

May 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.

Requirements for the Disposition of Cattle that Become Non-Ambulatory Disabled

The Food Safety and Inspection Service is amending the Federal meat inspection regulations to require that all cattle that are non-ambulatory disabled at an official establishment, including those that become non-ambulatory disabled after passing ante-mortem inspection, be condemned and disposed of properly. In addition, this rule requires that establishments notify FSIS inspection personnel when cattle become non-ambulatory disabled after passing ante-mortem inspection. For more details please view the March 18, 2009 Federal Register (Volume 74, Number 51; pages 11463-11466).

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.

Applications for Energy Audits and Renewable Energy Development Assistance

The March 11, 2009 Federal Register (Volume 74, Number 46; pages 10533-10543) announces the request for applications to provide energy audits and renewable energy development assistance for agricultural producers and rural small businesses.

Federal Procurement of Energy Efficient Products

The March 13, 2009 Federal Register (Volume 74, Number 48; pages 10830-10836) published a final rule to establish guidelines for Federal agencies regarding the implementation of amendments to the National Energy Conservation Policy Act that require Federal agencies to procure ENERGY STAR qualified and Federal Energy Management Program designated products in procurements involving energy consuming products and systems.

Prohibitions on Market Manipulation in The Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007

The Federal Trade Commission is issuing a Revised Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. The revised proposed Rule in this RNPRM would prohibit any person, directly or indirectly, in connection with the purchase or sale of crude oil, gasoline, or petroleum distillates at wholesale, from knowingly engaging in any act, practice, or course of business--including the making of any untrue statement of material fact--that operates or would operate as a fraud or deceit upon any person, or intentionally failing to state a material fact that under the circumstances renders a statement made by such person misleading, provided that such omission distorts or tends to distort market conditions for any such product. Written comments must be received by May 20, 2009. For more details view the April 22, 2009 Federal Register (Volume 74, Number 76; pages 18304-18329).

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 Correction

The Commodity Credit Corporation published in the Federal Register of November 20, 2008, an interim final rule with request for comment amending the program regulations for the Agricultural Management Assistance Program to incorporate programmatic changes authorized by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008. The language in the interim final rule regarding the application of the payment limitation to joint operations was incorrect and is inconsistent with payment attributions specified in the regulation which governs payment limitations and eligibility determinations for CCC-funded programs. For details view the March 12, 2009 Federal Register (Volume 74, Number 47; page 10674).

Soybean Promotion, Research, and Information Program

The Agricultural Marketing Service announces that soybean producers may request a referendum to determine if producers want a referendum on the Soybean Promotion and Research Order, as authorized under the Soybean Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Act. For more details visit the March 4, 2009 Federal Register (Volume 74, Number 41; pages 9382-9383).

Commodity Partnerships Small Sessions Program

The April 8, 2009 Federal Register (Volume 74, Number 66; pages 15913-15921) provides an announcement of availability of funds and request for application for competitive cooperative partnership agreements--Correction. Applications are due May 11, 2009.

Change in Status of Korea With Regard to Foot-and-Mouth Disease and Rinderpest

In the March 30, 2009 Federal Register (Volume 74, Number 59; pages 14093-14097), USDA's APHIS proposed to amend the regulations to add the Republic of Korea to the list of regions that are considered free of rinderpest and foot-and-mouth disease.

National Poultry Improvement Plan and Auxiliary Provisions

We are amending the National Poultry Improvement Plan by providing new or modified sampling and testing procedures for Plan participants and participating flocks. The changes were voted on and approved by the voting delegates at the Plan's 2006 National Plan Conference. For details visit the April 1, 2009 Federal Register (Volume 74, Number 61; pages 14710-14719).

Premiums - Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation

The Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation is issuing a direct final rule amending its premium regulations to reflect the amendments of the Farm Credit Act of 1971 that were made by the enactment of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008. The purpose of the amended rule is to clarify the premium regulations and eliminate provisions of the premium regulations that are obsolete or inconsistent with the Farm Credit Act of 1971, as amended. For details visit the April 15, 2009 Federal Register (Volume 74, Number 71; pages 17371-17374).

Crop Insurance Education in Targeted States

The Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, operating through the Risk Management Agency, announces the availability of money to fund cooperative agreements under the Crop Insurance Education in Targeted States program. For details view the March 27, 2009 Federal Register (Volume 74, Number 58; pages 13403-13410).

