

April 2008

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.

Establishment of the 2010 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee

The Department of Agriculture and the Department of Health and Human Services announce the intent to establish a Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee and invite nominations for the Committee. Nominations are due May 24, 2008. For more details view the April 10, 2008 Federal Register (Volume 73, Number 70; pages 19454-19455).

National Survey of WIC Participants II

The notice in the April 18, 2008 Federal Register (Volume 73, Number 76; pages 21096-21097) invites public comment on this program. Comments must be received by June 17, 2008.

National Agricultural Library Collection of Nutrition Education Materials

The April 4, 2008 Federal Register (Volume 73, Number 66; pages 18492-18493) announces the National Agricultural Library's intent to request renewal for information collection relating to existing nutrition education materials targeting low-income and Food Stamp Program-eligible persons.

Food Protection Plan - Outreach Activities

The Food and Drug Administration announced in the April 2, 2008 Federal Register (Volume 73, Number 64; pages 17987-17989) that it is establishing a public docket to receive information and comments related to its comprehensive Food Protection Plan released in November 2007. Submit comments by July 31, 2008.

Third-Party Certification Programs for Foods and Feeds

The Food and Drug Administration is requesting comments on the use of third-party certification programs for foods and feeds. An increasing number of firms that sell foods to the public are requesting that their suppliers become certified as meeting food safety and quality standards as a condition of doing business. FDA seeks more information on the existence and use of these types of programs. Comments are due by May 19, 2008. For more details view the April 2, 2008 Federal Register (Volume 73, Number 64; pages 17989-17991).

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.

EPA White Paper Regarding StarLink Corn Dietary Exposure and Risk; Availability

EPA is making available a final White Paper that reviews data on the level in the human food supply of Cry9C protein from StarLink^[reg] corn grain. It concludes that the protein has been sufficiently removed from the human food supply to render the level of risk low enough that continued testing for the protein in yellow corn at dry mills and masa production facilities provides no added public health protection. The White Paper therefore recommends that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) withdraw its guidance recommending testing yellow corn grain for Cry9C at dry mills and masa production facilities. For more details view the April 25, 2008 Federal Register (Volume 73, Number 81; pages 22715-22716).

United States v. Monsanto Company and Delta and Pine Land Company

Pursuant to the Antitrust Procedures and Penalties Act, the United States hereby publishes the comments received on the proposed Final Judgment in United States v. Monsanto Company and Delta and Pine Land Company, filed in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia on May 31, 2007, and the United States's response to those comments. For more details view the April 4, 2008 Federal Register (Volume 73, Number 66; pages 18611-18674).

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.

Notice of Millennium Challenge Corporation Quarterly Report

The Millennium Challenge Corporation is reporting for the quarter October 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007 with respect to both assistance provided under the Millennium Challenge Act of 2003, and transfers or allocations of funds to other federal agencies. The report is also available at (<http://www.mcc.gov>). For information visit the April 21, 2008 Federal Register (Volume 73, Number 77; pages 21381-21389).

Amendments to Rules of NAFTA Procedure for Binational Panel Reviews

Canada, Mexico and the United States have amended the rules of procedure for Article 1904 binational panel reviews. These amendments are intended to improve the panel review process under Chapter Nineteen of NAFTA in order to increase its efficiency and effectiveness. For details view the April 10, 2008 Federal Register (Volume 73, Number 70; pages 19458-19474).

National Dairy Promotion and Research Program

The April 14, 2008 Federal Register (Volume 73, Number 72; pages 19959-19960) summarizes the results of an Agricultural Marketing Service review of the National Dairy Promotion and Research Program conducted under the Dairy Promotion and Research Order. Based upon its review, AMS has determined that the Dairy Order should be continued without change.

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.

Children, Youth, and Families at Risk (CYFAR) Year-End Report

The CYFAR Year-End Report collects demographic and impact data from each community site where federal assistance is provided. It allows CSREES staff to gauge the impact of the program on the target audience and to make programmatic improvements. For details view the April 10, 2008 Federal Register (Volume 73, Number 70; page 19455). Comments are due June 9, 2008.

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.

Environmental Impact Statements and Regulations Comments

Availability of EPA comments prepared pursuant to the Environmental Review Process of the Clean Air Act and the National Environmental Policy Act as amended was published in the April 18, 2008 Federal Register (Volume 73, Number 76; page 21124).

Notice of Availability of Revised NEPA Handbook

The April 24, 2008 Federal Register (Volume 73, Number 80; pages 22162-22164) announces the availability of the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Handbook to support implementation of the procedures the BLM uses to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Recent Postings of Broadly Applicable Alternative Test Methods

The April 7, 2008 Federal Register (Volume 73, Number 67; pages 18794-18795) announces the broadly applicable alternative test method approval decisions the EPA has made under and in support of New Source Performance Standards and the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants in 2007.

Notice of Meeting of the National Organic Standards Board

In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the Agricultural Marketing Service is announcing a forthcoming meeting of the National Organic Standards Board on May 20-22, 2008. For details view the April 4, 2008 Federal Register (Volume 73, Number 66; pages 18491-18492).

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.