

November 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.

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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.

#### **Eligibility of Chile to Export Poultry to the United States**

The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is adding Chile to the list of countries eligible to export poultry and poultry products to the United States. For more details please visit the November 1, 2007 Federal Register (Volume 72, Number 211; pages 61793-61796).

#### **Draft Guidance for Industry Regarding Dietary Supplements**

The Food and Drug Administration is announcing the availability of a draft guidance entitled "Questions and Answers Regarding Adverse Event Reporting and Recordkeeping for Dietary Supplements as Required by the Dietary Supplement and Nonprescription Drug Consumer Protection Act." Submit comments by December 14, 2007. For more information visit the October 15, 2007 Federal Register (Volume 72, Number 198; pages 58313-58315).

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### Future Technologies and Infrastructure Investments

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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.

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

The Agricultural Research Service is requesting nominations for qualified persons to serve as members of the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Biotechnology and 21st Century Agriculture. Written nominations must be received by November 23, 2007. For more information please visit the October 24, 2007 Federal Register (Volume 72, Number 205; pages 60310-60311).

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

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### **United States-Bahrain Free Trade Agreement**

The October 16, 2007 Federal Register (Volume 72, Number 199; pages 58511-58522) amends the U.S. Customs and Border Protection regulations on an interim basis to implement the preferential tariff treatment and other customs-related provisions of the United States-Bahrain Free Trade Agreement entered into by the United States and the Kingdom of Bahrain. Comments must be received by December 17, 2007.

### **Antidumping Methodologies Involving Certain Non-Market Economies**

The Department of Commerce requests public comment by November 26, 2007 on whether it should consider granting market-economy treatment to individual respondents in antidumping proceedings involving the People's Republic of China, the conditions under which individual firms should be granted market-economy treatment, and how such treatment might affect our antidumping calculation for such qualifying respondents. For more information please visit the October 25, 2007 Federal Register (Volume 72, Number 206; pages 60649-60651).

### **NAFTA Binational Panel Reviews**

The October 25, 2007 Federal Register (Volume 72, Number 206; page 60649) provides a notice of consent motion to terminate the panel review of the final determination made by the Canadian Border Services Agency respecting "Unprocessed grain corn, excluding seed corn, sweet corn, and popping corn, originating in or exported from the United States of America."

### **Notice of Entering Into a Compact With the Government of Mongolia**

The Millennium Challenge Corporation is publishing a summary and the complete text of the Millennium Challenge Compact between the United States of America, acting through the Millennium Challenge Corporation, and the Government of Mongolia. For more details view the October 30, 2007 Federal Register (Volume 72, Number 209; pages 61381-61405).

### **Handling Regulations for Leafy Greens**

The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is issuing an advance notice in the October 4, 2007 Federal Register (Volume 72, Number 192; pages 56678-56680) in response to industry interest in the establishment of a marketing program to address the handling of fresh and fresh-cut leafy green vegetables. Comments must be received by December 3, 2007.

### **Standards for Grass Fed Claim for Ruminant Livestock and Meat**

The October 16, 2007 Federal Register (Volume 72, Number 199; pages 58631-58637) announces information on a voluntary standard for grass fed livestock marketing claims which would allow livestock producers to request that a grass fed claim be verified by USDA.

### **Codex Committee on Milk and Milk Products**

The Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety and USDA AMS are sponsoring a public meeting on January 17, 2008 to provide information and receive public comments and draft United States positions that will be discussed at the 8th Session of the Codex Committee on Milk and Milk Products. For more information please visit the October 30, 2007 Federal Register (Volume 72, Number 209; pages 61324-61325).

### **The Dairy Import Licensing Program**

This proposed rule would suspend the historical license reduction provisions of the dairy import licensing program for a period of 5 years. Submit comments before November 5, 2007. For more details please visit the October 4, 2007 Federal Register: October 4, 2007 (Volume 72, Number 192; pages 56677-56678).

