

October 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.

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.

Food Labeling: Safe Handling Statements: Labeling of Shell Eggs

The Food and Drug Administration is amending its food labeling regulations to permit the egg industry to place the safe handling statement for shell eggs on the inside lid of egg cartons if the statement "Keep Refrigerated" appears on the principal display panel or information panel. For details view the August 20, 2007 Federal Register (volume 72, number 160, pages 46375-46378).

Importation of Table Eggs From Regions Where Exotic Newcastle Disease Exists

APHIS is proposing to amend the regulations regarding the importation of animal products in order to modify the requirements concerning the importation of eggs (other than hatching eggs) from regions where exotic Newcastle disease exists. For more details view the August 13, 2007 Federal Register (volume 72, number 155, pages 45177-45181).

Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy

The September 18, 2007 Federal Register (volume 72, number 180, pages 53313-53379) amends the regulations regarding the importation of animals and animal products to establish conditions for the importation of the following commodities from regions that present a minimal risk of introducing bovine spongiform encephalopathy into the United States.

Agricultural Bioterrorism Protection Act of 2002

In accordance with the Agricultural Bioterrorism Protection Act of 2002, the August 28, 2007 Federal Register (volume 72, number 166, pages 49231-49236) proposes to amend and republish the list of select agents and toxins that have the potential to pose a severe threat to animal or plant health, or to animal or plant products.

Meeting of the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses

The Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety, USDA and the FDA, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services are sponsoring a public meeting on September 25, 2007. For more details view the September 21, 2007 Federal Register (volume 72, number 183, pages 53984-53985).

Importation of Live Bovines and Products Derived From Bovines

APHIS is amending the regulations regarding the importation of animals and animal products to establish conditions for the importation of commodities from regions that present a minimal risk of introducing bovine spongiform encephalopathy into the United States. For more details view the September 18, 2007 Federal Register (volume 72, number 180, pages 53313-53379).

Codex Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance

The Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety, USDA, and FDA are sponsoring a public meeting on September 24, 2007, to discuss the agenda items coming before the First Session of the Codex Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance and to present draft U.S. positions on the agenda items. For more details view the September 21, 2007 Federal Register (volume 72, number 183, pages 53985-53986).

National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods

The September 21, 2007 Federal Register (volume 72, number 183, pages 53986-53987) announces that the National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods will hold public meetings of the full Committee and subcommittees on September 24-28, 2007.

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.

Request for Proposals for Woody Biomass Utilization Grant

The USDA Forest Service requests proposals for forest product projects that increase the use of woody biomass from National Forest System lands. For details view the September 18, 2007 (volume 72, number 180, pages 53225-53227).

Alternative Fuel Transportation Program

Pursuant to the Energy Policy Act of 1992, the Department of Energy proposes to determine that a regulatory requirement for the owners and operators of certain private and local government fleets to acquire alternative fueled vehicles is not necessary to achieve the recently modified EPA 1992 Replacement Fuel Goal. For more details view the September 14, 2007 Federal Register (volume 72, number 178, pages 52496-52506).

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.

Onions Grown in South Texas; Change in Regulatory Period

The Department of Agriculture is adopting, as a final rule, without change, an interim final rule revising the regulatory period for minimum grade, size, quality, and maturity requirements applicable to onions grown in South Texas under Marketing Order No. 959. For more details view the August 28, 2007 Federal Register (volume 72, number 166, pages 49136-49139).

Walnuts Grown in California; Increased Assessment Rate

This rule would increase the assessment rate established for the Walnut Marketing Board for the 2007-08 and subsequent fiscal periods from \$0.0101 to \$0.0122 per kernelweight pound of assessable walnuts. For more details view the August 17, 2007 Federal Register (volume 72, number 159, pages 46183-46185).

Global Beef Trade

Following receipt on August 7, 2007, of a request from the United States Senate Committee on Finance the Commission instituted investigation No. 332-488, Global Beef Trade: Effects of Animal Health, Sanitary, Food Safety, and Other Measures on U.S. Beef Exports. For more details view the September 19, 2007 Federal Register (volume 72, number 181, pages 53603-53604).

Cotton Research and Promotion Program

This rule will amend the rules and regulations regarding the procedures for the conduct of a sign-up period for eligible cotton producers and importers to request a continuance referendum on the 1991 amendments to the Cotton Research and Promotion Order provided for in the Cotton Research and Promotion Act amendments of 1990. For more details view the September 6, 2007 Federal Register (volume 72, number 172, pages 51159-51161).

