

July – August 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.

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### Consumer Concerns, Food, Health and Safety

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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.

#### **National Agricultural Library**

The July 6, 2009 Federal Register (Volume 74, Number 127; page 31910) announces the National Agricultural Library's intent to request renewal of an approved electronic mailing list subscription form from those who work in the nutrition and food safety fields. Comments on this notice must be received by September 9, 2009.

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### Agriculture's Global Competitiveness and Profitability

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#### **National Agricultural Statistics Service Vegetable Survey**

The July 2, 2009 Federal Register (Volume 74, Number 126; page 31687) announces the intention of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) to request revision and extension of a currently approved information collection, the Vegetable Surveys Program. Comments on this notice must be received by August 31, 2009 to be assured of consideration.

#### **NASS Seeks Comments on Horticultural Survey Collection**

The July 14, 2009 Federal Register (Volume 74, Number 133; pages 33988-33989) announces the intention of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) to seek reinstatement of an information collection, the Census of Horticultural Specialties. Comments on this notice must be received by September 14, 2009.

### **National Agricultural Statistics Service Egg, Chicken, and Turkey Surveys**

The primary function of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is to prepare and issue current official State and national estimates of crop and livestock production. Thousands of farmers, ranchers, agribusinesses and others voluntarily respond to nationwide surveys about crops, livestock, prices, and other agricultural activities. Estimates of egg, chicken, and turkey production are in an integral part of this program. For details view the July 20, 2009 Federal Register (Volume 74, Number 137; page 35157).

### **Millennium Challenge Corporation Notice of Quarterly Report**

The Millennium Challenge Corporation is reporting for the quarter January 1, 2009 through March 31, 2009 with respect to both assistance provided under the Millennium Challenge Act of 2003, and transfers or allocations of funds to other Federal agencies pursuant to the Act. The following report shall be made available to the public by means of publication in the Federal Register and on the Internet Web site of the MCC (<http://www.mcc.gov>). June 29, 2009 Federal Register (Volume 74, Number 123; pages 31054-31071).

### **National Animal Health Reporting System**

The National Animal Health Reporting System was developed through a cooperative effort between the United States Animal Health Association, the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians, and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. NAHRS provides an ongoing national measure of the health status of the nation's livestock. The National Center for Animal Health Surveillance involvement in this voluntary monitoring activity is to facilitate standardization of the data throughout the United States and provide a central point for national collection. The evolving international trade arena and increased competition have heightened the need to have accurate, timely information to maintain and increase U.S. animal agriculture's overseas market share, NAHRS provides information that helps meet this need. The objective of the NAHRS is to collect data needed to report the presence of confirmed clinical disease in commercial livestock, poultry, and aquaculture species in the U.S. For information view the July 15, 2009 Federal Register (Volume 74, Number 134; pages 34293-34294).

### **Cotton Board Rules and Regulations: Adjusting Supplemental Assessment on Imports**

The Agricultural Marketing Service is amending the Cotton Board Rules and Regulations by increasing the value assigned to imported cotton for calculating supplemental assessments collected for use by the Cotton Research and Promotion Program. For details view the July 8, 2009 Federal Register (Volume 74, Number 129; pages 32400-32406).

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## **Environmental and Natural Resource Issues**

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### **Update of Noxious Weed Regulations**

In the June 10, 2009 Federal Register (Volume 74, Number 110; pages 27456-27467) APHIS proposed to make several changes to the regulations governing the importation and interstate movement of noxious weeds. These changes would update the regulations to reflect current statutory authority and program operations and improve the effectiveness of the regulations. Comments must be received on or before August 10, 2009.

### **NOAA Availability of Grant Funds for Fiscal Year 2010**

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration published a notice in the July 16, 2009 Federal Register (Volume 74, Number 135; pages 34641-34685) to provide a consolidated source of program and application information related to its competitive grant and cooperative agreement award offerings for fiscal year 2010. This Omnibus notice is designed to replace the multiple Federal Register notices that traditionally advertised the availability of NOAA's discretionary funds for its various programs. It should be noted that additional program initiatives unanticipated at the time of the publication of this notice may be announced through subsequent Federal Register notices. All announcements will also be available through the Grants.gov Web site.