Commodity Partnerships for Small Agricultural Risk Management Education Sessions

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. For details view the March 27, 2009 Federal Register (Volume 74, Number 58; pages 13395-13403)

Mandatory Country of Origin Labeling of Muscle Cuts

The Food Safety and Inspection Service is affirming, without change, its interim final rule requiring a country of origin statement on the label of any meat or poultry product that is a covered commodity, as defined by the Agricultural Marketing Service, and that is to be sold by a retailer, also as defined by AMS, in accordance with the regulations set out in AMS' final rule, "Mandatory Country of Origin Labeling of Beef, Pork, Lamb, Chicken, Goat Meat, Perishable Agricultural Commodities, Peanuts, Pecans, Ginseng, and Macadamia Nuts." FSIS is also affirming the provisions of the interim final rule that amended its regulations to provide that it will consider the addition of compliant country of origin statements to the labels of covered meat or poultry products to be generically approved. For more details visit the March 20, 2009 Federal Register (Volume 74, Number 53; pages 11837-11839).

NAFTA Article 1904 Binational Panel Reviews: Notice of Completion of Panel Review

Notice of Completion of Panel Review of the International Trade Administration's Final Results of Countervailing Duty Administrative Review and Rescission of Certain Company-Specific Reviews in Certain Softwood Lumber Products from Canada can be viewed at the March 20, 2009 Federal Register (Volume 74, Number 53; pages 11909-11910).

Specialty Crop Block Grant Program--Farm Bill

The March 27, 2009 Federal Register (Volume 74, Number 58; pages 13313-13318) finalizes regulations to administer the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program--Farm Bill to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops. This action finalizes eligibility and application requirements and grant administration procedures for the SCBGP-FB consistent with the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 amendments to the Specialty Crops Competitiveness Act of 2004. This program is separate from the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program. Effective March 30, 2009.

Sugar Program

The Commodity Credit Corporation is amending regulations as required by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to administer the sugar loan and sugar marketing allotment program through 2012. For details view the April 6, 2009 Federal Register (Volume 74, Number 64; pages 15359-15367).

Marketing Assistance Loans and Loan Deficiency Payments

The Commodity Credit Corporation is revising regulations as required by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to administer the Marketing Assistance Loans and Loan Deficiency Payments programs for wheat, feed grains, soybeans, other oilseeds, peanuts, pulse crops, honey, wool and mohair. For more details visit the April 7, 2009 Federal Register (Volume 74, Number 65; pages 15644-15657).

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.

EPA National Priorities List

The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 requires that the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan include a list of national priorities among the known releases or threatened releases of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants throughout the United States. The National Priorities List constitutes this list. The NPL is intended primarily to guide the EPA in determining which sites warrant further investigation. This rule adds nine sites to the NPL, eight to the General Superfund Section and one to the Federal Facilities Section. For details view the April 9, 2009 Federal Register (Volume 74, Number 67; pages 16126-16135). See also April 9, 2009 Federal Register (Volume 74, Number 67; pages 16162-16169).

Mandatory Reporting of Greenhouse Gases

EPA is proposing a regulation to require reporting of greenhouse gas emissions from all sectors of the economy. The rule would apply to fossil fuel suppliers and industrial gas suppliers, as well as to direct greenhouse gas emitters. The proposed rule does not require control of greenhouse gases, rather it requires only that sources above certain threshold levels monitor and report emissions. Comments must be received on or before June 9, 2009. For details view the April 10, 2009 Federal Register (Volume 74, Number 68; pages 16447-16731).

Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 established the Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative. The Secretary of Agriculture has delegated the authority for CCPI to the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), who is a Vice President of the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC). The purpose of this notice is to inform potential partners and producers of the availability of CCPI funds and other assistance and to solicit proposals from potential partners who seek to enter into partnership agreements with NRCS to enhance conservation outcomes on agricultural and nonindustrial private forest land. Additionally, NRCS requests public comment on how CCPI can contribute to the Nation's efforts on energy, climate change, and carbon sequestration within the framework of the Initiative. For details view the March 10, 2009 Federal Register (Volume 74, Number 45; pages 10225-10231).

Notice of Meeting of the Agricultural Air Quality Task Force

The Agricultural Air Quality Task Force will meet to continue discussions on air quality issues relating to agriculture. The meeting will take place May 6-7, 2009. For details view the April 15, 2009 Federal Register (Volume 74, Number 71; pages 17449-17450).

