

May-June, 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 an 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

Implementation of Sanitary Food Transportation Act of 2005

The April 30, 2010 Federal Register (Volume 75, Number 83; pages 22713-22723) announces that the Food and Drug Administration is issuing an advance notice of proposed rulemaking to request data and information on the food transportation industry and its practices. The FDA will consider electronic or written comments submitted by August 30, 2010.

FDA Announces New Draft Guidance for Industry

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is announcing the availability of a draft guidance entitled "Questions and Answers Regarding the Reportable Food Registry as Established by the Food and Drug Administration Amendments Act of 2007 (Edition 2)." The agency is seeking comments from industry on the Reportable Food Registry requirements, and specifically on the issue of "transfer" as discussed in the current Edition 1, and draft Edition 2. Submit comments by July 26, 2010. For more information, view the May 25, 2010 Federal Register (Volume 75, Number 100; pages 29350-29352).

Agriculture's Global Competitiveness and Profitability

WTO Agricultural Safeguard Trigger Levels

The May 7, 2010 Federal Register (Volume 75, Number 88; pages 25200-25202) announces a notice posted by the USDA FAS that lists the updated quantity trigger levels for products which may be subject to additional import duties under the safeguard provisions of the WTO Agreement on Agriculture. This notice also includes the relevant period applicable for the trigger levels on each of the listed products.

Information Collection; Guaranteed Loan Making and Servicing

The Farm Service Agency is seeking comments on the revision and extension of a currently approved information collection used to administer the Guaranteed Farm Loan Program. Comments are due by July 9, 2010. For more information, view the May 10, 2010 Federal Register (Volume 75, Number 89; page 25833).

Loan Policies and Operations; Loan Purchases From FDIC

The Farm Credit Administration is proposing to amend its rules on loan policies and operations. The amended rule would permit Farm Credit System institutions with direct lending authority to purchase from the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation loans. This action would allow the System to provide liquidity and a stable source of funding and credit for borrowers in rural areas affected by the failure of their lending institution. Comments are due before July 19, 2010 are appreciated. For more details view the May 18, 2010 Federal Register (Volume 75, Number 95; pages 27660-27662).

Economic Opportunities in Rural Areas

Value-Added Producer Grant Program

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 amends section 231 of the Agricultural Risk Protection Act of 2000, which established the Value-Added Producer Grant Program. Under the proposed program, grants will be made to help eligible producers of agricultural commodities enter into or expand value-added activities including the development of feasibility studies, business plans, and marketing strategies. The program will also provide working capital for expenses such as implementing an existing viable marketing strategy. The comment period continues through July 27, 2010. However, comments on the proposed rule must be received before June 28, 2010. For more information, visit the May 28, 2010 Federal Register (Volume 75, Number 103; pages 29920-29932).

Reimbursement Transportation Cost Payment Program – Final Rule

The June 17, 2010 Federal Register (Volume 75, Number 116; pages 34336-34343) announces the Farm Service Agency's final rule that specifies regulations to implement the new Reimbursement Transportation Cost Payment (RTCP) Program for geographically disadvantaged farmers and ranchers.

Environmental and Natural Resource Issues

Conservation Stewardship Program; Final Rule

Section 2301 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 amended the Food Security Act of 1985 to establish the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). For details visit the June 3, 2010 Federal Register (Volume 75, Number 106; page 31609-31661).

Conservation Reserve Program; Transition Incentives Program

The May 14, 2010 Federal Register (Volume 75, Number 93; pages 27165-27169) announces that the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) is amending the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) regulations to provide for the Transition Incentives Program. Retired or retiring owners or operators of land enrolled in an expiring CRP contract who sell or lease their expiring CRP land to a beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher for the purpose of returning some or all of the land into production using sustainable grazing or crop production methods in compliance with the required conservation plan will, if otherwise approved for the Transition Incentives Program, receive CRP payments for an additional 2 years after the contract expires if the new or socially disadvantaged farmer is not a family member. The CCC invites comments received by July 13, 2010 regarding this program.

Proposed Changes to the National Handbook of Conservation Practices for the NRCS

Notice was provided in the June 15, 2010 Federal Register (Volume 75, Number 114; 33761-33763) of the intention of NRCS to issue a series of revised conservation practice standards in the National Handbook of Conservation Practices. Submit comments before July 15, 2010.

Other Legislation

National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education and Economics Advisory Board

In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App., the United States Department of Agriculture announces solicitation for nominations to fill 9 vacancies on the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education and Economics Advisory Board. The deadline for Advisory Board member nominations is July 9, 2010. For more information, view the June 9, 2010 Federal Register (Volume 75, Number 110; pages 32736-32737).

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.