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

Agricultural Marketing Service

[TM–96–00–1]

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) to assist in the development of standards for substances to be used in organic production and to advise the Secretary of Agriculture on any other aspects of the implementation of the Act. The NOSB was originally established on January 24, 1992, with individual members appointed for staggered appointments of 3, 4, and 5 years. Appointments for five members will be up in January 1997, and the Secretary seeks nominations of individuals to be considered for selection as NOSB members.

DATES: Written nominations, with resumes, must be postmarked on or before August 31, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Nominations should be sent to Dr. Harold S. Ricker, Program Manager, National Organic Program, Transportation and Marketing Division, Room 2945 South Building, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), P. O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090–6456.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Harold S. Ricker, (202) 720–3252.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The OFPA of 1990 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 standards for substances to be used in organic production and to advise the Secretary on any other aspects of the implementation of the program. The current NOSB has worked to develop recommendations to the Secretary to establish the initial program. It is anticipated that the NOSB will continue to work on recommendations as appropriate and on the continuing review of substances considered for organic production and processing.

A member of the NOSB shall serve for a term of 5 years, except that the Secretary appointed the original members of the NOSB for staggered terms of 3, 4, and 5 years. The terms of five members of the current NOSB, who were appointed for 5-year terms, will be completed on January 24, 1997. A member may serve consecutive terms if such member served an original term that was less than 5 years as provided for in the OFPA of 1990.

Nominations are sought for the positions of farmer/grower (1), handler/processor (1), consumer/public interest (1), environmentalist (1), and scientist (1). Individuals desiring to be appointed to the NOSB at this time must be either an owner or operator of an organic farming operation, an owner or operator of an organic handling operation, an individual who represents public interest or consumer interest groups, an expert in the area of environmental protection or resource conservation, or an individual with expertise in the fields of toxicology, ecology, or biochemistry.

Selection criteria will include such factors as: demonstrated experience and interest in organics; commodity and geographic representation; endorsed support of consumer and public interest organizations; demonstrated experience with environmental concerns; and other factors as may be appropriate for specific positions. After applications have been reviewed, individuals receiving nominations will be contacted and supplied with biographical forms. The biographical information must be completed and returned to USDA within 10 working days of its receipt, to expedite the background clearance that is required by USDA.