

July-August, 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.

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.

Consumer Concerns, Food, Health and Safety

FDA Announces Reportable Food Registry Report

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is announcing the availability of a report entitled "A New Approach to Targeting Inspection Resources and Identifying Patterns of Adulteration: The Reportable Food Registry." The report presents FDA's experience with the Reportable Food Registry from the opening of the Reportable Food electronic portal on September 8, 2009, until March 31, 2010. For details visit the July 30, 2010 Federal Register (Volume 75, Number 146; pages 44973-44974).

NIFA Solicits Stakeholder Input on Improving Food Aid and Providing Safe Water

The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) requests input from the public regarding (1) the assessment of methods and tools used by non-governmental organizations and international agencies to measure, characterize and describe nutritional gaps among populations served by U.S. humanitarian food assistance programs, including recommendations on how to improve such programs in the field at the lowest possible cost, and (2) the assessment of the most cost-effective technologies for the purification and supply of safe water which could be implemented in the field to benefit highly vulnerable populations, including recommendations on the most cost-effective and commercially available systems that require priority research assistance. NIFA will consider comments received by September 3, 2010. For details visit the August 4, 2010 Federal Register (Volume 75, Number 149; page 46909-46910).

FDA Requests Comments on Upcoming Survey

The Food and Drug Administration requests public comments on "The Dairy Practitioner's Role in Residue Avoidance Survey." Deadline for comments is September 7, 2010. For details visit the July 9, 2010 Federal Register (Volume 75, Number 131; pages 39541-39543).

Agriculture's Global Competitiveness and Profitability

Dairy Product Price Support Program and Dairy Indemnity Payment Program

The Commodity Credit Corporation and Farm Service Agency issued a final rule specifying regulations for the Dairy Product Price Support Program (DPPSP), which has replaced the Price Support Program for Milk, and amends regulations for the Dairy Indemnity Payment Program (DIPP). For more information, view the July 16, 2010 Federal Register (Volume 75, Number 136; pages 41365-41368).

Request for Public Comments to Compile Trade Policy Reports

The Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC) is requesting comments to assist in identifying significant barriers to U.S. exports of goods, services, and U.S. foreign direct investment for inclusion in the annual National Trade Estimate Report on Foreign Trade Barriers. Comments on standards-related measures and sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures that create barriers to U.S. exports should be submitted separately from other NTE comments. Interested parties should submit comments no later than October 4, 2010. For details visit the August 6, 2010 Federal Register (Volume 75, Number 151; pages 47675-47676).

Funding, Fiscal Affairs, Loan Policies and Funding Operations; Proposed Rule

The Farm Credit Administration is considering the promulgation of Tier 1 and Tier 2 capital standards for Farm Credit System (FCS or System) institutions. The Tier 1/Tier 2 capital structure would be similar to the capital tiers delineated in the Basel Accord that the other Federal financial regulatory agencies have adopted for the banking organizations they regulate. FCA is seeking comments until November 5, 2010. For details visit the July 8, 2010 Federal Register (Volume 75, Number 130; pages 39391-39411).

GIPSA Proposed Rule for Packers and Stockyards Act

The USDA GIPSA is proposing new regulations that would describe and clarify conduct that violates the P&S Act and allow for more effective and efficient enforcement by GIPSA. Comments are due by November 22, 2010. For details visit the July 28, 2010 Federal Register (Volume 75, Number 144; page 44163).

Environmental and Natural Resource Issues

Changes in CRP Program Eligibility Requirements

The Commodity Credit Corporation announces an interim rule for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). The changes in this rule include adding alfalfa to the definition of agricultural commodity. Comments will be considered before September 27, 2010. For details visit the July 28, 2010 Federal Register (Volume 75, Number 144; pages 44067-44072).

Other

Administrative Guidance for Multistate Extension Activities and Integrated Research and Extension Activities

The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) is issuing a revised Administrative Guidance for Multistate Extension Activities and Integrated Research and Extension Activities as interim with a 60-day comment period. The Administrative Guidance has been revised to address the findings and recommendations of the USDA Office of Inspector General (OIG) Audit Report no. 13001-3-Te: "Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service's Implementation of the Agricultural Research, Extension and Education Reform Act of 1998 (AREERA)," and to clarify policies and procedures associated with these requirements. Section 105 of AREERA amended the Smith-Lever Act to require that a specified amount of agricultural extension formula funds be expended on multistate extension activities. Section 204 of AREERA amended the Hatch Act and Smith-Lever Act to require that a specified amount of agricultural research and extension formula funds be expended on integrated research and extension activities. The interim Administrative Guidance is effective August 12, 2010. The Agency must receive comments by October 12, 2010 for them to be considered in the final Administrative Guidance. For more details view the August 12, 2010 Federal Register (Volume 75, Number 155; pages 48921-48927).

NASS Collection of Data

The August 17, 2010 Federal Register (Volume 75, Number 158; pages 50743-50744) provided notice from USDA NASS that they submitted the following information collection to OMB for review and clearance. The items included, "Real Estate Title Clearance and Loan Closing--7 CFR 1927-B"and, "Direct Single Family Housing Loan and Grant Program, 7 CFR 3550, HB-1-3550, HB-2-3550." The August 17, 2010 Federal Register (Volume 75, Number 158; pages 50744-50745) provided notice for "Agricultural Surveys Program."

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 info@cfare.org.

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.