

Notices

Federal Register

Vol. 76, No. 213

Thursday, November 3, 2011

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 Under Secretary, Research, Education, and Economics; Notice of the Advisory Committee on Biotechnology and 21st Century Agriculture Meeting

AGENCY: Agricultural Research Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meetings.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. 2, the United States Department of Agriculture announces two meetings of the Advisory Committee on Biotechnology and 21st Century Agriculture (AC21).

DATES: The meeting dates are November 14, 2011, from 11 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. and November 15, 2011, from 10:30 a.m. until 12 noon.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be conducted in Webinar format entirely by telephone and Internet.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael Schechtman, Designated Federal Official, Office of the Deputy Secretary, USDA, 202B Jamie L. Whitten Federal Building, 12th and Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250; Telephone (202) 720-3817; Fax (202) 690-4265; Email AC21@ars.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The AC21 provides information and advice to the Secretary of Agriculture on topics related to the use of biotechnology in agriculture. Background information regarding the work and membership of the AC21 is available on the USDA Web site at <http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentid=AC21Main.xml&contentidonly=true>.

The immediate work of the AC21 is to address the following two questions: (1) What types of compensation mechanisms, if any, would be appropriate to address economic losses by farmers in which the value of their

crops is reduced by the unintended presence of GE material(s)? and (2) What would be necessary to implement such mechanisms? That is, what would be the eligibility standard for a loss and what tools and triggers (e.g., tolerances, testing protocols, etc.) would be needed to verify and measure such losses and determine if claims are compensable?

The purpose of the two meetings is to provide background information in a Webinar format to AC21 members on existing USDA programs that may serve as examples to help in the development of potential compensation mechanisms for the committee to consider, should it deem compensation mechanisms appropriate to recommend. During the November 14, 2011, conference call, AC21 members will be briefed on, and have the opportunity to discuss, background information on USDA's crop insurance programs under the Risk Management Agency. During the November 15, 2011, conference call members will be briefed on, and have the opportunity to discuss, background information on the indemnification programs for perishable agricultural commodities under the Agricultural Marketing Service and for diseased livestock under the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

Members of the public who wish to listen in to the November 14, 2011, meeting may view the presentations and listen to audio at <https://cc.readytalk.com/r/2bcp67fidhgq> or to dial in at Area Code (800) 705-8289. Members of the public who wish to listen in to the November 15, 2011, meeting may view the presentations and listen to audio at <https://cc.readytalk.com/r/jq96hzop0sp4> or dial in at Area Code (800) 698-5986. There will be an opportunity for the public to comment on this background material at the next in-person meeting of the AC21, which will be scheduled later. This notice of meeting agendas is given pursuant to section 10 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App. 2 10).

Dated: October 26, 2011.

Yeshimebet Abebe,

Chief of Staff.

[FR Doc. 2011-28469 Filed 11-2-11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-03-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

National Institute of Food and Agriculture

RIN 0524-AA43

Solicitation of Input From Stakeholders Regarding the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)

AGENCY: National Institute of Food and Agriculture, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of request for stakeholder input.

SUMMARY: The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) is soliciting stakeholder input on the administration of the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP) authorized under section 1415A of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3151a). The purpose of this program is for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to enter into agreements with veterinarians under which the veterinarians agree to provide, for a specific period of time as identified in the agreement, veterinary services in veterinarian shortage situations. As part of the stakeholder input process, NIFA is inviting comments regarding the current procedures and processes in place for the VMLRP. Input collected will be used to modify and improve processes for subsequent calls of shortage situation nominations and request for applications.

DATES: Written comments are invited from interested individuals and organizations. All comments must be received by close of business on December 5, 2011, to be considered.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by NIFA-2012-0001, by any of the following methods:

Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

Email: vmlrp@nifa.usda.gov. Include NIFA-2012-0001 in the subject line of the message.

Fax: (202) 720-6486.

Mail: Paper, disk or CD-ROM submissions should be submitted to VMLRP, Policy and Oversight Division, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture; STOP 2299, 1400

Independence Avenue SW.,
Washington, DC 20250-2299.

Hand Delivery/Courier: VMLRP;
Policy and Oversight Division, National
Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S.
Department of Agriculture, Room 2308,
Waterfront Centre, 800 9th Street SW.,
Washington, DC 20024.

Instructions: All submissions received
must include the agency name and
NIFA-2012-0001. All comments
received will be posted without change
to <http://www.regulations.gov>, including
any personal information provided.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Matthew Lockhart, Senior Policy
Specialist; National Institute of Food
and Agriculture; U.S. Department of
Agriculture; STOP 2299; 1400
Independence Avenue SW.,
Washington, DC 20250-2299; *Voice:*
(202) 570-7410; *Email:*
mlockhart@nifa.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background and Purpose

The VMLRP helps qualified
veterinarians offset a significant portion
of the debt incurred in pursuit of their
veterinary medicine degrees in return
for their service in certain high-priority
veterinary shortage situations. NIFA
will enter into educational loan
repayment agreements with
veterinarians who agree to provide
veterinary services in veterinarian
shortage situations for a determined
period of time. NIFA may repay up to
\$25,000 of a veterinarian's student loan
debt per year if the veterinarian
commits to at least three years to
provide veterinary services in a
designated veterinary shortage area.
Loan repayment benefits are limited to
payments of the principal and interest
on government and commercial loans
received for the attendance at an
accredited college of veterinary
medicine that result in a degree of
Doctor of Veterinary Medicine or the
equivalent.