Notice of Proposed Changes to the NRCS Handbook of Conservation Practices

Notice is hereby given of the intention of NRCS to issue a series of revised conservation practice standards in its National Handbook of Conservation Practices. For details view the April 15, 2009 Federal Register (Volume 74, Number 71; pages 17450-17451).

Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program Correction

The Natural Resources Conservation Service published in the Federal Register of January 16, 2009, an interim final rule with request for comment amending the program regulations for the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program to incorporate programmatic changes authorized by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008. The language in the interim final rule regarding the application of the payment limitation to joint operations was incorrect and is inconsistent with payment attributions specified in the regulation which governs payment limitations and eligibility determinations for CCC-funded programs. For details visit the March 12, 2009 Federal Register (Volume 74, Number 47; pages 10673-10674).

Environmental Quality Incentives Program Correction

The Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) published in the Federal Register of January 15, 2009, an interim final rule with request for comment amending the program regulations for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program to incorporate programmatic changes authorized by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008. The language in the interim final rule regarding the application of the payment limitation to joint operations was incorrect and is inconsistent with payment attributions specified in the regulation which governs payment limitations and eligibility determinations for CCC-funded programs. For more details view the March 12, 2009 Federal Register (Volume 74, Number 47; pages 10674-10676).

Nominations for Members of the National Organic Standards Board

The Organic Foods Production Act requires the establishment of a National Organic Standards Board. The NOSB is a 15-member board that is responsible for developing and recommending to the Secretary a proposed National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances. USDA is requesting nominations to fill five upcoming vacancies on the NOSB. Nominations are due July 17, 2009. For details visit the March 13, 2009 Federal Register (Volume 74, Number 48; pages 10878-10879).

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.

Solicitation of Input on the Roadmap for Agricultural Research, Education, and Extension

The Research, Education, and Extension Office (REEO) of the Research, Education, and Economics Mission Area of USDA is requesting written stakeholder input on the preparation of a roadmap for agricultural research, education, and extension at USDA. The preparation of the Roadmap is mandated by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008. By this notice, the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics has been designated to act on behalf of the Secretary of Agriculture in soliciting public comment from interested parties regarding the preparation of the Roadmap. All written comments must be received by May 31, 2009. For details please visit: April 1, 2009 Federal Register (Volume 74, Number 61; pages 14767-14768). Find a correction to wording in the April 23, 2009 Federal Register (Volume 74, Number 77; page 18544).

NASS Floriculture Survey Revision

The March 23, 2009 Federal Register (Volume 74, Number 54; page 12110) announces the intention of the National Agricultural Statistics Service to request revision and extension of a currently approved information collection for the Floriculture Survey. Comments on this notice must be received by May 22, 2009.

NASS Egg, Chicken and Turkey Surveys Revision

The March 23, 2009 Federal Register (Volume 74, Number 54; page 12111) announces the intention of the National Agricultural Statistics Service to request revision and extension of a currently approved information collection, the Egg, Chicken, and Turkey Surveys. Comments on this notice must be received by May 22, 2009.

Notice of Intent To Suspend the Distiller's Grains Survey and Reports

The April 27, 2009 Federal Register (Volume 74, Number 79; page 19041) announces the intention of the National Agricultural Statistics Service to suspend a currently approved information collection, the Distiller's Grains Survey, and its associated publication.

NASS List Sampling Frame Surveys Revision

The March 26, 2009 Federal Register (Volume 74, Number 57; page 13176) announces the intention of the National Agricultural Statistics Service to request revision and extension of a currently approved information collection, the List Sampling Frame Surveys. Comments on this notice must be received by June 1, 2009.

Solicitation of Input Stakeholders on the 1890 Institution Capacity Building Grants Program

In the April 20, 2009 Federal Register: April 20, 2009 (Volume 74, Number 74; pages 17909-17910), the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service is soliciting public comment and stakeholder input from interested parties regarding the future design and implementation of this program, particularly the addition of extension to this program. All written comments must be received by May 20, 2009.

ERS Renew of Current Population Survey

In the April 7, 2009 Federal Register (Volume 74, Number 65; pages 15689-15690), the Economic Research Service announced their intention to request renewal of approval for an annual information collection on supplemental food security questions in the Current Population Survey commencing with the December 2009 survey. These data will be used: to monitor household-level food security and food insecurity in the United States; to assess food security and changes in food security for population subgroups; to assess the need for, and performance of, domestic food assistance programs; to improve the measurement of food security; and to provide information to aid in public policy decisionmaking. Comments are due by June 11, 2009.

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.