: (1) What types of compensation mechanisms, if any, would be appropriate to address economic losses by farmers in which the value of their

crops is reduced by the unintended presence of GE material(s)? and (2) What would be necessary to implement such mechanisms? That is, what would be the eligibility standard for a loss and what tools and triggers (e.g., tolerances, testing protocols, etc.) would be needed to verify and measure such losses and determine if claims are compensable?

The purpose of the two meetings is to provide background information in a Webinar format to AC21 members on existing USDA programs that may serve as examples to help in the development of potential compensation mechanisms for the committee to consider, should it deem compensation mechanisms appropriate to recommend. During the November 14, 2011, conference call, AC21 members will be briefed on, and have the opportunity to discuss, background information on USDA's crop insurance programs under the Risk Management Agency. During the November 15, 2011, conference call members will be briefed on, and have the opportunity to discuss, background information on the indemnification programs for perishable agricultural commodities under the Agricultural Marketing Service and for diseased livestock under the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

Members of the public who wish to listen in to the November 14, 2011, meeting may view the presentations and listen to audio at <https://cc.readytalk.com/r/2bcp67fidhgq> or to dial in at Area Code (800) 705-8289. Members of the public who wish to listen in to the November 15, 2011, meeting may view the presentations and listen to audio at <https://cc.readytalk.com/r/jq96hzop0sp4> or dial in at Area Code (800) 698-5986. There will be an opportunity for the public to comment on this background material at the next in-person meeting of the AC21, which will be scheduled later. This notice of meeting agendas is given pursuant to section 10 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App. 2 10).

Dated: October 26, 2011.

**Yeshimebet Abebe,**

*Chief of Staff.*

[FR Doc. 2011-28469 Filed 11-2-11; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-03-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### National Institute of Food and Agriculture

**RIN 0524-AA43**

### Solicitation of Input From Stakeholders Regarding the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)

**AGENCY:** National Institute of Food and Agriculture, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of request for stakeholder input.

**SUMMARY:** The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) is soliciting stakeholder input on the administration of the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP) authorized under section 1415A of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3151a). The purpose of this program is for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to enter into agreements with veterinarians under which the veterinarians agree to provide, for a specific period of time as identified in the agreement, veterinary services in veterinarian shortage situations. As part of the stakeholder input process, NIFA is inviting comments regarding the current procedures and processes in place for the VMLRP. Input collected will be used to modify and improve processes for subsequent calls of shortage situation nominations and request for applications.

**DATES:** Written comments are invited from interested individuals and organizations. All comments must be received by close of business on December 5, 2011, to be considered.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments, identified by NIFA-2012-0001, by any of the following methods:

*Federal eRulemaking Portal:* <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

*Email:* [vmrlrp@nifa.usda.gov](mailto:vmrlrp@nifa.usda.gov). Include NIFA-2012-0001 in the subject line of the message.

*Fax:* (202) 720-6486.

*Mail:* Paper, disk or CD-ROM submissions should be submitted to VMLRP, Policy and Oversight Division, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture; STOP 2299, 1400

Independence Avenue SW.,  
Washington, DC 20250-2299.

*Hand Delivery/Courier:* VMLRP;  
Policy and Oversight Division, National  
Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S.  
Department of Agriculture, Room 2308,  
Waterfront Centre, 800 9th Street SW.,  
Washington, DC 20024.

*Instructions:* All submissions received  
must include the agency name and  
NIFA-2012-0001. All comments  
received will be posted without change  
to <http://www.regulations.gov>, including  
any personal information provided.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Matthew Lockhart, Senior Policy  
Specialist; National Institute of Food  
and Agriculture; U.S. Department of  
Agriculture; STOP 2299; 1400  
Independence Avenue SW.,  
Washington, DC 20250-2299; *Voice:*  
(202) 570-7410; *Email:*  
[mlockhart@nifa.usda.gov](mailto:mlockhart@nifa.usda.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Background and Purpose**

The VMLRP helps qualified  
veterinarians offset a significant portion  
of the debt incurred in pursuit of their  
veterinary medicine degrees in return  
for their service in certain high-priority  
veterinary shortage situations. NIFA  
will enter into educational loan  
repayment agreements with  
veterinarians who agree to provide  
veterinary services in veterinarian  
shortage situations for a determined  
period of time. NIFA may repay up to  
\$25,000 of a veterinarian's student loan  
debt per year if the veterinarian  
commits to at least three years to  
provide veterinary services in a  
designated veterinary shortage area.  
Loan repayment benefits are limited to  
payments of the principal and interest  
on government and commercial loans  
received for the attendance at an  
accredited college of veterinary  
medicine that result in a degree of  
Doctor of Veterinary Medicine or the  
equivalent.

