

# 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

### Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 96-097-1]

#### General Conference Committee of the National Poultry Improvement Plan Meeting

**AGENCY:** Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** We are giving notice of a meeting of the General Conference Committee of the National Poultry Improvement Plan.

**PLACE, DATE, AND TIME OF MEETING:** The meeting will be held at the World Congress Center, Room 204 Red East, Atlanta, GA; (404) 223-4300. The General Conference Committee will meet on January 22, 1997 from 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Andrew Rhorer, Senior Coordinator, NPIP, VS, APHIS, 1500 Klondike Road, Suite A 102, Conyers, GA 30207, (770) 922-3496.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The General Conference Committee (the Committee) of the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP), representing cooperating State agencies and poultry industry members, serves an essential function by acting as liaison between the poultry industry and the Department in matters pertaining to poultry health.

Tentative topics for discussion at the upcoming meeting include:

1. The Georgia pullorum-typhoid study of susceptibility in the ostrich.
2. Technical evaluation of the current pullorum-typhoid serological assays as they apply to the ostrich.
3. Technical review of alternative testing for pullorum-typhoid at the hatchery for the ostrich.
4. California's ostrich health program.
5. Ratite diseases.

6. USDA import requirements for the ostrich.

7. Export requirements for the ostrich (China and Taiwan).

8. Proposed changes to the provisions of the NPIP.

The meeting will be open to the public. However, due to time constraints, the public will not be allowed to participate in the committee's discussions. Written statements on the meeting topics may be filed with the committee before or after the meeting by sending them to the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. Written statements may also be filed at the meeting. Please refer to Docket No. 96-097-1 when submitting your statements.

This notice of meeting is given pursuant to section 10 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

Done in Washington, DC, this 3rd day of January 1997.

Terry L. Medley,

*Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.*

[FR Doc. 97-427 Filed 1-6-97; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-34-P**

## Rural Housing Service

### Housing Preservation Grants

**AGENCY:** Rural Housing Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Rural Housing Service (RHS) announces that it is soliciting competitive applications under its Housing Preservation Grant (HPG) program. The HPG program is a grant program which provides qualified public agencies, private nonprofit organizations, and other eligible entities grant funds to assist very low- and low-income homeowners repair and rehabilitate their homes in rural areas, and to assist rental property owners and cooperative housing complexes to repair and rehabilitate their units if they agree to make such units available to low- and very low-income persons. This action is taken to comply with Agency regulations found in 7 CFR part 1944, subpart N, which requires the Agency to announce the opening and closing dates for receipt of preapplications for HPG funds from eligible applicants. The intended effect of this Notice is to provide eligible organizations notice of these dates.

**DATES:** RHS hereby announces that it will begin receiving preapplications on January 7, 1997. The closing date for acceptance by RHS of preapplications is April 7, 1997. This period will be the only time during the current fiscal year that RHS accepts preapplications. Preapplications must be received by or postmarked on or before the closing date.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit preapplications to Rural Development servicing offices for the HPG program; applicants must contact their Rural Development State Office for this information.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Sue M. Harris-Green, Senior Loan Officer, Multi-Family Housing Processing Division, RHS, USDA, Room 5337, South Building, Washington, DC 20250, telephone (202) 720-1606. (This is not a toll free number.)

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** 7 CFR part 1944, subpart N provides details on what information must be contained in the preapplication package. Entities wishing to apply for assistance should contact the Rural Development State Office to receive further information and copies of the preapplication package. Eligible entities for these competitively awarded grants include State and local governments, nonprofit corporations, Federally recognized Indian Tribes, and consortia of eligible entities.

This program is listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under No. 10.433, Housing Preservation Grants. This program is subject to the provisions of Executive Order 12372 which requires intergovernmental consultation with State and local officials (7 CFR part 3015, subpart V). Applicants are also referred to 7 CFR 1944.674 and 1944.676 (d) and (e) for specific guidance on these requirements relative to the HPG program.

The funding instrument for the HPG program will be a grant agreement. The term of the grant can vary from 1 to 2 years, depending on available funds and demand. No maximum or minimum grant levels have been established, although based on fiscal year (FY) 1997 funding availability, the Agency anticipates that the average grant will be \$50,000 for a 1-year proposal. For FY 97, \$7,063,000 is available and has been distributed under a formula allocation to States pursuant to 7 CFR part 1940, subpart L, "Methodology and Formulas for Allocation of Loan and Grant