

March 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.

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.

Farm and Ranch Irrigation Survey

The March 13, 2008 Federal Register (Volume 73, Number 50; pages 13530-13531) announces the intention of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) to request approval for reinstatement and revision of an information collection, the Farm and Ranch Irrigation Survey. Comments must be received by May 12, 2008.

Meetings of the United States-Chile Environment Affairs Council

The Department of State and the Office of the United States Trade Representative are providing notice that the United States-Chile Free Trade Agreement, the two governments intend to hold the fourth meeting of the Environment Affairs Council in Santiago, Chile on April 24, 2008. For details view the March 26, 2008 Federal Register (Volume 73, Number 59; pages 16089- 16090).

Common Crop Insurance Regulations - Citrus Fruit

The February 29, 2008 Federal Register (Volume 73, Number 41; page 10973) contains corrections to the final regulation which was published Thursday, February 7, 2008. The regulation pertains to the insurance of Florida Citrus Fruit.

Amendment to Primary Peanut-Producing States

The March 20, 2008 Federal Register (Volume 73, Number 55; pages 14919-14922) would add a producer member and alternate from the State of Mississippi to the National Peanut Board.

National Woodland Owner Survey

The Forest Service is seeking comments from all interested individuals and organizations on the reinstated information collection, National Woodland Owner Survey. Comments must be received before May 20, 2008. For more details visit the March 21, 2008 Federal Register (Volume 73, Number 56; pages 15123-15124).

Inviting Applications for the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

The Agricultural Marketing Service announces the availability of funds to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops. State departments of agriculture interested in obtaining grant program funds are invited to submit applications to USDA. State departments of agriculture are encouraged to involve industry groups, academia, and community-based organizations in the development of applications and the administration of projects. For more details view the March 5, 2008 Federal Register (Volume 73, Number 44; pages 11859-11860).

Dairy Disaster Assistance Payment Program III

The March 4, 2008 Federal Register (Volume 73, Number 43; pages 11519-11527) establishes a new program, the Dairy Disaster Assistance Payment Program III. The program will provide assistance for producers in counties designated as a major disaster or emergency area.

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.

NSF Environmental Research and Education Meeting

The NSF Advisory Committee for Environmental Research and Education will be held April 9-10, 2008. View the March 10, 2008 Federal Register (Volume 73, Number 47; page 12776).

NRCS and Commodity Credit Corporation, USDA.

In the Interim Final Rule published March 25, 2005, USDA's NRCS established the implementing regulations for the Conservation Security Program (CSP). The March 27, 2008 Federal Register (Volume 73, Number 60; pages 16246-16259) announces the Fiscal Year 2008 sign-up, CSP-08-01 that will be open from April 18, 2008 through May 17, 2008, in selected 8-digit watersheds, which can be viewed at: http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp/CSP_2008/2008_CSP_WS.html.

Agricultural Resources Management Survey and Chemical Use Surveys

The March 4, 2008 Federal Register (Volume 73, Number 43; pages 11613-11614) announces the intention of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) to seek approval to revise and extend a currently approved information collection, the Agricultural Resources Management Survey and Chemical Use Surveys. The following two scheduling changes will be requested. First, chemical use surveys are only requested for fall 2010 to include fruit and postharvest. Thus, no vegetable chemical use survey will be requested. Second, in 2008 only, in lieu of the fall ARMS Phase II Survey, additional questions will be requested for the ARMS Phase III Cost and Returns Report. These questions will focus on a) bio-energy crop adoption and production expenses, and b) impact of tobacco program changes on tobacco marketing. Thus, in 2009, NASS will not publish the 2008 Field Crops Chemical Use report which would have resulted from a 2008 ARMS Phase II Survey. Comments must be received by May 5, 2008.

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.

Survey Research Studies

The March 13, 2008 Federal Register (Volume 73, Number 50; pages 13529-13530) announces the intention of NASS to seek approval to conduct a new information collection, the Generic Clearance for Survey Research Studies. Comments are due May 12, 2008.

Science Advisory Board Environmental Economics Advisory Committee

The EPA's Science Advisory Board Staff Office is announcing a public teleconference of the SAB Environmental Economics Advisory Committee to receive a briefing from the EPA National Center for Environmental Economics regarding its upcoming advisory requests. The teleconference will be held from noon-2 p.m. Eastern on April 14, 2008. For more details view the March 21, 2008 Federal Register (Volume 73, Number 56; pages 15154-15155).

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.