

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

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Joint Institute for Food Safety Research; Public Meeting

AGENCIES: United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

ACTION: Notice; public meeting; establishment of public docket.

SUMMARY: On July 8, 1998, President Clinton directed the Secretaries of Agriculture and Health and Human Services to develop a plan to create the Joint Institute for Food Safety Research (JIFSR). On July 3, 1999, following extensive public consultations, DHHS and USDA submitted the requested plan to the President. The report can be obtained at <http://www.FoodSafety.gov/>.

USDA and DHHS are now soliciting public comments on food research needs via a public meeting. The purposes of the meeting are to listen to the overall food safety research priorities and agenda from the JIFSR Policy and Budget Committee members and have an opportunity to ask questions and/or make comments on their views on priorities and important priorities for food safety research.

The meeting is open to the public. Written comments and suggestions on issues that may be considered in the meeting may be submitted to the CSREES Docket Clerk at the address below.

DATES: The meeting will be held on December 1, 2000, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held in Room 107A, Jamie L. Whitten Building, United States Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-0110.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Maureen Wood, (202) 720-5887 or by e-mail to maureen.wood@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Persons wishing to present comments orally at this meeting are requested to pre-register by contacting Ms. Maureen Wood at (202) 720-5887, by fax at (202) 690-2842, or by e-mail to maureen.wood@usda.gov. Participants may reserve a 5-minute comment period when they register. More time may be available, depending on the number of people wishing to make a presentation and the time needed for questions following the presentations. Reservations will be confirmed on a first-come, first-serve basis. All other attendees may register at the meeting. Written comments may also be submitted for the record at the meeting or may be mailed to Ms. Maureen Wood, USDA/REE, Room 217W, Jamie L. Whitten Federal Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-0110. Please provide five copies of the comments. Written comments must be postmarked by December 18, 2000 to be considered. All comments and the official transcript of the meeting when it becomes available, will be available for review for six months at the address listed above from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Participants who require a sign language interpreter or other special accommodations should contact Ms. Wood by Friday, November 24, 2000 as directed above.

Done in Washington, DC, on this 13th day of November, 2000.

Eileen Kennedy,

Deputy Under Secretary, Research, Education, and Economics Department of Agriculture.

William Raub,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Science Policy, Department of Health and Human Services.

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BILLING CODE 3410-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Maximum Portion of Guarantee Authority Available for Fiscal Year 2001

AGENCY: Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: As set forth in 7 CFR part 4279, subpart B, each fiscal year the Agency shall establish a limit on the maximum portion of guarantee authority available for that fiscal year that may be used to guarantee loans with a guarantee fee of 1 percent or guaranteed loans with a guarantee percentage exceeding 80 percent.

Allowing the guarantee fee to be reduced to 1 percent or exceeding the 80 percent guarantee on certain guaranteed loans that meet the conditions set forth in 7 CFR 4279.107 and 4279.119 will increase the Agency's ability to focus guarantee assistance on projects which the Agency has found particularly meritorious, such as projects in rural communities that remain persistently poor, experience long-term population decline and job deterioration, are experiencing trauma as a result of natural disaster or are experiencing fundamental structural changes in the economic base.

Not more than 12 percent of the Agency quarterly apportioned guarantee authority will be reserved for loan requests with a guarantee fee of 1 percent, and not more than 15 percent of the Agency quarterly apportioned guarantee authority will be reserved for guaranteed loan requests with a guaranteed percentage exceeding 80 percent. Once the above quarterly limits have been reached, all additional loans guaranteed during the remainder of that quarter will require a 2 percent guarantee fee and not exceed an 80 percent guarantee limit. As an exception to this paragraph and for the purposes of this notice, loans developed by the North American Development Bank (NADBANK) Community Adjustment and Investment Program (CAIP) will not count against the 15 percent limit. CAIP loans are subject to a 50 percent limit of the overall CAIP loan program.

Written requests by the Rural Development State Office for approval of a guaranteed loan with a 1 percent