

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

Agricultural Research Service

Solicitation of Nominations, Advisory Committee on Biotechnology and 21st Century Agriculture

AGENCY: Agricultural Research Service, Office of the Under Secretary, Research, Education, and Economics, USDA.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. App., the Agricultural Research Service is requesting nominations for qualified persons to serve as members of the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Biotechnology and 21st Century Agriculture (AC21). The charge for the AC21 is two-fold: to examine the long-term impacts of biotechnology on the U.S. food and agriculture system and USDA; and to provide guidance to USDA on pressing individual issues, identified by the Office of the Secretary, related to the application of biotechnology in agriculture.

DATES: Written nominations must be received by fax or postmarked on or before December 11, 2006.

ADDRESSES: All nomination materials should be sent to Michael Schechtman, Designated Federal Official, Office of the Deputy Secretary, USDA, 202B Jamie L. Whitten Federal Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael Schechtman, Telephone (202) 720-3817.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: AC21 members serve terms of up to 2 years, with terms for around half of the Committee members expiring in any given year. Nominations are being sought for open Committee seats. The terms of 12 members of the AC21 will expire in early 2006. The AC21 Charter allows for flexibility to appoint up to a total of 17 members. Members can be reappointed to serve up to 6 consecutive years. Equal opportunity practices, in

line with USDA policies, will be followed in all membership appointments to the Committee. To ensure that recommendations of the Committee take into account the needs of the diverse groups served by the Department, membership shall include, to the extent practicable, individuals with demonstrated ability to represent minorities, women, and persons with disabilities.

Nominees of the AC21 should have recognized expertise in one or more of the following areas: recombinant-DNA (rDNA) research and applications using plants; rDNA research and applications using animals; rDNA research and applications using microbes; food science; silviculture and related forest science; fisheries science; ecology; veterinary medicine; the broad range of farming or agricultural practices; weed science; plant pathology; biodiversity; applicable laws and regulations relevant to agricultural biotechnology policy; risk assessment; consumer advocacy and public attitudes; public health/epidemiology; ethics, including bioethics; human medicine; biotechnology industry activities and structure; intellectual property rights systems; and international trade. Members will be selected by the Secretary of Agriculture in order to achieve a balanced representation of viewpoints to address effectively USDA biotechnology policy issues under consideration. Over the next two years, it is expected that the AC21 will complete work on a project related to biotechnology coexistence issues, begin work related to transgenic animal technologies, and, if time permits, begin work on additional topics under the Committee's charge.

Nominations for AC21 membership must be in writing and provide the appropriate background documents required by USDA policy, including background disclosure form AD-755. All nomination materials should be sent to Michael Schechtman at the address listed in the **ADDRESSES** section. Forms may also be submitted by fax to (202) 690-4265. To obtain form AD-755 ONLY, please contact Debra Lindsay, Office of Pest Management Policy, telephone (202) 720-4074, fax (202) 720-3191; e-mail Debra.lindsay@ars.usda.gov.

The AC21 meets in Washington, DC, up to four (4) times per year. The

function of the AC21 is solely advisory. Members of the AC21 and its subcommittees serve without pay, but with reimbursement of travel expenses and per diem for attendance at AC21 and subcommittee functions for those AC21 members who require assistance in order to attend the meetings. While away from home or their regular place of business, those members will be eligible for travel expenses paid by the Office of the Under Secretary, Research, Education, and Economics, USDA, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at the same rate as a person employed intermittently in the government service is allowed under Section 5703 of Title 5, United States Code.

Submitting Nominations: Nominations should be typed and include the following:

1. A brief summary of no more than two (2) pages explaining the nominee's suitability to serve on the AC21.
 2. A résumé or curriculum vitae.
 3. A completed copy of form AD-755.
- All nominations must be postmarked no later than December 11, 2006.

Dated: November 2, 2006.

Jeremy Stump,

Senior Advisor for International and Homeland Security Affairs and Biotechnology.

[FR Doc. E6-19029 Filed 11-8-06; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Research Service

Notice of the Advisory Committee on Biotechnology and 21st Century Agriculture Meeting

AGENCY: Agricultural Research Service, Office of the Under Secretary, Research, Education, and Economics, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Meeting.

