

June 2009

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.

Models of SNAP-Ed and Evaluation Study - Food and Nutrition Service

The May 8, 2009 Federal Register (Volume 74, Number 88; pages 21619-21621) invites comments on the proposed collection of data for the Models of SNAP-Ed and Evaluation Study. The goal of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education is to improve the likelihood that participants will make healthy choices within a limited budget. Comments are due by July 7, 2009.

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.

WTO Dispute Settlement Proceeding Regarding Certain COOL Requirements

In the May 22, 2009 Federal Register (Volume 74, Number 98; pages 24059-24061), the United States Trade Representative is providing notice that the United States received additional requests for consultations under the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization concerning certain mandatory country of origin labeling (COOL) requirements from Canada and Mexico in separate letters dated May 7, 2009. Those requests may be found at <http://www.wto.org> contained in documents designated as WT/DS384/1/Add.1 for Canada and WT/DS386/1/Add.1 for Mexico. USTR invites written comments before July 1, 2009.

Inviting Applications for the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program-Farm Bill

In the May 22, 2009 Federal Register (Volume 74, Number 98; pages 23992-23994), the Agricultural Marketing Service announces funds for state departments of agriculture to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops. Applications are due August 26, 2009.

Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops

In the May 12, 2009 Federal Register (Volume 74, Number 90; pages 22089-22090), the Foreign Agriculture Service and Commodity Credit Corporation, announced a final rule amending the regulations to incorporate changes into three existing Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops (TASC) provisions. First, it increases the funding cap on individual proposals. Second, it increases the maximum duration of an activity from 3 years to 5 years. Finally, it increases the number of approved projects that a TASC participant can have underway at any given time, from three to five. The rule also makes other minor administrative changes to two other provisions for clarity.

Announcement of Value-Added Producer Grant Application Deadlines

In the May 6, 2009 Federal Register (Volume 74, Number 86; pages 20900-20911), the Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS) announces the availability of funds for to help independent agricultural producers enter into value-added activities.

National Dairy Promotion and Research Program

In the May 19, 2009 Federal Register (Volume 74, Number 95; pages 23359-23370), the Agricultural Marketing Service invites written comments on proposed amendments to the Dairy Promotion and Research Order. Comments must be submitted on or before June 18, 2009.

Economic Opportunities in Rural Areas

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.

Rural Empowerment Zone

The Department of Agriculture has submitted the information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance on the Rural Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities. For more information visit the May 18, 2009 Federal Register (Volume 74, Number 94; page 23167).

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.

Notice of Web Site Publication on Climate Grant Proposals

In the May 11, 2009 Federal Register (Volume 74, Number 89; pages 21787-21788), notice is hereby given of public access via <http://www.climate.noaa.gov> to information pertaining to an upcoming Climate Program Office solicitation of grant proposals.

The Treatment of Data Influenced by Exceptional Events

In the May 19, 2009 Federal Register (Volume 74, Number 95; pages 23307-23313), EPA is finalizing amendments to the Exceptional Events Rule to provide a revised exceptional event data flagging and documentation schedule for ozone data that may be used for designations under the 2008 ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).

Interagency Cooperation Under the Endangered Species Act

In the May 4, 2009 Federal Register (Volume 74, Number 84; pages 20421-20423), the Department of the Interior and the Department of Commerce amend regulations governing interagency cooperation under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA). Comments on potential improvements to regulations on interagency consultation under the ESA are due by August 3, 2009.

Other News

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.

Risk Management Agency Data on Risk Management Tools

The May 4, 2009 Federal Register (Volume 74, Number 84; page 20450) announces the intention of the Risk Management Agency to request approval for the collection of information in support of the agency's mission under the Federal Crop Insurance Act to develop and implement risk management tools for producers of agricultural commodities through partnership agreements. Written comments on this notice will be accepted until close of business, July 6, 2009.

Notice of Intent To Suspend the Census of Agriculture Survey

The May 11, 2009 Federal Register (Volume 74, Number 89; page 21780) announces the intention of the National Agricultural Statistics Service to suspend a currently approved information collection, the 2007 Census of Agriculture. The 2007 Census of Agriculture survey was conducted as a one time only survey to gather comprehensive agricultural information. The Census of Agriculture is conducted once every five years.

Notice of Intent To Resume the Fruit Chemical Use Survey

The May 19, 2009 Federal Register (Volume 74, Number 95; page 23389) announces the intention of the National Agricultural Statistics Service to resume a currently approved information collection, the Fruit Chemical Use Survey, and its associated publication. The Fruit Chemical Use Survey collects data regarding chemical usage and pest management practices used on targeted fruit crop(s). Information from these data collection efforts is used extensively by government agencies in planning, farm policy analysis, scientific research, and program administration. This collection was suspended on April 4, 2007 due to budget constraints. NASS will resume this information collection and will publish the Agricultural Chemical Usage 2009 Fruit Summary on July 28, 2010.

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.