

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

[TM-96-00-1]

Nominations for Members of the National Organic Standards Board

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Organic Foods Production Act (OFPA) of 1990, as amended, requires the establishment of a National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) to assist in the development of standards for substances to be used in organic production and to advise the Secretary of Agriculture on any other aspects of the implementation of the Act. The NOSB was originally established on January 24, 1992, with individual members appointed for staggered appointments of 3, 4, and 5 years. Appointments for five members will be up in January 1997, and the Secretary seeks nominations of individuals to be considered for selection as NOSB members.

DATES: Written nominations, with resumes, must be postmarked on or before August 31, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Nominations should be sent to Dr. Harold S. Ricker, Program Manager, National Organic Program, Transportation and Marketing Division, Room 2945 South Building, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), P. O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Harold S. Ricker, (202) 720-3252.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The OFPA of 1990 requires the Secretary to establish an organic certification program for producers and handlers of agricultural products that have been produced using organic methods. In developing this program, the Secretary is required to establish an NOSB. The

purpose of the NOSB is to assist in the development of standards for substances to be used in organic production and to advise the Secretary on any other aspects of the implementation of the program.

The current NOSB has worked to develop recommendations to the Secretary to establish the initial program. It is anticipated that the NOSB will continue to work on recommendations as appropriate and on the continuing review of substances considered for organic production and processing.

A member of the NOSB shall serve for a term of 5 years, except that the Secretary appointed the original members of the NOSB for staggered terms of 3, 4, and 5 years. The terms of five members of the current NOSB, who were appointed for 5-year terms, will be completed on January 24, 1997. A member may serve consecutive terms if such member served an original term that was less than 5 years as provided for in the OFPA of 1990.

Nominations are sought for the positions of farmer/grower (1), handler/processor (1), consumer/public interest (1), environmentalist (1), and scientist (1). Individuals desiring to be appointed to the NOSB at this time must be either an owner or operator of an organic farming operation, an owner or operator of an organic handling operation, an individual who represents public interest or consumer interest groups, an expert in the area of environmental protection or resource conservation, or an individual with expertise in the fields of toxicology, ecology, or biochemistry.

Selection criteria will include such factors as: demonstrated experience and interest in organics; commodity and geographic representation; endorsed support of consumer and public interest organizations; demonstrated experience with environmental concerns; and other factors as may be appropriate for specific positions.

After applications have been reviewed, individuals receiving nominations will be contacted and supplied with biographical forms. The biographical information must be completed and returned to USDA within 10 working days of its receipt, to expedite the background clearance that is required by USDA.

Dated: June 24, 1996.

Eileen S. Stommes,
Director, Transportation and Marketing Division.

[FR Doc. 96-16634 Filed 6-28-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 96-036-1]

Availability of Environmental Assessments and Findings of No Significant Impact

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: We are advising the public that four environmental assessments and findings of no significant impact have been prepared by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service relative to the issuance of permits to allow the field testing of genetically engineered organisms. The environmental assessments provide a basis for our conclusion that the field testing of the genetically engineered organisms will not present a risk of introducing or disseminating a plant pest and will not have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment. Based on its findings of no significant impact, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has determined that environmental impact statements need not be prepared.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the environmental assessments and findings of no significant impact are available for public inspection at USDA, room 1141, South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Persons wishing to inspect those documents are requested to call ahead on (202) 690-2817 to facilitate entry into the reading room.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Arnold Foudin, Deputy Director, Biotechnology Permits, BBEP, APHIS, Suite 5B05, 4700 River Road Unit 147, Riverdale, MD 20737-1237; (301) 734-7612. For copies of the environmental assessments and findings of no significant impact, contact Mr. Clayton Givens at (301) 734-7612; e-mail: cgivens@aphis.usda.gov. Please refer to

the permit numbers listed below when ordering documents.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The regulations in 7 CFR part 340 (referred to below as the regulations) regulate the introduction (importation, interstate movement, and release into the environment) of genetically engineered organisms and products that are plant pests or that there is reason to believe are plant pests (regulated articles). A permit must be obtained or a notification acknowledged before a regulated article may be introduced into the United States. The regulations set forth the permit application

requirements and the notification procedures for the importation, interstate movement, and release into the environment of a regulated article.

