

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

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 98-053-1]

National Wildlife Services (Formerly Known as Animal Damage Control) Advisory Committee; Meeting

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: We are giving notice of a meeting of the National Wildlife Services Advisory Committee.

PLACE, DATES, AND TIME OF MEETING: The meeting will be held at the USDA Center at Riverside in the Conference Center, 4700 River Road, Riverdale, MD 20737. The Committee will meet on May 27-28, 1998, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Martin Mendoza, Director, Operational Support Staff, WS, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 87, Riverdale, MD 20737-1234, (301) 734-7921.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The National Wildlife Services Advisory Committee (Committee) advises the Secretary of Agriculture concerning policies, program issues, and research needed to conduct the Wildlife Services (WS) program. The Committee also serves as a public forum enabling those affected by the WS program to have a voice in the program's policies.

The meeting will focus on operational and research activities, and will be open to the public. However, due to time constraints, the public will not be allowed to participate in the Committee's discussions. Written statements concerning meeting topics may be filed with the Committee before or after the meeting by sending them to Mr. Martin Mendoza at the address listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**, or may be filed at the meeting.

Please refer to Docket No. 98-053-1 when submitting your statements.

This notice of meeting is given pursuant to section 10 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463).

Done in Washington, DC, this 8th day of May 1998.

Bobby R. Acord,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 98-12660 Filed 5-11-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Request For Proposals: Fiscal Year 1998 Funding Opportunity for Research on Rural Cooperative Opportunities and Problems

AGENCY: Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS) announces the availability of approximately \$1.9 million in competitive cooperative agreement funds allocated from FY 1998 appropriations. RBS hereby requests proposals from institutions of higher education or nonprofit organizations interested in applying for competitively awarded cooperative agreements for research related to agricultural and nonagricultural cooperatives serving rural communities. The intent of the funding is to encourage research on critical issues vital to the development and sustainability of cooperatives as a means of improving the quality of life in America's rural communities.

DATES: Cooperative agreement applications must be received on or before June 30, 1998. Proposals received after June 30, 1998, will not be considered for funding. Comments regarding the information collection requirements under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 must be received on or before July 13, 1998, to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Send Proposals and other required materials to Dr. Thomas H. Stafford, Director, Cooperative Marketing Division, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA, Stop 3252, Room 4204, 1400 Independence Avenue

SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-3252. Telephone: (202) 690-0368.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Thomas H. Stafford, Director, Cooperative Marketing Division, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA, Stop 3252, Room 4204, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-3252. Telephone: (202) 690-0368.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

General Information

This solicitation is issued pursuant to the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1998 making appropriations for programs administered by USDA's Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS) for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998. The Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS) was established by the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994. The mission of RBS is to improve the quality of life in rural America by financing community facilities and businesses, providing technical assistance, and creating effective strategies for rural development. RBS has authority to enter into cooperative agreements pursuant to section 607(b)(4) of the Rural Development Act of 1972, as amended by section 759A of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996.

The primary objective of this funding is to encourage research through cooperative agreements on critical issues vital to the development and sustainability of cooperatives as a means of improving the quality of life in America's rural communities. Among others, these issues include:

- (1) The appropriate role of cooperatives in fostering rural development;
- (2) The role of cooperatives in filling the farm income safety net "void" created by the reduction or elimination of price support programs;
- (3) The role of cooperatives in an increasingly global environment;
- (4) The role of cooperatives in highly integrated agricultural industries;
- (5) Effective structures and operations for agricultural bargaining associations;
- (6) The role of cooperatives in low-resource areas.
- (7) Barriers to small and new farmer membership in agricultural marketing cooperatives.