

February 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.

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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.

#### **Food Labeling: Revision of Reference Values and Mandatory Nutrients**

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is extending to April 30, 2008, the comment period on what new reference values the agency should use to calculate the percent daily value in the Nutrition Facts and Supplement Facts labels and what factors the agency should consider in establishing such new reference values. In addition, FDA requested comments on whether it should require that certain nutrients be added or removed from the Nutrition Facts and Supplement Facts labels. Submit comments by April 30, 2008. For details view the January 28, 2008 Federal Register (Volume 73, Number 18; page 4765).

#### **Salmonella Verification Sampling Program**

The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is announcing new policies for the Agency's Salmonella Verification Sampling Program and related activities conducted in meat and poultry establishments. Submit comments by February 27, 2008. The policies described in the Notice are planned to take effect March 28, 2008. For more details please visit the January 28, 2008 Federal Register (Volume 73, Number 18; pages 4767-4774).

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### Future Technologies and Infrastructure Investments

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#### **Advisory Committee on Biotechnology and 21st Century Agriculture**

USDA announces a March 5-6, 2008 meeting of the Advisory Committee on Biotechnology and 21st Century Agriculture. For details view the February 19, 2008 Federal Register (Volume 73, Number 33; page 9086).

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## **Agriculture's Global Competitiveness and Profitability**

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### **Establishment of the Farm, Ranch, and Rural Communities Advisory Committee**

EPA is establishing the Farm, Ranch, and Rural Communities Advisory Committee. The purpose of the FRRCC is to provide advice to the Administrator of EPA on environmental issues and programs that impact, or are of concern to, farms, ranches, and rural communities. For details view the February 4, 2008 Federal Register (Volume 73, Number 23; page 6500).

### **Global Beef Trade: Effects of Animal Health, Sanitary, and Food Safety**

Following receipt of a letter dated January 29, 2008, from the Committee on Finance of the United States Senate, delaying the date for transmitting its report in investigation on Global Beef Trade: Effects of Animal Health, Sanitary, Food Safety, and Other Measures on U.S. Beef Exports, the Commission extended the time for filing written submissions in the investigation to May 6, 2008, and extended the time for transmitting its report to September 8, 2008. For details view the February 21, 2008 Federal Register (Volume 73, Number 35; pages 9587-9588).

### **Comments on Proposed Amendments to the Fluid Milk Promotion Order**

The January 28, 2008 Federal Register (Volume 73, Number 18; pages 4762-4763) invites comments on a proposed amendment to the Fluid Milk Promotion Order. The proposed amendment would reduce the burden of late-payment charges applied to processors who underreport the amount of assessments which they owe to the Board, provided that the processor has not made more than two reporting errors in the prior 12 months. Comments must be submitted on or before February 27, 2008.

### **Beef Promotion and Research**

The proposed rule in the February 7, 2008 Federal Register (Volume 73, Number 26; pages 7226-7227) would adjust representation on the Cattlemen's Beef Promotion and Research Board to reflect changes in cattle inventories and cattle and beef imports that have occurred since the most recent Board reapportionment rule became effective in February of 2005. Comments must be received by March 10, 2008.

### **NASS Livestock Slaughter Survey**

The February 5, 2008 Federal Register (Volume 73, Number 24; page 6692) announces the intent of the National Agricultural Statistics Service to request revision and extension of the Livestock Slaughter Survey. Comments must be received by April 7, 2008.

### **Funds Available for Risk Management Programs**

The Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, announces (subject to availability) funds for the following programs: (a) Commodity Partnerships for Risk Management Education. For details view the January 22, 2008 Federal Register (Volume 73, Number 14; pages 3660-3668). (b) Commodity Partnerships for Small Agricultural Risk Management Education Sessions. For details view the January 22, 2008 Federal Register (Volume 73, Number 14; pages 3668-3675). (c) Community Outreach and Assistance Partnership Program. For details view the January 22, 2008 Federal Register (Volume 73, Number 14; pages 3675-3681). (d) Crop Insurance Education in Targeted States. For details view the January 22, 2008 Federal Register (Volume 73, Number 14; pages 3681-3688). All deadlines are March 24, 2008.

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## Economic Opportunities in Rural Areas

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### **Temporary Agricultural Employment of H-2A Aliens in the United States**

The Department of Labor is proposing to amend its regulations regarding the certification of temporary employment of nonimmigrant workers employed in temporary or seasonal agricultural employment and the enforcement of the contractual obligations applicable to employers of such nonimmigrant workers. Written comments are due before March 31, 2008. For more details view the February 13, 2008 Federal Register (Volume 73, Number 30; pages 8537-8585).

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## Environmental and Natural Resource Issues

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### **Proposed Changes to the National Handbook of Conservation Practices**

It is NRCS's intention to issue a series of new or revised conservation practice standards in its National Handbook of Conservation Practices. For details view the January 23, 2008 Federal Register (Volume 73, Number 15; page 3923).

### **Initiation of 5-Year Reviews of 10 Listed Species**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service initiate 5-year reviews of various species. They request any new information that may have a bearing on the classification as endangered or threatened of the species listed in the January 23, 2008 Federal Register (Volume 73, Number 15; pages 3991-3993). Information is due March 24, 2008.

### **Environmental Monitoring Form**

Regulations require APHIS to implement environmental monitoring for certain activities conducted for pest and disease, control and eradication programs. APHIS Form 2060, Environmental Monitoring Form, will be used to collect information concerning the effects of pesticide used in sensitive habitats. For details view the February 14, 2008 Federal Register (Volume 73, Number 31; pages 8642-8643).

### **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.