

Notices

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

[No.: TM-05-1]

Notice of Meeting of the National Organic Standards Board

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: 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 (NOSB).

DATES: The meeting dates are: Monday, February 28, 2005, 2 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 1, 2005, 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 2, 2005, 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Thursday, March 3, 2005, 8 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Requests from individuals and organizations wishing to make an oral presentation at the meeting are due by the close of business on February 11, 2005.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will take place at the Washington Terrace Hotel, 1515 Rhode Island Avenue, NW., Washington, DC. Requests for copies of the NOSB meeting agenda, requests to make an oral presentation at the meeting, or written comments may be sent to Ms. Francine Torres at USDA-AMS-TMD-NOP, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Room 4008-So., Ag Stop 0268, Washington, DC 20250-0200. Requests to make an oral presentation at the meeting may also be sent via facsimile to Ms. Francine Torres at (202) 205-7808 or electronically to Ms. Francine Torres at francine.torres@usda.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Richard Mathews, Associate Deputy Administrator, National Organic Program, (202) 720-3252.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 2119 (7 U.S.C. 6518) of the Organic

Foods Production Act of 1990 (OFPA), as amended (7 U.S.C. Section 6501 *et seq.*) requires the establishment of the NOSB. The purpose of the NOSB is to make recommendations about whether a substance should be allowed or prohibited in organic production or handling, to assist in the development of standards for substances to be used in organic production, and to advise the Secretary on other aspects of the implementation of the OFPA. The NOSB met for the first time in Washington, DC, in March 1992, and currently has six committees working on various aspects of the organic program. The committees are: Compliance, Accreditation, and Certification; Crops; Livestock; Materials; Handling; and Policy Development.

In August of 1994, the NOSB provided its initial recommendations for the National Organic Program (NOP) to the Secretary of Agriculture. Since that time, the NOSB has submitted 53 addenda to its recommendations and reviewed more than 264 substances for inclusion on the National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances. The last meeting of the NOSB was held on October 12-14, 2004, in Washington, DC.

The Department of Agriculture (USDA) published its final National Organic Program regulation in the **Federal Register** on December 21, 2000 (65 FR 80548). The rule became effective April 21, 2001.

The principal purposes of the meeting are to provide an opportunity for the NOSB to receive an update from the USDA/NOP and hear progress reports from NOSB committees regarding work plan items and proposed actions. The NOSB will receive an update from the Association of American Plant Food Control Officials (AAPFCO) concerning its recent labeling committee meeting and discuss actions items concerning the formation of the NOSB Aquatic Animal Task Force and Pet Food Task Force. The NOSB will also review materials to determine if they should be included on the National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances.

The Accreditation, Certification, and Compliance Committee will discuss how to operationalize the peer review of NOP's accreditation program. It will present, for NOSB consideration, its recommendation to expand the

information contained on certificates of organic operations and provide support for the development of an NOP electronic data management system. The Livestock Committee will discuss issues involving the formation of an Aquatic Animal Task Force. It will discuss priorities for sunset review of livestock substances, a rule change for dairy replacement (based on an existing NOSB recommendation), and a rule change for apiculture standards (based on an existing NOSB recommendation). The committee will present a recommendation that addresses options for adding livestock substances, already reviewed and approved by NOSB, to the National List. It will consider restrictions on the use of certain forms of proteinated chelates as livestock feed supplements. The committee will also address issues regarding a petition requesting an extension for the use of DL-Methionine in poultry production and discuss the use and labeling of calcium carbonate as an allowed feed supplement. The Livestock Committee will submit a draft guidance document for NOSB consideration on the requirements for access to pasture for ruminants.

The Policy Development Committee will discuss the duties of an Executive Director for the NOSB and factors to be considered for temporary research variances. The committee will present, for NOSB consideration, its recommendation concerning the adoption of the NOP collaboration policy document and changes to the Board Policies and Procedures Manual. The committee will also present its recommendation for soliciting USDA support for ensuring consistent use of the word "organic" on AAPFCO regulated fertilizer labels. Finally, the committee will submit, for NOSB consideration, a guidance document regarding the use of organic and non-organic forms of the same ingredient in products labeled, "made with organic ingredients". The Handling Committee will discuss the priorities for the sunset review of natural substances contained on the National List. The committee will report on its work for determining when a product is agricultural versus nonagricultural. The Handling Committee will also present, for NOSB consideration, its recommendation on the following draft guidance documents: (1) The status of albumen for use in the

clarification process of organic wine-making; (2) the calculation of percent organic ingredients for the manufacture of organic tea; (3) the status of bitter orange as a natural processing aid used in or on organic processed products; and (4) the organic certification of retail food establishments.