### **NASS Milk and Milk Products OMB Comments**

The National Agricultural Statistics Service's primary function is to prepare and issue current official state and national estimates of crop and livestock production. Estimates of milk production and manufactured dairy products are an integral part of this program. Milk and dairy statistics are used by the USDA to help administer price support programs and by the dairy industry in planning, pricing, and projecting supplies of milk and milk products. For more details view the October 31, 2007 Federal Register (Volume 72, Number 210; pages 61606-61607).

### **Common Crop Insurance Regulations; Potato Provisions**

The Federal Crop Insurance Corporation finalizes amendments to the Common Crop Insurance Regulations regarding Northern Potatoes. For more details please view the October 30, 2007 Federal Register (Volume 72, Number 209; pages 61273-61288).

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## **Economic Opportunities in Rural Areas**

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### **Regulatory Streamlining of the FSA's Direct Farm Loan Programs**

The November 8, 2007 Federal Register (Volume 72, Number 216; pages 63241-63361) streamlines the Farm Service Agency's regulations governing its direct Farm Loan Programs. The final rule simplifies and clarifies FSA's direct loan regulations; and separates FSA's direct Farm Loan Programs regulations from the Rural Development mission area's loan program regulations.

### **Cash and Share Lease Provisions for Future Farm Programs**

This advance notice of proposed rulemaking seeks comments with respect to the manner in which "combination" or "flex" leases are viewed by USDA in the administration of various programs that are administered by the Farm Service Agency and the Risk Management Agency. Comments are requested by November 27, 2007. For more details please visit the September 28, 2007 Federal Register (Volume 72, Number 188; pages; 55105-55108).

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## **Environmental and Natural Resource Issues**

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### **State FIFRA Issues Research and Evaluation Group Public Meeting**

The Association of American Pesticide Control Officials/State FIFRA Issues Research and Evaluation Group will hold a meeting December 3-4, 2007. For more details view the November 7, 2007 Federal Register (Volume 72, Number 215; pages 62843-62844).

### **Pesticides; Data Requirements for Conventional Chemicals**

EPA is updating its data requirements for the registration of conventional pesticide products. Besides providing the regulated community with clearer and more transparent information, the updated data requirements will enhance the development of health and environmental data to conduct scientifically sound chemical hazard/risk assessments to protect human health and the environment. For more details please view the Federal Register: October 26, 2007 (Volume 72, Number 207; page 60933-60988).

### **Notice of Meeting of the National Organic Standards Board**

In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is announcing a forthcoming meeting of the National Organic Standards Board November 28-30, 2007. For more details please view the October 12, 2007 Federal Register (Volume 72, Number 197; pages 58046-58047).

### **Availability of Preliminary 2008 Effluent Guidelines Program Plan**

The October 30 2007 Federal Register (Volume 72, Number 209; pages 61335-61355) presents EPA's 2007 review of existing effluent guidelines and pretreatment standards, and the Preliminary 2008 Effluent Guidelines Program Plan. Deadline for comments is December 31, 2007.

### **Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement**

The Farm Service Agency announces its intention to prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the Emergency Conservation Program. The SEIS also provides a means for the public to have opportunities to comment on the program, which are due December 24, 2007. For more information visit the October 24, 2007 Federal Register (Volume 72, Number 205; page 60312).

### **EPA Draft White Paper Regarding StarLink Corn Dietary Exposure**

EPA is seeking comment on a draft White Paper that reviews data on the level in the human food supply of Cry9C protein from StarLink[reg] corn grain. It concludes that the protein has been sufficiently removed from the human food supply to render the level of risk low enough that continued testing provides no added public health protection. The White Paper therefore recommends that the FDA withdraw its guidance recommending testing at listed facilities. Comments must be received before December 3, 2007. For more details please view the October 17, 2007 Federal Register (Volume 72, Number 200; pages 58977-58980).

### **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.