

The guide represents the best effort of FDA, USDA, and other technical experts to identify practices that are feasible and that are likely to reduce microbial hazards. However, because of the broad-scope nature of the guide (such as covering all fresh fruits and vegetables grown in all regions of the US and overseas) and the current state of science (such as the need for additional research on pathogen survival under varying field conditions and the impact of various treatments to eliminate or reduce pathogens on the surface of crops with different physical characteristics), FDA has not attempted to rank the risk factors in order of significance or rank the intervention strategies in order of importance. It may, however, be possible to provide such information as science progresses and as additional, more focused documents (such as education and outreach materials on specific commodities or practices) are developed. To this end, FDA is requesting comment on the following:

(1) Current industry practices to reduce microbial hazards and how the recommendations in the guide might be most effectively applied to farms of various sizes. The agency specifically requests comments from small farmers and other industry groups currently employing these or other practices to reduce microbial hazards from fresh produce;

(2) Mechanisms used by growers and packers as part of good agricultural and good management practices programs and cost of application of such mechanisms;

(3) Most appropriate ways to analyze benefits and costs, such as by crop group (e.g., berries, tree fruit, vegetable row crops), by region, or by practice (e.g., manure management, water use in packing houses); and

(4) How to best draw on existing resources and expertise to assemble existing data and analyze costs and benefits (such as industry partnerships or pilot programs) to assess cost effective measures.

Interested persons may, on or before June 29, 1998, submit written comments to the Dockets Management Branch (address above) on the proposed guide. Two copies of any comments are to be submitted, except that individuals may submit one copy. Comments are to be identified with the docket number found in brackets in the heading of this document. The proposed guide may be seen in the office above between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. An electronic version of this draft guidance is available on the Internet using the WWW (<http://www.fda.gov/dockets/dockets.htm>) or (<http://vm.cfsan.fda.gov/~dms/fs-toc.html>).

Dated: April 3, 1998.

**William B. Schultz,**

*Deputy Commissioner for Policy.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### National Institutes of Health

#### National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases; Meeting of the National Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases Advisory Council and Its Subcommittees

Pursuant to Pub. L. 92-463, notice is hereby given of a meeting of the National Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases Advisory Council and its subcommittees, National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, on May 27-28, 1998. The meeting of the full Council will be open to the public on May 27th; from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in Conference Room 10, Building 31C, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland, to discuss administrative issues relating to Council business and special reports. The following subcommittee meetings will be open to the public May 27th from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.: Diabetes, Endocrine and Metabolic Diseases Subcommittee meeting will be held in Conference Room 10, Building 31C; Digestive Diseases and Nutrition Subcommittee meeting will be held in Conference Room 7, Building 31C; and Kidney, Urologic and Hematologic Diseases Subcommittee meeting will be held in Conference Room 9, Building 31C. Attendance by the public will be limited to space available.

In accordance with the provisions set forth in secs. 552b(c)(4) and 552b(c)(6), Title 5, U.S.C. and sec. 10(d) of Pub. L. 92-463, the meetings of the subcommittees and full Council will be closed to the public for the review, discussion and evaluation of individual grant applications. The following subcommittees will be closed to the public on May 27th, from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and again on May 28th, from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.: Diabetes, Endocrine and Metabolic Diseases Subcommittee, Digestive Diseases and Nutrition Subcommittee; and Kidney, Urologic and Hematologic Diseases Subcommittee. The full Council will meet in closed session on May 28th from 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. in Conference Room 10, Building 31C. These deliberations, whether held in a subcommittee or in the full council,

could reveal confidential trade secrets on commercial property, such as patentable materials, and personal information concerning individuals associated with the applications, disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

A final open session of the full Council will be held on May 28th from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. to hear reports from the Division Directors and conduct other administrative business.

For any further information, and for individuals who plan to attend and need special assistance such as sign language interpretation or other reasonable accommodations, please contact Dr. Walter Stolz, Executive Secretary, National Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases Advisory Council, NIDDK, Natcher Building, Room 6AS-25C, Bethesda, Maryland 20892, (301) 594-8334, in advance of the meeting.

In addition, upon request, a summary of the meeting and roster of the members may be obtained from the Committee Management Office NIDDK, Building 45, Room 6AS-37J, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland 20892, (301) 594-8892.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program No. 93.847-849, Diabetes, Endocrine and Metabolic Diseases; Digestive Diseases and Nutrition; and Kidney Diseases, Urology and Hematology Research, National Institutes of Health)

Dated: April 6, 1998.

**Laverne Y. Stringfield,**

*Committee Management Officer, NIH.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### National Institutes of Health (NIH)

#### National Institute on Aging; Notice of Meeting of the Board of Scientific Counselors, National Institute on Aging

Pursuant to Pub. L. 92-463, notice is hereby given of the meeting of the Board of Scientific Counselors, National Institute on Aging, May 12-14, 1998 to be held at the Gerontology Research Center, Baltimore, Maryland. On Wednesday, May 13, the meeting will be open to the public for the review of the Intramural Research Program from 8:30 until 11:45 a.m.; and again from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. On Thursday, May 14, the meeting will be open to the public from 8:30 until 11:30 a.m. and from 12:30 to