In December 2003, the National
Veterinary Medical Service Act
(NVMSA) was passed into law adding
section 1415A to the National
Agricultural Research, Extension, and
Teaching Policy Act of 1977
(NARETPA). This law established a new
Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment
Program (7 U.S.C. 3151a) authorizing
the Secretary of Agriculture (secretary)
to carry out a program of entering into
agreements with veterinarians under
which they agree to provide veterinary
services in veterinarian shortage
situations. In November 2005, the
Agriculture, Rural Development, Food
and Drug Administration, and Related

Agencies Appropriations Act, 2006
(Pub. L. 109-97), appropriated \$495,000
to implement the VMLRP and
represented the first time funds had
been appropriated for this program. In
February 2007, the Revised Continuing
Appropriations Resolution, 2007 (Pub.
L. 110-5), appropriated an additional
\$495,000 for support of the program,
and in December 2007, the Consolidated
Appropriations Act, 2008 (Pub. L. 110-
161), appropriated an additional
\$868,875 for support of this program,
and in March 2009, the Omnibus
Appropriations Act, 2009 (Pub. L. 111-
8) was enacted, providing an additional
\$2,950,000, for the VMLRP, and in
October 2009, the Agriculture, Rural
Development, Food and Drug
Administration, and Related Agencies
Appropriations Act of 2010 (Pub. L.
111-80) appropriated another
\$4,800,000 for the VMLRP. On April 15,
2011, the President signed into law,
Pub. L. 112-10, Department of Defense
and Full-Year Continuing
Appropriations Act, 2011, which after a
.2% rescission, appropriated an
additional \$4,790,400 for the VMLRP.

On October 1, 2009, CSREES became
the NIFA as mandated by the Food,
Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008,
section 7511(f). Accordingly, the
authority to administer the VMLRP
transferred from CSREES to NIFA.

In FY 2010, VMLRP announced its
first funding opportunity and received
260 applications from which NIFA
issued 53 VMLRP awards totaling
\$5,186,000. In FY 2011, VMLRP opened
its second funding opportunity and
received 159 applications from which
NIFA has made 80 VMLRP award offers
totaling \$7,708,000. Each award offer is
contingent upon submission of a signed
contract, thereby executing the service
agreement between the veterinarian and
NIFA. Funding for future years is based
on annual appropriations and balances,
if any, remaining from prior years.

Section 7105 of the FCEA amended
section 1415A to revise the
determination of veterinarian shortage
situations to consider (1) Geographical
areas that the Secretary determines have
a shortage of veterinarians; and (2) areas
of veterinary practice that the Secretary
determines have a shortage of
veterinarians, such as food animal
medicine, public health, epidemiology,
and food safety. This section also added
that priority should be given to
agreements with veterinarians for the
practice of food animal medicine in
veterinarian shortage situations.

NARETPA section 1415A requires the
Secretary, when determining the
amount of repayment for a year of
service by a veterinarian, to consider the

ability of USDA to maximize the
number of agreements from the amounts
appropriated and to provide an
incentive to serve in veterinary service
shortage areas with the greatest need.
This section also provides that loan
repayments may consist of payments of
the principal and interest on
government and commercial loans
received by the individual for the
attendance of the individual at an
accredited college of veterinary
medicine resulting in a degree of Doctor
of Veterinary Medicine or the
equivalent. This program is not
authorized to provide repayments for
any government or commercial loans
incurred during the pursuit of another
degree, such as an associate or bachelor
degree. Loans eligible for repayment
include educational loans made for one
or more of the following: Loans for
tuition expenses; other reasonable
educational expenses, including fees,
books, and laboratory expenses,
incurred by the individual; and
reasonable living expenses as
determined by the Secretary. In
addition, the Secretary is directed to
make such additional payments to
participants as the Secretary determines
appropriate for the purpose of providing
reimbursements to participants for
individual tax liability resulting from
participation in this program. The
Secretary delegated the authority to
carry out this program to NIFA.

NIFA is inviting stakeholder
comments to use in improving the
administration of the VMLRP. Written
comments and suggestions on issues
may be submitted to the NIFA Docket
Clerk at the address above.

Done in Washington, DC, this 27th day of
October 2011.

Chavonda Jacobs-Young,

*Acting Director, National Institute of Food
and Agriculture.*

[FR Doc. 2011-28508 Filed 11-2-11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-22-P

**ARCHITECTURAL AND
TRANSPORTATION BARRIERS
COMPLIANCE BOARD**

Meetings

AGENCY: Architectural and
Transportation Barriers Compliance
Board.

ACTION: Notice of meetings.

SUMMARY: The Architectural and
Transportation Barriers Compliance
Board (Access Board) plans to hold its
regular Board meeting in Washington,
DC, Wednesday, November 9, 2011,
from 1:30-3 p.m.