

March-April 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.

School Food Safety Program

The final rule entitled School Food Safety Program Based on Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point Principles was published on December 15, 2009, which implemented a legislative provision requiring school food authorities participating in the National School Lunch Program or the School Breakfast Program to develop a school food safety program for the preparation and service of school meals served to children. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) cleared the associated information collection requirements (ICR) on November 2, 2009. The February 24, 2010 Federal Register (Volume 75, Number 36; page 8239) announces approval of the ICR.

Future Technologies and Infrastructure Investments

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.

Bioenergy Program for Advanced Biofuels

The Rural Business-Cooperative Service is announcing additional payments to advanced biofuel producers determined eligible in Fiscal Year 2009 for the Bioenergy Program for Advanced Biofuels under criteria established in the prior NOCP. For details view the March 12, 2010 Federal Register (Volume 75, Number 48; pages 11836-11837).

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.

Access to Pasture - National Organic Program

The February 17, 2010 Federal Register, (Volume 75, Number 31; page 7154-7195) posts a final rule that amends livestock and related provisions of the NOP regulations. AMS has taken this action to ensure that NOP livestock production regulations have sufficient specificity and clarity to enable AMS and accredited certifying agents to efficiently administer the NOP and to facilitate and improve compliance and enforcement.

Trade Adjustment Assistance for Farmers

The March 1, 2010 Federal Register (Volume 75, Number 39; pages 9087-9093) posts the interim rule which immediately implements the Trade Adjustment Assistance for Farmers program as reauthorized by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and provides for the opening of a 30-day comment period. The rule establishes the procedures by which producers of

raw agricultural commodities can petition for certification, apply for technical assistance, and receive cash benefits for the development and implementation of approved business plans.

WTO Request Regarding Certain Shrimp from Vietnam

In the February 23, 2010 Federal Register (Volume 75, Number 35; pages 8177-8178) the Office of the United States Trade Representative is providing notice that on February 1, 2010, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam requested consultations with the United States under the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization concerning a number of antidumping administrative reviews and new shipper reviews conducted by the Department of Commerce on imports of certain frozen warmwater shrimp from Vietnam, and various U.S. laws, regulations, administrative procedures, practices, and methodologies. That request may be found at <http://www.wto.org> contained in a document designated as WT/DS404/1. USTR invites written comments from the public concerning the issues raised in this dispute.

Commodity Credit Corporation Funds for Wetlands Reserve Enhancement

The Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service announces the availability of financial assistance funds in fiscal year 2010 in the Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative and the Wetlands Reserve Enhancement Program through the Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative to eligible participants. The purpose of this notice is to solicit proposals from potential partners to enter into partnership agreements with NRCS, and to inform agricultural producers and landowners of the future availability of program funds through approved partnership projects. For details visit the March 2, 2010 Federal Register (Volume 75, Number 40; pages 9380-9388).

Crop Insurance Education in Targeted States

The Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, operating through the Risk Management Agency, announces the availability of funds for cooperative agreements under the Crop Insurance Education in Targeted States program. The purpose of this cooperative agreement program is to deliver crop insurance education and information to U.S. agricultural producers in certain States that have been designated as historically underserved with respect to crop insurance. For details visit the February 26, 2010 Federal Register (Volume 75, Number 38; pages 8902-8909).

Commodity Partnerships Small Sessions Program

The Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, operating through the Risk Management Agency, announces the availability of funds for Commodity Partnerships for Small Agricultural Risk Management Education Sessions. The purpose of this cooperative partnership agreement program is to deliver training and information in management of production, marketing, and financial risk to U.S. agricultural producers. The program gives priority to educating producers of crops currently not insured under Federal crop insurance, specialty crops, and underserved commodities, including livestock and forage. For details visit the February 26, 2010 Federal Register (Volume 75, Number 38; pages 8909-8916).

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.

Temporary Agricultural Employment of H-2A Aliens in the United States

The Department of Labor is amending its regulations governing the certification of temporary employment of nonimmigrant workers in temporary or seasonal agricultural employment and the enforcement of the contractual obligations applicable to employers of such nonimmigrant workers. The Department is also amending the regulations at 29 CFR part 501 to provide for enhanced enforcement under the H-2A program requirements so that workers are appropriately protected when employers fail to meet their obligations under the H-2A program. For details visit the February 12, 2010 Federal Register, (Volume 75, Number 29; pages 6883-6995).

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.

Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement

The February 19, 2010 Federal Register (Volume 75, Number 33; page 7438-7440) announces that the Farm Service Agency, on behalf of the Commodity Credit Corporation, has completed a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement to examine the potential environmental consequences associated with implementing changes to the Conservation Reserve Program required by the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008, and assist in developing new regulations. FSA is requesting comments on the Draft SEIS.

BLS Definition of Green Jobs

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) is responsible for developing and implementing the collection of new data on green jobs. The resulting information will assist policymakers in planning policy initiatives and understanding their impact on the labor market, and will facilitate the monitoring of labor market developments related to protecting the environment and conserving natural resources. BLS activities also will be useful to State labor market information offices in their efforts to meet the need for information for State policymakers, businesses, and job seekers. BLS is currently soliciting comments on the definition BLS will use in measuring green jobs, the industry list, or any other aspect of the information provided in this Notice. For more details view the March 16, 2010 Federal Register (Volume 75, Number 50; pages 12571-12573).

Consultation For Food Derived From a New Plant Varieties

The February 18, 2010 Federal Register (Volume 75, Number 32; Pages 7274-7276) solicits comments on the information collection provisions of FDA's consultation procedures for foods derived from new plant varieties, including the information collection provisions in the guidance entitled "Consultation Procedures: Foods Derived From New Plant Varieties," and in Form FDA 3665 entitled "Final Consultation For Food Derived From a New Plant Variety (Biotechnology Final Consultation)," which developers may use to prepare the final consultation in a standard format.

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.