

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

Notice of Solicitation for Membership to the Forestry Research Advisory Council

AGENCY: Research, Education, and Economics, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of solicitation for membership to the Forestry Research Advisory Council.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App 2, the United States Department of Agriculture announces solicitation for nominations to fill eight vacancies on the Forestry Research Advisory Council.

DATES: Nominations must be received on or before February 15, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service; U.S. Department of Agriculture; Office of the Forestry Research Advisory Council; Mail Stop 2210; 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-2210. Nominations delivered by express mail or overnight courier service should be sent to: Office of the Forestry Research Advisory Council; Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service; U.S. Department of Agriculture; Room 3213, Waterfront Centre; 800 9th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20024.

FOR FUTURE INFORMATION CONTACT: Catalino A. Blanche, Designated Federal Officer, Forestry Research Advisory Council; telephone: (202) 401-4190; fax: (202) 401-1706; e-mail: cblanche@reeusda.gov, or Dr. Hao Tran, Staff Assistant, Research and Development, Forest Service; telephone: (202) 205-1293; fax: (202) 205-1530; e-mail: htran@fs.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 1441 (c) of the Agriculture and Food Act of 1981 requires the establishment of the Forestry Research Advisory Council to

provide advice to the Secretary of Agriculture on accomplishing efficiently the purposes of the Act of October 10, 1962 (16 U.S.C. 582a, *et seq.*), known as the McIntire-Stennis Act of 1962. The Council also provides advice related to the Forest Service research program, authorized by the Forest and Rangeland Resources Research Act of 1978 (Pub. L. 95-307, 92 Stat. 353, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1600 (note)). The Council is composed of 20 voting members from the following membership categories:

- Federal and State agencies concerned with developing and utilizing the Nation's forest resources, in particular committee membership, will include representation from the National Forest System and Forest and Range Experiment Stations leaders, Forest Service;
- The forest industries;
- The forestry schools of the State certified eligible institutions, and State agricultural experiment stations; and
- Volunteer public groups concerned with forests and related natural resources.

Nomination of members representing the forestry schools will be sent to the Secretary by State-certified eligible forestry schools. This notice does not seek nominations representing those institutions.

The Council membership is appointed with staggered terms of one, two, and three years. As a result of the staggered appointments, the terms of six members expire December 31, 2002. Nominations for a three-year appointment for the six positions and two unfilled positions last year are sought. Nominees will be carefully reviewed for their broad expertise, leadership, and relevancy to a membership category. Nominations for one individual who fits several of the categories, or for more than one person who fits one category will be accepted.

Each nominee must submit and complete a current resume and Form AD-755, Advisory Committee Membership Background Information (which can be obtained from the contact person) and will be vetted before selection. Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit nominations via overnight mail or delivery service to ensure timely receipt by the USDA.

Please indicate the specific membership category for each nominee.

Done at Washington, DC this 24th day of December 2002.

Joseph J. Jen,

Under Secretary, Research, Education, and Economics.

[FR Doc. 03-211 Filed 1-3-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-U

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Office of the Under Secretary

Notice of Appointment of Members to the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board

AGENCY: Research, Education, and Economics, USDA.

ACTION: Appointment of members.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App., the United States Department of Agriculture announces the appointments to the 11 vacancies on the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board.

DATES: Appointments are for a three-year term, effective October 1, 2002, until September 30, 2005, with the exception of one one-year appointment resulting from a member resignation after serving two years.

ADDRESSES: National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board; Research, Education, and Economics Advisory Board Office, Room 344A, Jamie L. Whitten Building; U.S. Department of Agriculture, STOP 2255; 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-2255.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Deborah Hanfman, Executive Director, telephone: (202) 720-3684; fax: (202) 720-6199; e-mail: dhanfman@reeusda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 802 of the Federal Agricultural Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 authorized the creation of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board. The Board is composed of 30 members, each representing a specific category related to agriculture. The Board was first appointed in September 1996 and at that time one-third of the original 30 members were appointed for

a one, two, and three-year term, respectively. Due to the staggered appointments, the terms for 11 of the 30 members who represent 11 specific categories expired September 30, 2002. The Secretary of Agriculture has made appointments for all 11 of the vacant categories. Appointees by category of the 10 new members and one re-appointment are as follows:

Representing Category B. "Farm Cooperatives," David Graves, President of the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives, Washington, DC; Category D. "Plant Commodity Producers," Tonya Antle, Vice President, Natural Selection Foods, San Juan Bautista, California; Category G. "National Aquaculture Associations," Ronald W. Hardy, Director of the Hagerman Fish Culture Experiment Station, University of Idaho, Hagerman, Idaho; Category J. "National Food Science Organizations," Phillip E. Nelson, Head of the Department of Food Science at Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana; Category L. "National Nutritional Science Societies," John W. Suttie, Professor at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin; Category M. "1862 Land-Grant Colleges and Universities," Thomas Alvin Fretz, Dean and Director of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland; Category R. "Scientific Community Not Closely Associated with Agriculture," Ghassem Asrar, Associate Administrator for Earth Science at NASA, Washington, DC; Category U. "Food and Fiber Processors", Gilbert Leveille (one year term), Vice President of Technology and Food Systems Design at Cargill, Inc., and President of the Riley Memorial Foundation, Wayzata, Minnesota; Category AA. "An Agency of USDA Lacking Research Capabilities," Homer Wilkes (re-appointed), State Conservationist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Jackson, Mississippi; Category BB. "Research Agency of the Federal Government other than USDA," Clifford Gabriel, Deputy Associate Director for Science at the Executive Office of the President, White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, Washington, DC; and Category DD. "National Organization Directly Concerned with Research, Education, and Extension," Krishna Rao Dronamraju, President of the Foundation for Genetic Research, Houston, Texas.

Done at Washington, DC this 24th day of December 2002.

Joseph J. Jen,

Under Secretary, Research, Education, and Economics.

[FR Doc. 03-210 Filed 1-3-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 02-113-1]

Notice of Request for Extension of Approval of an Information Collection

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Extension of approval of an 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 request an extension of approval of an information collection in support of the Veterinary Accreditation Program.

DATES: We will consider all comments that we receive on or before March 7, 2003.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by postal mail/commercial delivery or by e-mail. If you use postal mail/commercial delivery, please send four copies of your comment (an original and three copies) to: Docket No. 02-113-1, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238. Please state that your comment refers to Docket No. 02-113-1. If you use e-mail, address your comment to regulations@aphis.usda.gov. Your comment must be contained in the body of your message; do not send attached files. Please include your name and address in your message and "Docket No. 02-113-1" on the subject line.

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.

APHIS documents published in the **Federal Register**, and related information, including the names of organizations and individuals who have commented on APHIS dockets, are

available on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppd/rad/webrepor.html>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information regarding the Veterinary Accreditation Program, contact Dr. Quita Bowman, National Veterinary Accreditation Program Coordinator, National Center for Animal Health Programs, VS, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 46, Riverdale, MD 20737-1231; (301) 734-6188. 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: Veterinary Accreditation Program.

OMB Number: 0579-0032.

Type of Request: Extension of approval of an information collection.

Abstract: The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture is responsible for, among other things, protecting the health of our Nation's livestock and poultry populations by preventing the spread of contagious, infectious, or communicable diseases of livestock and poultry and for eradicating such diseases from the United States when feasible.

However, because APHIS does not have sufficient personnel to perform all necessary animal disease prevention activities, we rely heavily on assistance from veterinarians in the private sector.

Veterinary Services (VS), APHIS, administers the Veterinary Accreditation Program that authorizes private veterinary practitioners to work cooperatively with VS, as well as with State animal health officials, to carry out regulatory programs that ensure the health of the Nation's livestock and poultry.

Operating this program requires us to engage in a number of information gathering activities, including:

- Conducting veterinary accreditation orientation and training.
- Completing animal health certificates.
- Applying and removing official seals.
- Completing test reports.
- Reviewing applications for veterinary accreditation and reaccreditation.
- Recordkeeping.
- Updating information on accredited veterinarians.

We are asking the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve our use of these information collection activities for an additional 3 years.