# 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 Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights; Notice of Request for Emergency Approval of New Information Collection, Paper Reduction Act of 1995

**AGENCY:** Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, USDA/1890 Programs.

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

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), this notice announces the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, USDA/1890 Program intention to request an emergency approval of information collection for the USDA/1890 National Scholars Program.

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received to be assured of consideration.

*Additional Information or Comments:* Contact Carl Butler, USDA/1890 National Scholars Program Manager, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 300 7th Street, SW., Suite 266, Room 273, Washington, DC 20024 (202) 205–2641 (Fax number).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Overview of the information collected.

*Title:* USDA/1890 National Scholars Program Application.

*Type of Request:* Emergency approval of new information collection.

*Abstract:* The USDA/1890 National Scholars Program is a joint human capital initiative between the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Historical Black Land-Grant Universities. Through the Program, USDA offers scholarships to high school students who are seeking a bachelor's degree, in the fields of agriculture, food, or natural resource sciences and related majors, at one of the eighteen Historically Black Land-Grant Universities. In order for graduating high school students to be considered for the scholarship, a completed application is required. The first section of the application requests the applicant to include biographical information (e.g., name, address, age, etc.); educational background information (e.g., grade point average, test scores, name of university(ies) interested in attending, and desired major); and extracurricular activities. The second of the application section is completed by the student's guidance counselor and requests information pertaining to the student's academic status, grade point average, and test scores. The last section of the application, which is to be completed by a teacher, provides information that assesses the applicant's interest, habits, and potential. All of this information is used to assist the selecting agencies in their process of identifying potential recipients of the scholarship.

*Estimate of Burden:* Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per respondent.

*Respondents:* High school students, teachers, guidance counselors (each application requires 3 respondents to complete a section).

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 1,200 (400 applications).

*Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* 1.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 3,600 hours.

Comments are invited on: (1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the agency's functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to: Carl Butler, 300 7th Street, SW., Reporter's Building, Suite 266, Room 273, Washington, DC 20024. All comments received will be available for public inspection during regular business hours at the same address.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval. All comments will become a matter of public record.

**Arthur L. Neal,**
*Acting Director, USDA/1890 Programs.*

[FR Doc. E8–19457 Filed 8–21–08; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3410–01–P

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Agricultural Marketing Service

**[Docket No. AMS–ST–08–0069]**

### Plant Variety Protection Board; Open Teleconference Meeting

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

**ACTION:** Notice of teleconference meeting.

**SUMMARY:** This notice sets forth the schedule and proposed agenda of a forthcoming teleconference meeting of the Plant Variety Protection Board. Notice of this meeting is required under section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act. This document is intended to notify the general public of their opportunity to attend the meeting.

**DATES:** September 9, 2008; 1 p.m.–3 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held in the United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Marketing Service Conference Room, Room 3074, South Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Janice M. Strachan, Plant Variety Protection Office (PVPO), Science and Technology Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, United States Department of Agriculture, telephone number (301) 504–5518, fax (301) 504–5291, or e-mail *PVPOmail@usda.gov.*

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Plant Variety Protection (PVP) Board is authorized under section 7 of the Plant Variety Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 2327). The Board advises the Secretary of Agriculture on rules and regulations implementing the Act. On September 9, 2008, the Board will conduct a teleconference meeting to discuss improving the Plant Variety Protection Office Application Process and other related topics.

The tentative agenda for the teleconference meeting includes: (1) Welcome and opening remarks; (2) Action on general recommendations from Board minutes of May 1, 2008 teleconference meeting, (3) Financial status of the PVP Office, (4) PVP Office information technology infrastructure, (5) PVP outreach activities, and (6) Adjournment.

The public may attend the teleconference at the following address: USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service Conference Room, Room 3074, South Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250. All attendees are required to register with the PVP Office at 301–504–5518 before September 5, 2008. Identification will be required to be admitted to the USDA's South Building.

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation should be directed to the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. Minutes of the teleconference will be posted on the Internet Web site *http://www.ams.usda.gov/PVPO.*

Dated: August 18, 2008.

