

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

Research, Education, and Economics

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 (Pub. L. 92-463), the United States Department of Agriculture announces a meeting of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Secretary of Agriculture has asked the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board to obtain Stakeholder input on the priority issues for agricultural research, extension, education, and economics, and to establish an ongoing line of communication to the diverse stakeholder groups. The Advisory Board, which represents 30 constituent categories, as specified in the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (Pub. L. 104-127, 110 Stat. 1156-1184), has scheduled a Stakeholder Symposium on March 25th in Washington, D.C. The Advisory Board has broadly defined "stakeholder" within the context of its activities as follows: "any individual or group of individuals who have vested interested in, or are affected by, food and agricultural research, extension, education, and economics."

Approximately 150 individuals will participate in the Stakeholder Symposium, which represents one of several meetings being planned throughout the country to address the USDA Research, Education, and Economics (REE) draft Strategic Plans.

The March 25th Stakeholder Symposium will focus on the content of the REE Strategic Plans (i.e., plans of Agricultural Research Service (ARS), Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES), Economic Research Service (ERS), the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), and REE mission area) and how well these plans contribute to the cross-cutting goals:

- (1) Agricultural System that is Highly Competitive in the Global Economy,
- (2) Safe and Secure Food and Fiber System,
- (3) Healthy, Well-Nourished Population,
- (4) Greater Harmony Between Agriculture and the Environment, and
- (5) Enhanced Economic Opportunity and Quality of Life for Americans.

Stakeholder input to the Strategic Plans will be organized around the following panel sessions: (a) Plant Systems; (b) Animal Systems; (c) Nutrition, Food Quality, and Health; (d) Natural Resources and Environment; (e) Processes and New Products; (f) Markets, Trade, and Policy; and (g) Human Capacity Building.

Each panelist will present a 10-minute formal statement on the Strategic Plans and how well they support the goals for USDA research, extension, education, and economics.

The general meeting of the Advisory Board will be held March 26-27, 1997. The meeting agenda includes: a report on the findings of the Stakeholder Symposium, a discussion of activities required under the FAIR Act of 1996, and the Board's recommendations for long-term agenda items. The Advisory Board will also begin discussions for its review and recommendations to the REE Implementation and Annual Performance Plans. The Advisory Board's Executive Committee and the REE Strategic Plan Working Group will provide progress reports to the Advisory Board. The membership of the newly formed agricultural facilities "Strategic Planning Task Force" will be announced. Invited speakers will provide the Advisory Board with an overview of the USDA National Research Initiative, USDA budget outlook, and farm concentration issues.

DATES: March 25, 1997, 8:15 a.m.-7:00 p.m.; March 26, 1997, 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; and March 27, 1997, 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

PLACE: Hotel Washington, Washington Room, 15th and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC.

TYPE OF MEETING: Open to the public.

COMMENTS: The public may file written comments before or after the meeting with the contact person listed below.

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, U.S. Department of Agriculture, STOP: 2255, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-2255. Telephone: 202-720-3684.

Done at Washington, D.C. this 21st day of February 1997.

Catherine E. Woteki,
Acting Under Secretary, Research, Education, and Economics.

[FR Doc. 97-4968 Filed 2-27-97; 8:45 am]

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Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 96-098-1]

Dupont Agricultural Products; Receipt of Petition for Determination of Nonregulated Status for Genetically Engineered Soybeans

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: We are advising the public that the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has received a petition from Dupont Agricultural Products seeking a determination of nonregulated status for soybeans designated as sublines G94-1, G94-19, and G168 derived from transformation event 260-05 that have been genetically engineered to produce high oleic acid oil. The petition has been submitted in accordance with our regulations concerning the introduction of certain genetically engineered organisms and products. In accordance with those regulations, we are soliciting public comments on whether these soybean sublines present a plant pest risk.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before April 29, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Please send an original and three copies of your comments to