

December 2007

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.

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children

The December 6, 2007 Federal Register (Volume 72, Number 234; pages 68965-69032) revises regulations governing the WIC food packages to align them with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans and current infant feeding practice guidelines of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

National Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspection

The November 6, 2007 Federal Register (Volume 72, Number 214; pages 62623-62624) announced that the Secretary of Agriculture signed the charter of the National Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspection on July 25, 2007. The charter is available for viewing at: http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About_FSYS/NACMPI_Charter/index.asp.

Risk Assessment of Foodborne Listeria Monocytogenes in Soft-Ripened Cheese

The Food and Drug Administration is requesting comments and information that would assist the agency in its plans to conduct a risk assessment for Listeria monocytogenes in soft-ripened cheese. Submit comments by January 28, 2008. For more details view the November 28, 2007 Federal Register (Volume 72, Number 228; pages 67310-67311).

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.

NAFTA Consent Motion To Terminate Panel Review

The December 13, 2007 Federal Register (Volume 72, Number 239; page 70823) provided a notice to terminate panel review of the final determination of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act made by the International Trade Commission, respecting Certain Softwood Lumber from Canada.

NAFTA Invitation for Applications for Inclusion on the Chapter 19 Roster

Chapter 19 of the North American Free Trade Agreement provides for the establishment of a roster of individuals to serve on binational panels convened to review final determinations in antidumping or countervailing duty proceedings and amendments to statutes of a NAFTA Party. For details view the November 23, 2007 Federal Register (Volume 72, Number 225; pages 65769-65771).

Millennium Challenge Corporation Quarterly Report

To view the Millennium Challenge Corporation report for the third quarter view the December 19, 2007 Federal Register (Volume 72, Number 243; pages 71966-71972).

Fresh Market Sweet Corn Crop Insurance Provisions

This document contains a correction to the final regulation which was published September 26, 2007. The regulation pertains to the insurance of fresh market sweet corn. For details view the November 7, 2007 Federal Register (Volume 72, Number 215; pages 62767-62768).

Multiple Peril Crop Insurance

December 18, 2007 Federal Register (Volume 72, Number 242; page 71618) announces a public comment period on the information collection requests (ICRs) associated with the Multiple Peril Crop Insurance. Comments are due by February 19, 2008.

Applications for the Federal-State Marketing Improvement Program

The Agricultural Marketing Service announces the availability of competitive grant funds for fiscal year 2008 to enable States to explore new market opportunities for U.S. food and agricultural products and to encourage research and innovation aimed at improving the efficiency and performance of the U.S. marketing system. Proposals due February 11, 2008. For more details view the December 5, 2007 Federal Register (Volume 72, Number 233; pages 68553-68554).

Standards for Livestock and Meat Marketing Claims

The Agricultural Marketing Service is seeking comments on a proposed voluntary standard for a naturally raised marketing claim. A number of livestock producers make claims associated with production practices in order to distinguish their products in the marketplace. There are a growing number of entities that wish to capture value added opportunities via alternative production methods to meet the demands of consumers seeking meat and meat products from naturally raised livestock. Comments are due by January 28, 2008. For more details view the Federal Register: November 28, 2007 (Volume 72, Number 228; pages 67266-67268).

Dairy Disaster Assistance Payment Program III

The November 26, 2007 Federal Register (Volume 72, Number 226; pages 65889-65897) proposes a new program, the Dairy Disaster Assistance Payment Program III, as authorized by the U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act, 2007. Comments must be received by December 26, 2007.

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.

Streamlining of the Farm Service Agency's Direct Farm Loan Programs

The November 8, 2007 Federal Register (Volume 72, Number 216; pages 63241-63361) provides regulations streamlining the Farm Service Agency's regulations governing its direct Farm Loan Programs. In addition, the rule in the November 15, 2007 Federal Register (Volume 72, Number 220; pages 64119-64123) removes the Farm Service Agency's direct Farm Loan Programs regulations from the Rural Development's mission area loan program regulations.

Cash and Share Lease Provisions for Future Farm Programs

The Farm Service Agency and the Risk Management Agency are reopening and extending the comment period for the advance notice of proposed rulemaking, Cash and Share Lease Provisions for Future Farm Programs. Submit comments by January 17, 2008. For more details view the December 18, 2007 Federal Register (Volume 72, Number 242; page 71606).

Inviting Rural Business Enterprise Grant Program

The Rural Business-Cooperative Service announces the availability of two individual grants: one from the passenger transportation funds appropriated for the Rural Business Enterprise Grant program and another grant for Federally Recognized Native American Program. The deadline for preapplications is January 31, 2008. For more details view the November 27, 2007 Federal Register (Volume 72, Number 227; pages 66131-66133).

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.

Collection of Comments on the Emergency Watershed Protection Program

The November 19, 2007 Federal Register (Volume 72, Number 222; pages 64994-65010) announces the intention of the USDA NRCS to request comments by January 18, 2008 on a currently approved information collection on Emergency Watershed Protection Program.

Amendments to the National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances

The final rule in the December 10, 2007 Federal Register (Volume 72, Number 236; pages 69569-69572) amends the USDA National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances regulations to reflect recommendations submitted to the Secretary of Agriculture by the National Organic Standards Board on August 17, 2005. In addition, the December 12, 2007 Federal Register (Volume 72, Number 238; pages 70479-70486) posts a final rule amending the USDA National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances regulations to enact recommendations submitted to the Secretary of Agriculture by the National Organic Standards Board from October 30, 2000, through March 3, 2005. This final rule adds two defined terms and nine substances, along with any restrictive annotations, and a category of substances to the National List.

Request for Nominations for the Invasive Species Advisory Committee

The U.S. Department of the Interior, on behalf of the interdepartmental National Invasive Species Council, proposes to appoint new members to the Invasive Species Advisory Committee. The Secretary of the Interior is requesting nominations for qualified persons to serve as members of the ISAC. Nominations must be postmarked by January 14, 2008. For details view the November 30, 2007 Federal Register (Volume 72, Number 230; pages 67744-67745).

FIFRA Scientific Advisory Panel; Notice of Public Meeting

There will be a meeting of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act Scientific Advisory Panel to be held on February 5-8, 2008. Written comments should be submitted by January 22, 2008 and requests for oral comments submitted by January 29, 2008. For details view the November 20, 2007 Federal Register (Volume 72, Number 223; pages 65336-65339).

NRCS Conservation Innovation Grants

NRCS requests applications for Conservation Innovation Grants to stimulate the development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies. Applications must be received by February 20, 2008. For more details visit the December 17, 2007 Federal Register (Volume 72, Number 241; pages 71345-71354).

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.

The National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Board

In the November 21, 2007 Federal Register (Volume 72, Number 224; page 65557) the USDA announces the appointments made by the Secretary of Agriculture to the 10 vacancies on the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board. Appointments by the Secretary of Agriculture are for a 3-year term, effective October 1, 2007, until September 30, 2010.

NSF Research Performance Progress Report Format

The National Science Foundation (NSF) is soliciting public comment on a standardized Research Performance Progress Report (RPPR) format. For more details please visit the Federal Register: November 9, 2007 (Volume 72, Number 217; pages 63629-63631).

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.