**Lloyd C. Day,**

*Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.*

[FR Doc. E8–19466 Filed 8–21–08; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410–02–P**

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Food Safety and Inspection Service

**[Docket No. FSIS–2008–0030]**

### National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods

**AGENCY:** Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces that the National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods (NACMCF) will hold public meetings of the full Committee and Subcommittees on September 22–26, 2008. The Committee will discuss: (1) Parameters for inoculated-pack challenge study protocols, and (2) Determination of the most appropriate technologies for the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) to adopt in performing routine and baseline microbiological analyses.

**DATES:** The full Committee will hold an open meeting on Friday, September 26, 2008, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Subcommittee on parameters for inoculated-pack challenge study protocols will hold open meetings on Monday, September 22, and Tuesday, September 23, 2008, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Subcommittee on determination of the most appropriate technologies for the FSIS to adopt in performing routine and baseline microbiological analyses will hold open meetings on Wednesday, September 24, and Thursday, September 25, 2008, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The September 22–25, 2008, Subcommittee meetings will be held at the Aerospace Center, 901 D Street, SW., Rooms 369–371, Washington, DC 20024. The September 26, 2008, full Committee meeting will be held in the conference room at the south end of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) cafeteria located in the South Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250. All documents related to the full Committee meeting will be available for public inspection in the FSIS Docket Room, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Room 2534 South Building, Washington, DC 20250, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, as soon as they become available. The NACMCF documents will also be available on the Internet at *http://www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations/2008_Notices_Index/*.

FSIS will finalize an agenda on or before the meeting dates and post it on the FSIS Web page at *http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News/Meetings_&_Events/*.

Please note that the meeting agenda is subject to change due to the time required for Committee discussions; thus, sessions could start or end earlier or later than anticipated. Please plan accordingly if you would like to attend a particular session or participate in a public comment period.

Also, the official transcript of the September 26, 2008, full Committee meeting, when it becomes available, will be kept in the FSIS Docket Room at the above address and will also be posted on *http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About/NACMCF_Meetings/*.

The mailing address for the contact person is: Karen Thomas-Sharp, U.S. Department of Agriculture, FSIS, Office of Public Health Science, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., 333 Aerospace Center, Washington, DC 20250–3766.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Persons interested in making a presentation, submitting technical papers, or providing comments at the September 26, plenary session should contact Karen Thomas-Sharp, phone (202) 690–6620, fax (202) 690–6334, e-mail *Karen.thomas-sharp@fsis.usda.gov*, or at the mailing address above. Persons requiring a sign language interpreter or other special accommodations should notify Mrs. Thomas-Sharp by September 17, 2008.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

#### Background

The NACMCF was established in 1988, in response to a recommendation of the National Academy of Sciences for an interagency approach to microbiological criteria for foods, and in response to a recommendation of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations, as expressed in the Rural Development, Agriculture, and Related Agencies Appropriation Bill for fiscal year 1988. The charter for the NACMCF is available for viewing on the FSIS Internet Web page at *http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About/NACMCF_Charter/*.

The NACMCF provides scientific advice and recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Health and Human Services on public health issues relative to the safety and wholesomeness of the U.S. food supply, including development of microbiological criteria and review and evaluation of epidemiological and risk assessment data and methodologies for assessing microbiological hazards in foods. The Committee also provides scientific advice and recommendations to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Departments of Commerce and Defense.

Dr. H. Scott Hurd, Deputy Under Secretary for Food Safety, U.S. Department of Agriculture, is the Committee Chair; Dr. Stephen Sundlof, Director of the Food and Drug Administration's Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN), is the Vice-Chair; and Gerri Ransom, FSIS, is the Executive Secretary.

- At the subcommittee meetings the week of September 22–25, 2008 the groups will discuss:
- Parameters for inoculated-pack challenge study protocols, and
- Determination of the most appropriate technologies for the FSIS to adopt in performing routine and baseline microbiological analyses.

#### Documents Reviewed by NACMCF

FSIS intends to make available to the public all materials that are reviewed and considered by NACMCF regarding its deliberations. Generally, these materials will be made available as soon as possible after the full Committee meeting. Further, FSIS intends to make these materials available in electronic format on the FSIS Web page, as well as