

May 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.

Reportable Food Registry as Required by the FDA

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is announcing a delay in the implementation of the Reportable Food Registry of the Food and Drug Administration Amendments Act of 2007. FDA intends to implement the FDAAA requirement to establish an electronic portal for reportable food by utilizing the business enterprise system currently under development by the agency. This system will be easy to use and the most efficient and cost effective for both users and the agency. FDA is requesting comments on certain aspects of the Registry provisions. For more information visit the May 27, 2008 Federal Register (Volume 73, Number 102; pages 30405-30406). Comments are due by August 11, 2008.

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.

Designation of Biobased Items for Federal Procurement

USDA is amending the guidelines for designating biobased products for Federal procurement, to add nine sections to designate items, including subcategories, within which biobased products will be afforded Federal procurement preference. USDA also is establishing minimum biobased content for each of these items and subcategories. In addition, USDA is amending the guidelines by providing exemptions to the Department of Defense and the National Aeronautic and Space Administration from the preferred procurement requirements. For more information visit the May 14, 2008 Federal Register (Volume 73, Number 94; pages 27927-27956).

In addition, USDA is amending the guidelines for designating biobased products for Federal procurement, to add ten sections to designate items, including subcategories, within which biobased products will be afforded Federal procurement preference, as provided for under section 9002 of the Farm Security and

Rural Investment Act of 2002. USDA also is establishing a minimum biobased content for each of these items and subcategories. For details view the May 14, 2008 Federal Register (Volume 73, Number 94; pages 27957-27975).

Finally, USDA is amending the guidelines for designating biobased products for Federal procurement, to add eight sections to designate items, including subcategories, within which biobased products will be afforded Federal procurement preference, as provided for under section 9002 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002. For more information view the May 14, 2008 Federal Register (Volume 73, Number 94; pages 27977-27995).

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.

National Fluid Milk Processor Promotion Program

The May 21, 2008 Federal Register (Volume 73, Number 99; pages 29389-29390) amends the Fluid Milk Promotion Order by reducing the burden of late-payment charges applied to processors who mistakenly underreport the amount of assessments owed to the National Fluid Milk Processor Promotion Board, provided that the processor has not made more than two reporting errors in the prior 12 months.

Honey Packers and Importers Research

The May 21, 2008 Federal Register (Volume 73, Number 99; pages 29390-29405) establishes the Honey Packers and Importers Research, Promotion, Consumer Education and Industry Information Order.

Sorghum Promotion, Research, and Information Order

The rule in the May 6, 2008 Federal Register (Volume 73, Number 88; pages 25397-25417) establishes an industry-funded promotion, research, and information program for sorghum.

Notice of Millennium Challenge Corporation Quarterly Report

The Millennium Challenge Corporation is reporting for the quarter January 1, 2008 through March 31, 2008. The following report shall be made available to the public by means of publication in the Federal Register and on the Internet Web site of the MCC <http://www.mcc.gov>. For more details view the May 7, 2008 Federal Register (Volume 73, Number 89; pages 25775-25783).

Farm Service Agency Customer Data Worksheet Request

Critical Customer Data is required in order to identify USDA program participants and ensure that benefits are directed to the correct customer and respective Tax Identification Numbers. The option to document and track Critical Customer Data changes is necessary to ensure the integrity of the database and to provide the Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources and Conservation Service and Rural Development a method of verifying the validity of the information, and provide a necessary basis for pursuing legal remedies when needed. For more details view the May 8, 2008 Federal Register (Volume 73, Number 90; page 26074).

Request for Permit for Reshipment of Swine From Slaughtering Facilities

The May 23, 2008 Federal Register (Volume 73, Number 101; pages 30043-30044) announces the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's intention to request approval of an information collection activity for reshipment of swine associated with regulations for livestock removed from slaughtering facilities. Comments must be received by July 22, 2008.

