

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Jerilyn Levi, Staff Assistant, State of Private Forestry, Forest Service (202) 205-1041.

Dated: July 8, 1997.

Joan M. Comanor,

Deputy Chief, State and Private Forestry.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Natural Resources Conservation Service****Proposed Change to Section IV of the Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) of the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Arkansas**

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Department of Agriculture.

ACTION: Notice of availability of proposed changes in Section IV of the FOTG of the NRCS in Arkansas for review and comment.

SUMMARY: It is the intention of NRCS in Arkansas to issue a new conservation practice standard Prescribed Grazing (Code 528A); and revised conservation practice standards Fish Stream Improvement (Code 395) and Forest Site Preparation (Code 490) and Fence (Code 382) and Streambank and Shoreline Protection (Code 580) in section IV of the FOTG.

DATES: Comments will be received until August 11, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Inquire in writing to Kalven L. Trice, State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Room 5404 Federal Building, 700 West Capitol Avenue, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201-3225. Copies of the practice standards will be made available upon written request. Phone 501-324-5445.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 343 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 states that revisions made after enactment of the law to NRCS state technical guides used to carry out highly erodible land and wetland provisions of the law shall be made available for public review and comment. For the next 30 days the NRCS in Arkansas will receive comments relative to the proposed changes. Following that period a determination will be made by the NRCS in Arkansas regarding disposition of those comments and a final determination of change will be made.

Dated: June 23, 1997.

Jerry L. Mitchell,

Acting State Conservationist, USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Little Rock, Arkansas.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Natural Resources Conservation Service****National Commission on Small Farms**

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service.

ACTION: Notice of intent to establish a Federal Advisory Committee with a request for comments. Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) proposes to establish the National Commission on Small Farms (Commission). The purpose of the Commission is to gather and analyze information regarding small farms and ranches and recommend to the Secretary of Agriculture a national policy and strategy to ensure their continued viability. This notice seeks comments on concerns and issues that the Commission should address. The Commission members will be appointed at a later time. The first public meeting of the Commission is July 28, 1997.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before August 11, 1997. These comments will be summarized and presented to the Commission prior to their next meeting.

PLACE, DATE AND TIME OF MEETING: The Commission will meet from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on July 28 at the Agricenter International, Banquet Room, C Wing, 7777 Walnut Grove Road, Memphis, TN 38120. The first part of the meeting will be devoted to getting the Commission organized and the remainder of the meeting will be dedicated to listening to oral statements that will be limited to seven (7) minutes. Interested parties wishing to provide oral or written statements should contact Jennifer Yezak Molen, Director, National Commission on Small Farms, prior to the meeting.

ADDRESSES: Comments and statements should be sent to National Commission on Small Farms, U.S. Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 2890, Room 5239, South Building, Washington, D.C. 20013.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jennifer Yezak Molen, Director, National Commission on Small Farms, at the address above or at (202) 690-0648.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.), notice is hereby given that the Secretary of Agriculture intends to establish the National Commission on Small Farms, hereinafter referred to as the Commission. The purpose of the Commission is to gather and evaluate background information, studies, and data pertinent to small farms and ranches, including limited-resource farmers. On the basis of the review, the Commission shall analyze all relevant issues and make findings, develop strategies, and make recommendations for consideration by the Secretary of Agriculture toward a national strategy on small farms. The national strategy shall include, but not be limited to: changes in existing policies, programs, regulations, training, and program delivery and outreach systems; approaches that assist beginning farmers and involve the private sectors and government, including assurances that the needs of minorities, women, and persons with disabilities are addressed; areas where new partnerships and collaborations are needed; and other approaches that it would deem advisable or which the Secretary of Agriculture or the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service may request the Commission to consider.

The Secretary of Agriculture has determined that the work of the Commission is in the public interest and within the duties and responsibilities of USDA. Establishment of the Commission also implements a recommendation of the USDA Civil Rights Action Report to appoint a diverse commission to develop a national policy on small farms.

The Commission will be headed by a Chairperson and two Vice-Chairpersons. In the absence of the Chairperson, one of the Vice-Chairpersons, as designated by the Chairperson, will act in his/her stead. Administrative Staff support essential to the execution of the Commission's responsibilities shall be provided by the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Commission members shall be appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture. The Commission may have as many as thirty (30) members representing a mix of perspectives, experience, and ethnic and geographic diversity. Members will represent small farms and ranches, finance, commerce, rural communities, nonprofit organizations, academia, state and local governments, Native Americans, farmworkers, and other interests as the Secretary determines.

Equal opportunity practices, consistent with USDA policies, will be