In the course of reviewing each permit application, APHIS assessed the impact on the environment that releasing the organisms under the conditions described in the permit application would have. APHIS has issued permits for the field testing of the organisms listed below after concluding that the organisms will not present a risk of plant pest introduction or dissemination and will not have a significant impact on the quality of the human

environment. The environmental assessments and findings of no significant impact, which are based on data submitted by the applicants and on a review of other relevant literature, provide the public with documentation of APHIS' review and analysis of the environmental impacts associated with conducting the field tests.

Environmental assessments and findings of no significant impact have been prepared by APHIS relative to the issuance of permits to allow the field testing of the following genetically engineered organisms:

| Permit No. | Permittee | Date issued | Organisms | Field test location |
|-----------------|------------------------------|-------------|---|-----------------------------|
| 96-017-02 | Monsanto Company | 5-2-96 | Potato plants genetically engineered to express glyphosate herbicide tolerance and altered carbohydrate metabolism. | Idaho, Maine, and Missouri. |
| 96-071-02 | VanderHave USA | 5-3-96 | Sunflower plants USA genetically engineered to contain novel genes for insect resistance. | North Dakota. |
| 96-099-02 | Calgene, Inc. | 5-16-96 | Tomato plants genetically engineered for virus resistance. | California and Florida. |
| 96-064-01 | S.R. Noble Foundation, Inc.. | 5-20-96 | Barrel medic plants genetically engineered to express tolerance to phosphinothricin herbicides. | Oklahoma. |

The environmental assessments and findings of no significant impact have been prepared in accordance with: (1) The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), (2) Regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality for implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA (40 CFR parts 1500-1508), (3) USDA regulations implementing NEPA (7 CFR part 1b), and (4) APHIS' NEPA Implementing Procedures (7 CFR part 372).

Done in Washington, DC, this 25th day of June 1996.

Donald W. Luchsinger,
Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 96-16709 Filed 6-28-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

Commodity Credit Corporation

Methodology for Evaluating Applications for Participation in the Market Access Program

AGENCY: Commodity Credit Corporation, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In an effort to improve administration of the Market Access Program (MAP), formerly the Market Promotion Program, authorized by section 203 of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 5623), the

Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) invites suggestions regarding the methodology to be used by CCC to evaluate and allocate funding among applicants. Criteria for the approval of MAP applications and for allocating MAP resources appears at 7 CFR 1485.14. Specifically, CCC is interested in suggestions as to weights or scores that should be assigned to the individual criteria or other ways to effectively assess the individual criteria. CCC does not intend at this time to change the actual approval criteria or allocation factors it considers when evaluating applications and, therefore, any comment should be limited to methods to evaluate existing criteria.

DATES: In order to be considered, written comments must be received by July 31, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to U.S. Department of Agriculture, Foreign Agricultural Service, Marketing Operations Staff, STOP 1042, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-1042.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sharon McClure or Denise Fetters at (202) 720-5521.

Signed at Washington, D.C. on June 21, 1996.

Timothy J. Galvin,
Acting Administrator, Foreign Agricultural Service, and Vice President, Commodity Credit Corporation.

[FR Doc. 96-16633 Filed 6-28-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-10-M

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

Graben Livestock Auction Sales, Tisgah, AL

Correction

On June 6, 1996, a notice was published in the Federal Register (61 FR 28837) of the proposed posting for certain stockyards listing their facility number, name, and location.

This notice is to correct the posting number and the location assigned to Graben Livestock Auction Sales.

The notice should have read:

AL-189 Graben Livestock Auction Sales, Pisgah, Alabama

Done at Washington, DC, this 24th day of June 1996.

Daniel L. Van Ackeren,
Director, Livestock Marketing Division.
[FR Doc. 96-16632 Filed 6-28-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-EN-M