

special program within TAP for certain fire blight losses in Michigan. Fire blight is a destructive bacterial disease of trees caused by *Erwinia Amylovora* that attacks succulent tissues of blossoms, shoots, water sprouts and root suckers, and produces an infection that may extend into scaffold limbs, trunks or root systems, and may kill the tree. Section 3602 of the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2003 (Pub. L. 108-83) provides that the Secretary of Agriculture shall use \$9,700,000 of the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation, to remain available until expended, to provide assistance under TAP to compensate eligible orchardists for tree losses incurred since January 1, 2000, due to fire blight in the State of Michigan. Assistance will be subject to regulations and restrictions governing the new TAP provided in the 2002 Act. Those regulations were published March 2, 2004 (69 FR 69 FR 9744) and are found at 7 CFR part 783. Also, the restrictions of the statute apply. Those include a requirement of replanting, a limitation on payments by "person", a limitation on acres for which relief can be claimed, a requirement that the loss be tied to a natural disaster, and others. If after the claims filed during the allowed period set out in this notice are received, the available funds are less than the eligible claims a proration will be made. Claims are limited to 75 per cent of the cost of replanting on eligible acres and are subject to claims per person of \$75,000 and a limit on a claim to costs on no more than 500 acres. If monies are, by contract, left over, additional sign ups or claims may be entertained as announced by the Deputy Administrator for Farm Programs of the FSA on behalf of FSA and CCC. The Deputy Administrator may waive or amend deadlines to the extent not prohibited by the statute. Statutory TAP provisions dealing with the availability of seedlings do not apply here because no seedlings are available and the fire blight provisions specifically call for the use of CCC funds. All claims are subject to the availability of funds.

Applications

Applications will be accepted until March 25, 2004, or such other date as announced by the Deputy Administrator for Farm Programs of FSA.

Application forms are available for TAP at FSA county offices or on the Internet at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>. A complete application for TAP benefits and related supporting documentation must be submitted to the county office before the deadline.

A complete application will include all of the following:

- (1) A form provided by FSA;
- (2) A written estimate of the number of trees, bushes or vines lost or damaged which is prepared by the owner or someone who is a qualified expert, as determined by the FSA county committee;
- (3) The number of acres on which the loss was suffered;
- (4) Sufficient evidence of the loss to allow the county committee to calculate whether an eligible loss occurred; and
- (5) Other information as requested or required by regulation.

Signed at Washington, DC March 2, 2004.

James R. Little,

Administrator, Farm Service Agency.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Farm Service Agency

Public Meetings of Advisory Committee on Beginning Farmers and Ranchers

AGENCY: Farm Service Agency, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. II, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) is issuing this notice to advise the public that meetings of the Advisory Committee on Beginning Farmers and Ranchers (Committee) will be held to discuss various beginning farmer issues.

DATES: The public meetings will be held March 24-25, 2004. The first meeting, on March 24, 2004, will start at 8:30 a.m., Eastern Standard Time (EST) and end at 5:30 p.m. EST. The second meeting, on March 25, 2004, will begin at 8 a.m. EST and end by 4 p.m. EST.

ADDRESSES: All meetings will be held at the Grand Hyatt Hotel, 1000 H Street, Washington, DC, telephone (202) 582-1234. Written requests to make oral presentations must be sent to: Mark Falcone, Designated Federal Official for the Advisory Committee on Beginning Farmers and Ranchers, Farm Service Agency, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, STOP 0522, Washington, DC 20250-0522; telephone (202) 720-1632; FAX (202) 690-1117; e-mail: mark.falcone@usda.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mark Falcone at (202) 720-1632.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 5 of the Agricultural Credit Improvement Act of 1992 (Pub. L. 102-554) required

the Secretary of Agriculture (the Secretary) to establish the Committee for the purpose of advising the Secretary on the following:

(1) The development of a program of coordinated financial assistance to qualified beginning farmers and ranchers required by section 309(i) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1929). Under the program, Federal and State beginning farmer programs provide financial assistance to beginning farmers and ranchers;

(2) Methods of maximizing the number of new farming and ranching opportunities created through the program;

(3) Methods of encouraging States to participate in the program;

(4) The administration of the program; and

(5) Other methods of creating new farming or ranching opportunities.

The Committee meets at least once a year and all meetings are open to the public. The duration of the Committee is indefinite. Earlier meetings of the Committee, beginning in 1999, provided an opportunity for members to exchange ideas on ways to increase opportunities for beginning farmers and ranchers. Members discussed various issues and drafted numerous recommendations, which were provided to the Secretary.

Agenda items for the March, 2004 meetings include:

(1) The Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program, which was authorized by the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Pub. L. 107-171) (2002 Farm Bill), but has not been funded, and the Extension Risk Management Education Program (both programs under the jurisdiction of USDA's Cooperative, State, Research, Education and Extension Service);

(2) Risk Management Education and Outreach Programs, along with crop insurance issues concerning participating insurance companies (under the jurisdiction of USDA's Risk Management Agency);

(3) Various beginning farmer and rancher conservation issues authorized by the 2002 Farm Bill (under the jurisdiction of USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service);

(4) FSA's beginning farmer programs, borrower training program, and streamlining of forms and regulations; and

(5) The Kellogg Foundation's involvement in providing assistance to new immigrant and refugee farmers.