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

DATES: The meeting dates are December 14, 2006, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and December 15, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

ADDRESSES: Room 107A, USDA Jamie L. Whitten Building, 12th Street and

Jefferson Drive, SW, Washington, DC 20250.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael Schechtman, Telephone (202) 720-3817.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The fourteenth meeting of the AC21 has been scheduled for December 14–15, 2006. The AC21 consists of 19 members representing the biotechnology industry, international plant genetics research, farmers, food manufacturers, commodity processors and shippers, environmental and consumer groups, and academic researchers. In addition, representatives from the Departments of Commerce, Health and Human Services, and State, and the Environmental Protection Agency, the Council on Environmental Quality, the Office of the United States Trade Representative, and the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture serve as “ex officio” members. At this meeting, the Committee plans to continue work on the effects (in terms of planting decisions, markets, and rural communities) of coexistence issues on the development and use of new crops derived through modern biotechnology. This will include consideration of presentations from external speakers as well as development of a statement of work and a work plan to address current and future relevant factors. Background information regarding the work of the AC21 will be available on the USDA Web site at http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/lut/p/s.7.0_A/7_0_1OB?navid=BIOTECH&parentnav=AGRICULTURE&navtype=RT.

Members of the public should enter the building through the Jefferson Drive entrance. Requests to make oral presentations at the meeting may be sent to Michael Schechtman, Designated Federal Official, Office of the Deputy Secretary, USDA, 202 B Jamie L. Whitten Federal Building, 12th Street and Jefferson Drive, SW., Washington, DC 20250, Telephone (202) 720-3817; Fax (202) 690-4265; E-mail Michael.schechtman@ars.usda.gov. On December 14, 2006, if time permits, reasonable provision will be made for oral presentations of no more than five minutes each in duration. Written requests to make oral presentations at the meeting must be received by the contact person identified herein at least three business days before the meeting. The meeting will be open to the public, but space is limited. If you would like to attend the meetings, you must register by contacting Ms. Debra Lindsay at (202) 720-4074, by fax at (202) 720-3191 or by E-mail at

debra.lindsay@ars.usda.gov at least five business days prior to the meeting. Please provide your name, title, business affiliation, address, and telephone and fax numbers when you register. If you require a sign language interpreter or other special accommodation due to disability, please indicate those needs at the time of registration.

Dated: November 2, 2006.

Jeremy Stump,

Senior Advisor for International and Homeland Security Affairs and Biotechnology.

[FR Doc. E6-19028 Filed 11-8-06; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS-2006-0055]

Notice of Request for Approval of an Information Collection; Animal Care; Educational and Outreach Efforts

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: New information collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's intention to initiate a new information collection activity associated with the Agency's Animal Care program. The activity involves surveying customers to determine the effectiveness of Animal Care's educational and outreach efforts.

DATES: We will consider all comments that we receive on or before January 8, 2007.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by either of the following methods:

- Federal eRulemaking Portal: Go to <http://regulations.gov>, select “Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service” from the agency drop-down menu, then click “Submit.” In the Docket ID column, select APHIS-2006-0055 to submit or view public comments and to view supporting and related materials available electronically. Information on using Regulations.gov, including instructions for accessing documents, submitting comments, and viewing the docket after the close of the comment period, is available through the site's “User Tips” link.

- Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery: Please send four copies of your comment (an original and three copies) to Docket No. APHIS-2006-0055,

Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3A-03.8, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238. Please state that your comment refers to Docket No. APHIS-2006-0055.

Reading Room: You may read any comments that we receive on this docket in our reading room. The reading room is located in room 1141 of the USDA South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC. Normal reading room hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. To be sure someone is there to help you, please call (202) 690-2817 before coming.

Other Information: Additional information about APHIS and its programs is available on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information on an information collection associated with effectiveness of Animal Care's educational and outreach efforts, contact Dr. Jodie Kulpa-Eddy, Senior Staff Veterinarian, Animal Care, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 84, Riverdale, MD 20737; (301) 734-7833. For copies of more detailed information on the information collection, contact Mrs. Celeste Sickles, APHIS' Information Collection Coordinator, at (301) 734-7477.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Animal Care; Educational and Outreach Efforts.

OMB Number: 0579-XXXX.

Type of Request: Approval of a new information collection.

Abstract: The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Animal Care program, conducts inspections to administer and enforce the Animal Welfare Act and the Horse Protection Act and regulations issued under those Acts. Animal Care also conducts workshops, symposia, and meetings, and other activities to educate regulated entities and the public about these Acts and regulations.

Animal Care plans to survey participants in these activities to measure the effectiveness of its outreach and educational efforts. The surveys would be distributed to attendees following workshops, symposia, meetings, and other events, as well as attached to educational material provided to the public. Survey questions would seek to determine whether the information was helpful and how it might be improved.

Animal Care plans to use the information collected through these surveys to assess the effectiveness of its efforts and to plan improvements to activities.