

# 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

### Office of the Secretary

#### Notice of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board Meeting

**AGENCY:** Research, Education, and Economics, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App., the United States Department of Agriculture announces a meeting of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Deborah Hanfman, Executive Director, National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board, Research, Education, and Economics Advisory Board Office, Room 3918 South Building, U.S. Department of Agriculture, STOP: 2255, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-2255. Telephone: 202-720-3684. Fax: 202-720-6199, or e-mail: lshea@reeusda.gov.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board, which represents 30 constituent categories, as specified in section 802 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (Pub. L. No. 104-127), has scheduled a National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board Meeting, October 18-19, 1999.

An orientation for New Advisory Board members will begin at 8 a.m. on Monday, October 18. The full Advisory Board meeting will be held 10:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m., October 18, and 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 19. During this time, the Advisory Board will (1) Elect the new officers and members of the Executive Committee; (2) discuss the

draft report on Small Farms Research; (3) review highlights from the FY 99 Northeast and Southern Regional listening sessions and other stakeholder input on agricultural research and education opportunities; (4) conduct a focus session on "Agricultural Biotechnology in the Public Interest: Impact on Farms, Food, Fiber and the Environment" to hear experts on a variety of topics regarding agricultural biotechnology, including: (a) Highlights, status, and potential of biotechnology for the public good; (b) public education, communication and dialogue; (c) enhancement, safety and security of the food systems; (d) environmental issues; (e) USDA-related activities; and (f) economic and structural implications. Time will be allotted for general Advisory Board discussion and public comments. USDA and the Office of Management and Budget will provide perspectives on the REE budget outlook.

#### Dates

October 18—8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

Orientation for new Advisory Board Members

October 18—10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.—Advisory Board General Meeting and Focus Session on Agricultural Biotechnology

October 18—5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.—Special Session on Biotechnology with a Guest Speaker

October 19—8 a.m. to 5 p.m.—Continuation of Biotechnology Focus Session

*Place:* 8th Floor Conference Room (Please check in with guard, Identification is needed.), USDA, CSREES, Aerospace Building, 901 D Street SW, Washington, DC.

**(Note:** Meeting location may vary. Locations for special sessions will be announced at the meeting.)

*Type of Meeting:* Open to the public.

*Comments:* The public may file written comments to the USDA Advisory Board Office contact person before or within a reasonable time following after the meeting. All statements will become a part of the official records of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board and will be kept on file for public review in the Office of the Advisory Board; Research, Education, and Economics; U.S. Department of

Agriculture; Washington, DC 20250-2255.

Done at Washington, D.C. this 1st day of September, 1999.

**Eileen Kennedy,**

*Deputy Under Secretary, Research, Education, and Economics.*

[FR Doc. 99-24770 Filed 9-22-99; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Agricultural Marketing Service

[No. LS-99-09]

#### United States Standards for Grades of Feeder Cattle

**AGENCY:** Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) of the Department of Agriculture (USDA) is soliciting comments on a proposal to revise the United States Standards for Grades of Feeder Cattle. Specifically, USDA is proposing to adjust the minimum requirements for the three thickness grades to accommodate thicker muscled cattle and reflect current marketing practices. Additionally, the Department is proposing to adjust the frame size parameters to reflect the genetic changes that have taken place in the cattle population since 1979 when the current standards were adopted. Industry and other groups, including States' Departments of Agriculture that officially grade feeder cattle for marketing programs, requested that these changes be made. All other grade aspects of the current standards will remain unchanged.

**DATES:** Comments must be submitted on or before November 22, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments may be submitted to Herbert C. Abraham, Chief, Standardization Branch, Livestock and Seed Program, Agricultural Marketing Service, US Department of Agriculture, Room 2603 South Building, STOP 0254, PO Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456; faxed to (202) 720-1112; or e-mailed to Herbert.Abraham@usda.gov.

Comments should reference the date and page number of this issue of the **Federal Register**. All comments received will be made available for