

December 2009 – January 2010

The Council Caller

Regulatory Issue

The Council on Food, Agricultural, and Resource Economics (C-FARE) is a non-profit organization dedicated to strengthening the application of economics to food, agricultural, and resource issues at the national level. *The Council Caller, Regulatory Issue* is a monthly e-newsletter provided by C-FARE with informational updates for agricultural and applied economists.

Consumer Concerns, Food, Health and Safety

For further information on any of the notices listed below please visit: <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html> where you can search using the date of the notice, page number or topic.

Nutrition Labeling of Ground or Chopped Meat and Poultry Products

The Food Safety and Inspection Service is issuing this supplemental proposed rule that, if finalized, will amend the Federal meat and poultry products inspection regulations to require nutrition labeling of the major cuts of single-ingredient, raw meat and poultry products. Comments are due before February 16, 2010. For details view the December 18, 2009 Federal Register (Volume 74, Number 242; pages 67735-67800).

The Emergency Food Assistance Program

The November 30, 2009 Federal Register (Volume 74, Number 228; pages 62473-62474) amends regulations for The Emergency Food Assistance Program by making State plans permanent, and by explicitly designating the processing of donated wild game as an allowable use of TEFAP administrative funds, which is intended to increase the amount and variety of protein-rich foods available to program participants. These changes are required by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008.

Agriculture's Global Competitiveness and Profitability

For further information on any of the notices listed below please visit: <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html> where you can search using the date of the notice, page number or topic.

Agricultural Management Assistance Program

The December 8, 2009 Federal Register (Volume 74, Number 234; pages 64591-64601) sets forth the policies and procedures implementing the Agricultural Management Assistance Program. The Natural Resources Conservation Service, on behalf of the Commodity Credit Corporation, published an interim final rule. This final rule may be accessed via the Internet at: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/farbill/2008/index.html>.

Common Crop Insurance Regulations, Basic Provisions

The Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC) finalizes the Common Crop Insurance Regulations, Basic Provisions to revise enterprise unit provisions to protect the program from potential abuse as a result of the increased premium subsidies for enterprise and whole farm units provided by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008. For more details visit the November 23, 2009 Federal Register (Volume 74, Number 224; pages 61013-61018).

WTO Settlement Regarding Certain Country of Origin Labeling Requirements

The Office of the United States Trade Representative is providing notice that on November 19, 2009, the World Trade Organization Dispute Settlement Body established a dispute settlement panel at the request of Canada and Mexico under the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization concerning certain mandatory country of origin labeling requirements. Those requests may be found at <http://www.wto.org>. USTR invites written comments from the public concerning the issues raised in these disputes. Comments should be submitted on or before January 8, 2010, to be assured of timely consideration by USTR.

Dairy Economic Loss Assistance Payment Program

The rule from the December 21, 2009 Federal Register (Volume 74, Number 243; pages 67805-67811) implements the new Dairy Economic Loss Assistance Payment program. The DELAP program will assist dairy producers by providing payments to producers who produced and marketed milk in the United States at some time from February through July 2009. The payments provided by the DELAP program are intended to offset a portion of the dairy producers' losses resulting from milk prices that were far below production costs.

Environmental and Natural Resource Issues

For further information on any of the notices listed below please visit: <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html> where you can search using the date of the notice, page number or topic.

Meetings of the United States-Chile Environment Affairs Council

The Department of State and the Office of the United States Trade Representative are providing notice that the United States and Chile intend to hold the fifth meeting of the Environment Affairs Council and the third meeting of the Joint Commission for Environmental Cooperation in Washington, DC, on January 20, 2010. For more details visit the December 3, 2009 Federal Register (Volume 74, Number 231; pages 63496-63497).

EDITORIAL COMMENTS

If you have any feedback for C-FARE or would like to inform us of a research area you have been working on, please contact Tamara Wagester, Executive Director at 202-408-8522 or by e-mail tamarawagester@cfare.org. If you are not currently getting our monthly e-newsletter directly from C-FARE, and would like to subscribe to "The Council Caller", please send an E-mail directly to CFAREinfo@aol.com.

C-FARE is a non-profit, non-partisan association actively working to represent agricultural and applied economists in matters of science policy, priority setting, and budget determination at the federal level, and to collaborate with other scientific organizations and government agencies in these activities.