In December 2003, the National  
Veterinary Medical Service Act  
(NVMSA) was passed into law adding  
section 1415A to the National  
Agricultural Research, Extension, and  
Teaching Policy Act of 1977  
(NARETPA). This law established a new  
Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment  
Program (7 U.S.C. 3151a) authorizing  
the Secretary of Agriculture (secretary)  
to carry out a program of entering into  
agreements with veterinarians under  
which they agree to provide veterinary  
services in veterinarian shortage  
situations. In November 2005, the  
Agriculture, Rural Development, Food  
and Drug Administration, and Related

Agencies Appropriations Act, 2006  
(Pub. L. 109-97), appropriated \$495,000  
to implement the VMLRP and  
represented the first time funds had  
been appropriated for this program. In  
February 2007, the Revised Continuing  
Appropriations Resolution, 2007 (Pub.  
L. 110-5), appropriated an additional  
\$495,000 for support of the program,  
and in December 2007, the Consolidated  
Appropriations Act, 2008 (Pub. L. 110-  
161), appropriated an additional  
\$868,875 for support of this program,  
and in March 2009, the Omnibus  
Appropriations Act, 2009 (Pub. L. 111-  
8) was enacted, providing an additional  
\$2,950,000, for the VMLRP, and in  
October 2009, the Agriculture, Rural  
Development, Food and Drug  
Administration, and Related Agencies  
Appropriations Act of 2010 (Pub. L.  
111-80) appropriated another  
\$4,800,000 for the VMLRP. On April 15,  
2011, the President signed into law,  
Pub. L. 112-10, Department of Defense  
and Full-Year Continuing  
Appropriations Act, 2011, which after a  
.2% rescission, appropriated an  
additional \$4,790,400 for the VMLRP.

On October 1, 2009, CSREES became  
the NIFA as mandated by the Food,  
Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008,  
section 7511(f). Accordingly, the  
authority to administer the VMLRP  
transferred from CSREES to NIFA.

In FY 2010, VMLRP announced its  
first funding opportunity and received  
260 applications from which NIFA  
issued 53 VMLRP awards totaling  
\$5,186,000. In FY 2011, VMLRP opened  
its second funding opportunity and  
received 159 applications from which  
NIFA has made 80 VMLRP award offers  
totaling \$7,708,000. Each award offer is  
contingent upon submission of a signed  
contract, thereby executing the service  
agreement between the veterinarian and  
NIFA. Funding for future years is based  
on annual appropriations and balances,  
if any, remaining from prior years.

Section 7105 of the FCEA amended  
section 1415A to revise the  
determination of veterinarian shortage  
situations to consider (1) Geographical  
areas that the Secretary determines have  
a shortage of veterinarians; and (2) areas  
of veterinary practice that the Secretary  
determines have a shortage of  
veterinarians, such as food animal  
medicine, public health, epidemiology,  
and food safety. This section also added  
that priority should be given to  
agreements with veterinarians for the  
practice of food animal medicine in  
veterinarian shortage situations.

NARETPA section 1415A requires the  
Secretary, when determining the  
amount of repayment for a year of  
service by a veterinarian, to consider the

ability of USDA to maximize the  
number of agreements from the amounts  
appropriated and to provide an  
incentive to serve in veterinary service  
shortage areas with the greatest need.  
This section also provides that loan  
repayments may consist of payments of  
the principal and interest on  
government and commercial loans  
received by the individual for the  
attendance of the individual at an  
accredited college of veterinary  
medicine resulting in a degree of Doctor  
of Veterinary Medicine or the  
equivalent. This program is not  
authorized to provide repayments for  
any government or commercial loans  
incurred during the pursuit of another  
degree, such as an associate or bachelor  
degree. Loans eligible for repayment  
include educational loans made for one  
or more of the following: Loans for  
tuition expenses; other reasonable  
educational expenses, including fees,  
books, and laboratory expenses,  
incurred by the individual; and  
reasonable living expenses as  
determined by the Secretary. In  
addition, the Secretary is directed to  
make such additional payments to  
participants as the Secretary determines  
appropriate for the purpose of providing  
reimbursements to participants for  
individual tax liability resulting from  
participation in this program. The  
Secretary delegated the authority to  
carry out this program to NIFA.

NIFA is inviting stakeholder  
comments to use in improving the  
administration of the VMLRP. Written  
comments and suggestions on issues  
may be submitted to the NIFA Docket  
Clerk at the address above.

Done in Washington, DC, this 27th day of  
October 2011.

**Chavonda Jacobs-Young,**

*Acting Director, National Institute of Food  
and Agriculture.*

[FR Doc. 2011-28508 Filed 11-2-11; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-22-P**

## ARCHITECTURAL AND TRANSPORTATION BARRIERS COMPLIANCE BOARD

### Meetings

**AGENCY:** Architectural and  
Transportation Barriers Compliance  
Board.

**ACTION:** Notice of meetings.

**SUMMARY:** The Architectural and  
Transportation Barriers Compliance  
Board (Access Board) plans to hold its  
regular Board meeting in Washington,  
DC, Wednesday, November 9, 2011,  
from 1:30-3 p.m.