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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

[TM-01-05]

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). The NOSB is a 15 member board that is responsible for developing and recommending to the Secretary a proposed National List of Approved and Prohibited Substances. The NOSB also advises the Secretary on all other aspects of the National Organic Program. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is requesting nominations to fill five (5) upcoming vacancies on the NOSB. The Secretary of Agriculture will appoint persons to serve 5-year terms of office that will commence in January 2002. USDA encourages eligible minorities, women, and persons with disabilities to apply for membership on the NOSB.

DATES: Written nominations, with resumes, must be postmarked on or before October 11, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Nominations should be sent to Ms. Toni Strother, Agricultural Marketing Specialist, National Organic Program, USDA-AMS-TMP-NOP, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Room 2510-So., Ag Stop 0268, Washington, DC 20250.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Toni Strother, (202) 720-3252; E-mail: toni.strother2@usda.gov; Fax: (202) 690-2624.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The OFPA of 1990, as amended (7 U.S.C. Section 6501 *et seq.*), 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 a proposed National List of Approved and Prohibited Substances and to advise the Secretary on other aspects of the National Organic program.

The current NOSB has made recommendations to the Secretary regarding the establishment of the initial organic program. It is anticipated that the NOSB will continue to make recommendations on various matters, including recommendations on substances it believes should be allowed or prohibited for use in organic production and handling.

The NOSB is composed of 15 members; 4 organic producers, 2 organic handlers, a retailer, 3 environmentalists, 3 public/consumer representatives, a scientist, and a certifying agent. Nominations are being sought to fill the following five (5) upcoming NOSB vacancies: organic producer, organic handler, consumer/public interest representative, environmentalist, and scientist (in the fields of toxicology, ecology, or biochemistry). Individuals desiring to be appointed to the NOSB at this time must be either an owner or operator of an organic production operation, an owner or operator of an organic handling operation, a person who represents public or consumer interest groups, an individual with expertise in areas of environmental protection and resource conservation, or someone with expertise in the fields of toxicology, ecology or biochemistry. Selection criteria will include such factors as: Demonstrated experience and interest in organic production and handling; diverse commodity and geographic representation; support of consumer and public interest organizations; demonstrated experience with environmental matters; and such other factors as may be appropriate for specific positions.

Nominees will be supplied with a biographical information form that must be completed and returned to USDA within 10 working days of its receipt. Completed biographical information forms are required for a nominee to receive consideration for appointment by the Secretary.

Equal opportunity practices will be followed in all appointments to the NOSB in accordance with USDA policies. To ensure that the members of the NOSB take into account the needs of the diverse groups that are served by the Department, membership on the NOSB will include, to the extent practicable, individuals who demonstrate the ability to represent minorities, women, and persons with disabilities.

The information collection requirements concerning the nomination process have been previously cleared by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under OMB Control No. 0505-0001.

Dated: July 10, 2001.

Barry L. Carpenter,
Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Little Reed Island Creek Watershed, Carroll, Pulaski and Wythe Counties, VA

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service, Department of Agriculture.

ACTION: Notice of a finding of no significant impact.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969; the Council on Environmental Quality Guidelines (40 CFR part 1500); and the National Resources Conservation Service Guidelines (7 CFR part 650); the Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, gives notice that an Environmental Impact Statement is not being prepared for the Little Reed Island Creek Watershed in Carroll, Pulaski and Wythe Counties and the Town of Hillsville, Virginia.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: M. Denise Doetzer, State Conservationist, USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Culpeper Building, Suite 209, 1606 Santa Rosa Road, Richmond, Virginia 23229-5014, telephone (804) 287-1691.