Attendance is open to all interested persons but limited to space available. Anyone wishing to make an oral statement should submit a request in

writing (letter, fax, or e-mail) to Mark Falcone at the above address. Statements should be received no later than March 19, 2004. Requests should include the name and affiliation of the individual who will make the presentation and an outline of the issues to be addressed. The floor will be open to oral presentations beginning at 1:15 p.m. EST on March 24, 2004. Comments will be limited to 5 minutes, and presenters will be approved on a first-come, first-served basis.

Persons with disabilities who require special accommodations to attend or participate in the meetings should contact Mark Falcone by March 19, 2004.

Signed in Washington, DC, on March 2, 2004.

James R. Little,

Administrator, Farm Service Agency.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Newspapers Used for Publication of Legal Notice for Predecisional Administrative Review Process for Hazardous Fuel Reduction Projects Authorized by the Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003 in the Pacific Northwest Region: Oregon and Washington

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice lists the newspapers that will be used by all Ranger Districts, Scenic Areas, Grasslands, Forests, and the Regional Office of the Pacific Northwest Region for giving legal notice for the opportunity to object to a proposed authorized hazardous fuel reduction project under 36 CFR 218. The intended effect of this action is to inform interested members of the public which newspapers will be used to publish legal notices for proposed authorized hazardous fuel reduction projects; thereby notifying the public of objection opportunities, providing clear evidence of timely notice, and achieving consistency in administering the predecisional objection process. Note: The newspapers listed are the same newspapers used for publication of legal notice for public comment under the provision of 36 CFR 215, and appeal of decisions under 36 CFR 215 and 36 CFR 217.

DATES: Publication of legal notices in the listed newspapers will begin with

legal notices published on or after March 11, 2004. The list of newspapers will remain in effect until another notice is published in the **Federal Register**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jill A. Dufour, Regional Environmental Coordinator, Pacific Northwest Region, 333 SW. First Avenue, (P.O. Box 3623), Portland, Oregon 97208, phone: 503-808-2276.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Responsible Officials in the Pacific Northwest Region will give legal notice of the objection process for proposed authorized hazardous fuels reduction projects in the following newspapers, which are listed by Forest Service administrative units. Where more than one newspaper is listed for any unit, the first newspaper listed is the principle newspaper. The principle newspaper shall be used to constitute legal evidence that the agency has given timely and constructive notice for the predecisional administrative review under 36 CFR 218. The timeframe for appeal shall be based on the date of publication of a notice of decision in the principle newspaper.

Pacific Northwest Regional Office

Regional Forester decisions on Oregon National Forests: *The Oregonian*, Portland, Oregon.

Regional Forester decisions on Washington National Forests: *The Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, Seattle, Washington.

Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Manager decisions: *The Oregonian*, Portland, Oregon.

Oregon National Forests

Deschutes National Forest

Forest Supervisor decisions
Bend/Fort Rock District Ranger decisions

Crescent District Ranger decisions
Redmond Air Center Manager decisions

The Bulletin, Bend, Oregon
Sisters District Ranger decisions—*Sisters Nugget*, Sisters, Oregon

Fremont-Winema National Forests

Forest Supervisor decisions
Bly District Ranger decisions
Lakeview District Ranger decisions
Paisley District Ranger decisions
Silver Lake District Ranger decisions
Chemult District Ranger decisions
Chiloquin District Ranger decisions
Klamath District Ranger decisions
Herald and News, Klamath Falls, Oregon

Malheur National Forest

Forest Supervisor decisions

Blue Mountain District Ranger decisions
Prairie City District Ranger decisions
Blue Mountain Eagle, John Day, Oregon

Emigrant Creek District Ranger decisions
Burn Times Herald, Burns, Oregon

Mt. Hood National Forest

Forest Supervisor decisions
Clackamas River District Ranger decisions

Zigzag District Ranger decisions
Hood River District Ranger decisions
Barlow District Ranger decisions
The Oregonian, Portland, Oregon

Ochoco National Forest

Forest Supervisor decisions—*The Bulletin*, Bend, Oregon

Newspapers, which may provide additional notice of Forest Supervisor decisions:
Central Oregonian, Prineville, Oregon
Madras Pioneer, Madras, Oregon
Blue Mountain Eagle, John Day, Oregon

The Times-Journal, Condon, Oregon
Crooked River National Grassland Area Manager decisions—*The Bulletin*, Bend, Oregon

Newspaper, which may provide additional notice of Area Manager decisions:

Madras Pioneer, Madras, Oregon
Lookout Mountain District Ranger decisions—*The Bulletin*, Bend, Oregon

Newspaper, which may provide additional notice of District Ranger decisions:

Central Oregonian, Prineville, Oregon
Paulina District Ranger decisions—*The Bulletin*, Bend, Oregon

Newspapers, which may provide additional notice of District Ranger decisions:

Blue Mountain Eagle, John Day, Oregon
The Times-Journal, Condon, Oregon

Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forests

Forest Supervisor (Rogue River) decisions—*Mail Tribune*, Medford, Oregon

Forest Supervisor (Siskiyou) decisions—*Grants Pass Courier*, Grants Pass
Applegate District Ranger decisions
Ashland District Ranger decisions
Butte Falls District Ranger decisions
J. Herbert Stone Nursery Managers decisions

Prospect District Ranger decisions
Mail Tribune, Medford, Oregon
Chetco-Gold Beach District Ranger decisions—*Curry Coastal Pilot*, Brookings, Oregon

Galice-Illinois Valley District Ranger decisions—*Grants Pass Courier*, Grants Pass, Oregon