

June-June 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.

Investigations Focused on Promoting the Safety of Produce

The Food and Drug Administration is announcing the availability of funds for FY 2008. The funds will support research efforts to advance the safe transportation and preparation of produce and to help reduce the incidence of foodborne illness. For details visit: <http://www.cfsan.fda.gov/list.html> or the June 2, 2008 Federal Register (Volume 73, Number 106; pages 31490-31492).

Food Protection Task Force Conference

The Food and Drug Administration is announcing the availability of conference grant funding for meetings of State Food Protection Task Forces. For more details view the June 10, 2008 Federal Register (Volume 73, Number 112; page 32715-32717).

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.

Renewal of the Global Markets

The CFTC will renew the charter of the Global Markets Advisory Committee. For details view the June 18, 2008 Federal Register (Volume 73, Number 118; page 34715).

International Standard-Setting Activities

The June 5, 2008 Federal Register (Volume 73, Number 109; pages 31950-31960) informs the public of the sanitary and phytosanitary standard-setting activities of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, in accordance with section 491 of the Trade Agreements Act of 1979, as amended, and the Uruguay Round Agreements Act.

Loan Deficiency Payments for Loan Commodities Except Cotton and Peanuts

The Commodity Credit Corporation will extend Marketing Assistance Loans and Loan Deficiency Payments for the 2008 crop. For more details view the June 10, 2008 Federal Register (Volume 73, Number 112; pages 32675-32676).

Public Meetings of Advisory Committee on Beginning Farmers and Ranchers

The June 24, 2008 Federal Register (Volume 73, Number 122; page 35632) issued a notice regarding the public meeting of the Advisory Committee on Beginning Farmers and Ranchers. The public meetings will be held July 9-10, 2008.

Fruit and Vegetable Industry Advisory Committee

Agricultural Marketing Service will hold a Fruit and Vegetable Industry Advisory Committee meeting that is open to the public on September 8, 2008, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more details view the June 2, 2008 Federal Register (Volume 73, Number 106; pages 31425-31426).

Risk Management Agency, Multiple Peril Crop Insurance

Previous amendments to the Federal Crop Insurance Act expanded the role of the crop insurance program to be the principal tool for risk management by producers. Federal Crop Insurance Corporation offers a Standard Reinsurance Agreement to eligible crop insurance companies under which FCIC will use data elements instead of standards forms. For more details view the June 13, 2008 Federal Register (Volume 73, Number 115; page 33801).

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.

Mission-Related Investments, Rural Community Investments

The Farm Credit Administration proposes a new rule that would authorize each Farm Credit System bank, association, and service corporation to invest in rural communities across America under certain conditions. Comments are due by August 15, 2008. For more details view the June 16, 2008 Federal Register (Volume 73, Number 116; pages 33931-33940).

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.

Agricultural Air Quality Task Force

The Secretary of Agriculture intends to reestablish the Agricultural Air Quality Task Force and requests nominations for qualified persons to serve as members. Nominations must be received in writing by August 4, 2008. Send written nominations to: Michele Laur, Designated Federal Official, USDA/ Natural Resources Conservation Service, Post Office Box 2890, Room 6165-South, Washington, DC 20013. For more details view the June 18, 2008 Federal Register (Volume 73, Number 118; pages 34703-34704).

Regulations for Complying With the National Environmental Policy Act

The Natural Resources Conservation Service is amending its National Environmental Policy Act compliance regulations by clarifying the appropriate use of a program environmental assessment and by aligning its NEPA public involvement process with that of the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations that implement the NEPA. For more details view the June 25, 2008 Federal Register (Volume 73, Number 123; pages 35883-35886).

Valuation of Hemlock Decline on Public Forests

The Forest Service is seeking comments from all interested individuals and organizations on the new information collection, Valuation of Hemlock Decline on Public Forests in the Southern Appalachian Mountains. Comments are due by August 25, 2008. For more details view the June 26, 2008 Federal Register (Volume 73, Number 124; pages 36297-36298).

Environmental Impact Statements and Regulations; Availability of EPA Comments

Availability of EPA comments prepared pursuant to the Environmental Review Process, under the Clean Air Act and the National Environmental Policy Act as amended. For more details view the June 20, 2008 Federal Register (Volume 73, Number 120; pages 35132-35133).

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.