Livestock Mandatory Reporting Revisions of the Reporting Regulation

On April 2, 2001, the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) implemented the Livestock Mandatory Reporting program as required by the Livestock Mandatory Reporting Act of 1999. In October 2006, legislation was enacted to reauthorize the 1999 Act until September 30, 2010, and to amend the swine reporting requirements of the 1999 Act. This final rule will re-establish the regulatory authority for the program's continued operation and incorporate the swine reporting changes contained within the Reauthorization Act as well as make other changes to enhance the program's overall effectiveness and efficiency based on AMS' experience in the administration of the program over the last 6 years. For more details view the May 16, 2008 Federal Register (Volume 73, Number 96; pages 28605-28662).

APHIS User Fee Information

The Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 authorizes the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to collect user fees for agricultural quarantine and inspection services, for providing for the inspection and certification of plants and plant products offered for export or transiting the United States, and for providing veterinary diagnostic services and services related to the importation and exportation of animals and animal products. Comments are due July 22, 2008. View the May 23, 2008 Federal Register (Volume 73, Number 101; pages 30042-30043).

Exotic Newcastle Disease; Quarantine Restrictions

The May 27, 2008 Federal Register (Volume 73, Number 102; pages 30291-30299) is making several changes to the exotic Newcastle disease domestic quarantine regulations.

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.

Childhood Injury and Adult Occupational Injury Survey

NASS will conduct a study which will provide estimates of annual childhood and adult nonfatal injury incidence rates, annual injury frequencies, and descriptive injury information for children under the age of 20 and farm operators and employees 20 years of age or older. For details visit the May 9, 2008 Federal Register (Volume 73, Number 91; pages 26358-26359).

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.

Emergency Conservation Program

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency (FSA) announces the availability of a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for potential changes to the Emergency Conservation Program. ECP provides emergency funding to farmers and ranchers who have suffered damage to their agricultural lands as a result of a natural disaster. The potential changes under consideration include expanding ECP eligibility to other types of farmland, namely timberland, farmsteads, roads, and feedlots. Comments must be received by June 26, 2008. For details view the May 27, 2008 Federal Register (Volume 73, Number 102; page 30376).

EPA's 2008 Report on the Environment

“EPA's 2008 Report on the Environment”, compiles the most reliable indicators available to help understand important trends in the environment and human health. These gaps and limitations highlight the disparity between the current state of knowledge and the goal of full, reliable, and insightful representation of environmental conditions and trends, and provide direction for future research and monitoring efforts. For more information view the May 20, 2008 Federal Register (Volume 73, Number 98; pages 29134-29135).

Natural Resources Conservation Service Conservation Security Program

NRCS and CCC published in the Federal Register on April 10, 2008, a document extending the sign-up period end date from May 16, 2008, to May 30, 2008. For details please visit May 9, 2008 Federal Register (Volume 73, Number 91; page 26361).

Clean Energy and Environment Trade Mission to China and India

The United States Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration, is organizing a Clean Energy and Environment Trade Mission to China and India, September 1-12, 2008. The trade mission will target a broad range of clean energy and environmental technologies such as renewable energy, biofuels, energy efficiency, clean coal, distributed generation, waste handling and treatment, wastewater treatment, packaging recycling, and drinking water treatment. For information view the May 9, 2008 Federal Register (Volume 73, Number 91; pages 26367-26371).

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.

Concept Release on the Appropriate Regulatory Treatment of Event Contracts

The Commodity Futures Trading Commission is soliciting comment on the appropriate regulatory treatment of financial agreements offered by markets commonly referred to as event, prediction, or information markets. Comments must be received by July 7, 2008. For more information visit: May 7, 2008 Federal Register (Volume 73, Number 89; pages 25669-25674).

2007 Calculation of Expected Non-Market Economy Wages

On April 11, 2008, the Department of Commerce published the preliminary 2007 expected non-market economy wages, and provided the public with an opportunity to comment. The 2007 calculation was based on 2005 data and the methodology described in the Federal Register notice entitled Antidumping Methodologies: Market Economy Inputs, Expected Non-Market Economy Wages, Duty Drawback; and Request for Comments. For details view the May 9, 2008 Federal Register (Volume 73, Number 91; pages 26363-26364).

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.