### **Conservation Practice Technical Assistance**

Section 1242(h) of the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, requires that the Natural Resources Conservation Service: (1) Review conservation practice standards, including engineering design specifications, in effect on June 18, 2008; (2) ensure the completeness and relevance of the standards to local agricultural, forestry, and natural resource needs including specialty crops, native and managed pollinators, bioenergy crop production, forestry, and other such needs as determined by the Secretary; and (3) ensure, to the maximum extent practicable, that the standards provide for the optimal balance between meeting site-specific conservation needs and minimizing risks of design failure and associated costs of construction and installation. NRCS conducted an internal review of the conservation practice standards and met with various stakeholder groups, as required, to obtain their input about how to improve the completeness and relevance of the standards. NRCS is hereby notifying the public of the results of the preliminary review and requests comments from the public about how to improve the conservation practice standards to meet the goals and objectives of the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended. Submit comments on or before August 11, 2009. For more information view the June 12, 2009 Federal Register (Volume 74, Number 112; pages 27995-27998).

### **Highly Erodible Land Conservation and Wetland Conservation**

In the July 20, 2009 Federal Register (Volume 74, Number 137; page 35158) Farm Service Agency is seeking comments on an extension of a currently approved information collection associated with Highly Erodible Land Conservation and Wetland Conservation certification requirements. Comments must be received by September 18, 2009.

### **Conservation Stewardship Program**

Section 2301 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 amended the Food Security Act of 1985 to establish the Conservation Stewardship Program. The purpose of the Conservation Stewardship Program is to encourage producers to address resource concerns in a comprehensive manner by undertaking additional conservation activities, and improving, maintaining and managing existing conservation activities. This interim final rule, with request for comment, sets forth the policies, procedures, and requirements necessary to implement the Conservation Stewardship Program as authorized by the 2008 Act amendments. Submit comments on or before September 28, 2009. For details view the July 29, 2009 Federal Register (Volume 74, Number 144; pages 37499-37519).

### **NSF Proposal Review Panel**

The Director of the National Science Foundation has determined that the establishment of the Proposal Review Panel for Emerging Frontiers in Biological Sciences is necessary and in the public interest in connection with the performance of duties imposed upon NSF. This determination follows consultation with the Committee Management Secretariat, General Services Administration. For more details visit: July 13, 2009 Federal Register (Volume 74, Number 132; page 33477).

### **Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program**

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. On March 12, 2009, NRCS corrected language in the interim final rule regarding the erroneous application of the payment limitation to joint operations, and extended the comment period to April 17, 2009. The July 15, 2009 Federal Register (Volume 74, Number 134; pages 34209-34211) amends the interim final rule by expanding the definition of agricultural lands. NRCS is also using the opportunity presented by this rulemaking to reopen the comment period. Comments are limited to the content of this amendment. Submit comments on or before August 14, 2009.

### **Comparative Analysis of Marine Ecosystem Organization**

The July 7, 2009 Federal Register (Volume 74, Number 128; pages 32112-32116) solicits proposals for the Comparative Analysis of Marine Ecosystem Organization (CAMEO) Program which is implemented as a partnership between the NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service and National Science Foundation Division of Ocean Sciences. The purpose of CAMEO is to strengthen the scientific basis for an ecosystem approach to the stewardship of our ocean and coastal living marine resources. The program will support fundamental research to understand complex dynamics controlling ecosystem structure, productivity, behavior, resilience, and population connectivity, as well as effects of climate variability and anthropogenic pressures on living marine resources and critical habitats. CAMEO encourages the development of multiple approaches, such as ecosystem models and comparative analyses of managed and unmanaged areas that can ultimately form a basis for forecasting and decision support. Further information is available on the CAMEO web site (<http://cameo.noaa.gov>). Full proposals are due October 5, 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](mailto: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](mailto:CFAREinfo@aol.com).

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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.