The Materials Committee will discuss plans for identifying and prioritizing substances for sunset review. The committee will present recommended action plans for (1) establishing internal procedures for NOSB sunset review of substances on the National List; (2) determining synthetic vs. non-synthetic substances; and (3) determining the impact of various extraction methods on substances reviewed by the NOSB for placement on the National List. The committee will also recommend, for NOSB consideration, the revised material review procedures developed by the NOP and Materials Committee. The Crops Committee will discuss priorities for the sunset review of substances used in organic crop production. It will also discuss the development of draft hydroponic production standards. The Crops Committee will submit, for NOSB consideration, draft guidance regarding the use of compost and compost tea and the use of waxed boxes used for organic production. The committee will submit revisions to the "natural resource" sections of the NOSB organic farm plan, to better address biodiversity and natural resource preservation requirements. The committee will also submit guidance on the assessment of commercial availability and equivalent varieties of organic seeds.

Materials to be reviewed at the meeting by the NOSB are as follows: for Crop Production: Soy Protein Isolate, Ammonium Bicarbonate, and Ferric Phosphate.

For further information, see <http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop>. Copies of the NOSB meeting agenda can be requested from Ms. Francine Torres by telephone at (202) 720-3252; or by accessing the NOP Web site at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop>.

The meeting is open to the public. The NOSB has scheduled time for public input on Tuesday, March 1, 2005, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.; and Thursday, March 3, 2005, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Individuals and organizations wishing to make an oral presentation at the meeting may forward their request by mail, facsimile, or e-mail to Ms. Francine Torres at addresses listed in **ADDRESSES** above. While persons wishing to make a presentation may sign up at the door, advance registration will ensure that a person has the

opportunity to speak during the allotted time period and will help the NOSB to better manage the meeting and to accomplish its agenda. Individuals or organizations will be given approximately 5 minutes to present their views. All persons making an oral presentation are requested to provide their comments in writing. Written submissions may contain information other than that presented at the oral presentation.

Written comments may also be submitted at the meeting. Persons submitting written comments at the meeting are asked to provide 30 copies.

Interested persons may visit the NOSB portion of the NOP Web site <http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop> to view available documents prior to the meeting. Approximately 6 weeks following the meeting interested persons will be able to visit the NOSB portion of the NOP Web site to view documents from the meeting.

Dated: February 8, 2005.

Kenneth C. Clayton,

Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 05-2731 Filed 2-8-05; 2:41 pm]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Foreign Agricultural Service

Trade Adjustment Assistance for Farmers

AGENCY: Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

The Administrator, Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS), today accepted a petition filed by the A. Sam Farm Inc, Dunkirk, New York, for trade adjustment assistance. The petitioner represents a group of cabbage producers in New York. The Administrator will determine within 40 days whether or not imports of cabbages contributed importantly to a decline in domestic producer prices of more than 20 percent during the marketing year period beginning January 2003 through December 2003. If the determination is positive, all cabbage producers in New York will be eligible to apply to the Farm Service Agency for technical assistance at no cost and for adjustment assistance payments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Jean-Louis Pajot, Coordinator, Trade Adjustment Assistance for Farmers, FAS, USDA, (202) 720-2916, e-mail: trade.adjustment@fas.usda.gov.

Dated: February 4, 2005.

A. Ellen Terpstra,

Administrator, Foreign Agricultural Service.

[FR Doc. 05-2719 Filed 2-10-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-10-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Foreign Agricultural Service

Trade Adjustment Assistance for Farmers

AGENCY: Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

The Administrator, Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS), today accepted a petition filed by the Potato Growers of Idaho, Inc., Blackfoot, Idaho, for trade adjustment assistance. The petitioner represents producers of fresh potatoes in Idaho. The petitioner has requested a public hearing to review the merits of the petition, which will be held in Room 5066-S, South Agricultural Building, Washington, DC, on March 2, 2005, at 11 a.m. e.t.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The petition maintains that during September 2003 through July 2004, increasing imports of french fries contributed importantly to a decline in domestic fresh potato producer prices by more than 20 percent. To support their contention, the petitioner submitted price data from the Idaho Agricultural Statistics Office. Having accepted this petition, the Administrator has 40 days to determine whether or not producers represented by the petitioner are eligible for trade adjustment assistance. If the determination is positive, they will be eligible to apply to the Farm Service Agency for technical assistance at no cost and adjustment assistance payments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Jean-Louis Pajot, Coordinator, Trade Adjustment Assistance for Farmers, FAS, USDA, (202) 720-2916, e-mail: trade.adjustment@fas.usda.gov.

Dated: February 4, 2005.

A. Ellen Terpstra,

Administrator, Foreign Agricultural Service.

[FR Doc. 05-2718 Filed 2-10-05; 8:45 am]

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