Notice of Agricultural Management Assistance Organic Certification Cost Share Program

The August 29, 2007 Federal Register (volume 72, number 167, pages 49694-49695) invites the following eligible States: Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wyoming, to submit an Application for Federal Assistance and to enter into a Cooperative Agreement with USDA AMS for the Allocation of Organic Certification Cost-Share Funds.

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.

Community Connect Broadband Grant Program

The Rural Utilities Service gives notice that no adverse comments were received regarding the direct final rule amending its regulations to update the eligibility criteria for the Community Connect Broadband Grant Program requirements. For more details view the September 17, 2007 Federal Register (volume 72, number 179, pages 52779-52780).

Assistance to High Energy Cost Rural Communities

The Rural Utilities Service announces the availability of \$21.9 million in Fiscal Year 2007 for competitive grants to assist communities with extremely high energy costs. For more details view the August 17, 2007 Federal Register (volume 72, number 159, pages 46195-46207).

Funding Opportunity for Research on the Economic Impact of Cooperatives

Rural Business--Cooperative Service programs are administered through USDA Rural Development. USDA Rural Development announces the availability of competitive cooperative agreement funds for fiscal year 2007 to conduct research on the national economic impact of all types of cooperatives. For more details view the August 15, 2007 Federal Register (volume 72, number 157, pages 45726-45731).

Rural Development Guaranteed Loans

Rural Development is proposing a unified guaranteed loan platform for enhanced delivery of four existing Rural Development guaranteed loan programs--Community Facility; Water and Waste Disposal; Business and Industry; and Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvement Projects. For more details view the September 14, 2007 Federal Register (volume 72, number 178, pages 52617-52666).

Assistance to High Energy Cost Rural Communities

The Rural Utilities Service announces the availability of \$21.9 million in Fiscal Year 2007 for competitive grants to assist communities with extremely high energy costs. For more details view the August 17, 2007 Federal Register (volume 72, number 159, pages 46195-46207).

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.

Notice of Meeting of the Agriculture Air Quality Task Force

The Agricultural Air Quality Task Force will meet to continue discussions on air quality issues relating to agriculture. For more details view the August 31, 2007 Federal Register (volume 72, number 169, pages 50322-50323).

State Innovation Grant Program

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, National Center for Environmental Innovation is giving preliminary notice of its intention to solicit pre-proposals for a 2008 grant program to support innovation by state environmental agencies. For more details view the September 14, 2007 Federal Register (volume 72, number 178, pages 52558-52561).

Proposed Rule on Particulate Matter

The Clean Air Act authorizes EPA to establish regulations to prevent significant deterioration of air quality due to emissions of any pollutant for which a national ambient air quality standard has been promulgated. For more details view the September 21, 2007 Federal Register (volume 72, number 183, pages 54111-54156).

National Environmental Policy Act and the Environmental Effects Abroad of EPA Actions

The Environmental Protection Agency is amending its procedures for implementing the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. For more details view the September 19, 2007 (volume 72, number 181, pages 53651-53672).

Comprehensive Procurement Guideline

The Environmental Protection Agency is amending the Comprehensive Procurement Guideline for recovered content products. Specifically, EPA is revising the list of items designated in the category of landscaping products. For more details view the September 14, 2007 Federal Register (volume 72, number 178, pages 52475-52488).

Tribal Pesticide Program Council; Notice of Public Meeting

The Tribal Pesticide Program Council will hold a meeting October 10-12, 2007. For more details view the September 19, 2007 Federal Register (volume 72, number 181, pages 53572-53573).

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.

NAREEE Advisory Board Specialty Crop Meeting and Executive Committee Meeting

In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the USDA announces a meeting of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board Specialty Crop Committee and Executive Committee. For more details view the August 14, 2007 Federal Register (volume 72, number 156, page 45413).

Nominations to the World Trade Organization Dispute Settlement

The Office of the United States Trade Representative is seeking to update the current list of U.S. non-governmental individuals on the indicative list of potential panelists maintained by the WTO Secretariat. For more details view the September 17, 2007 Federal Register (volume 72, number 179, pages 52942-52944).

National Sea Grant Review Panel

This notice sets forth the schedule and proposed agenda of a forthcoming meeting of the Sea Grant Review Panel. For more details view the September 14, 2007 Federal Register (volume 72, number 178, page 52554).

Solicitation of Nominations for Members of the Grain Inspection Advisory Committee

The USDA is seeking nominations for people to serve on GIPSA's Grain Inspection Advisory Committee. For more details view the August 20, 2007 Federal Register (volume 72, number 160, pages 46437-46438).

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.