

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

Agricultural Marketing Service

[TM-98-00-5]

Notice of Meeting of the National Organic Standards Board

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) announces a forthcoming meeting of the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB).

DATES: July 21, 1998, at 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.; July 22, 1998, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; and July 23, 1998, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for the NOSB.

PLACE: U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Jefferson Auditorium (July 21, 1998) and Room 3501 South Building (July 22-23, 1998), Washington, D.C. 20250. Phone: (202) 690-3655.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Keith Jones, Program Manager, Room 2510 South Building, U.S. Department of Agriculture, AMS, Transportation and Marketing, National Organic Program Staff, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456. Phone (202) 720-3252.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 2119 (7 U.S.C. 6518) of the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (OFPA), as amended (7 U.S.C. Section 6501 *et seq.*) requires the establishment of NOSB. The purpose of 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 OFPA. NOSB met for the first time in Washington, D.C., in March 1992 and currently has six committees working on various aspects of the program. The committees are:

Crops Standards; Processing, Labeling and Packaging; Livestock Standards; Accreditation; Materials; and International Issues. In August 1994, NOSB provided its initial recommendations for the National Organic Program (NOP) to the Secretary of Agriculture and since that time has submitted 30 addenda to the recommendations and reviewed more than 170 substances for inclusion on the National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances. The last meeting of NOSB was held in March 1998, in Ontario, California. The Department of Agriculture (USDA) published its proposed rule for NOP in the **Federal Register** (62 FR 65849) on December 16, 1997. An extension of the comment period on the proposed rule was published in the **Federal Register** (63 FR 6498-6499) on February 9, 1998. The comment period was extended until April 30, 1998.

PURPOSE AND AGENDA: The main purposes of this meeting are to review committee reports; continue dialog on unresolved issues from the March 1998 meeting, including fees, peer review panels, treated seeds, and aquaculture; elect new officers; appoint committee chairpersons; and plan future activities of the Board.

A final agenda for this meeting will be available on July 7, 1998. Persons requesting copies of the final agenda should contact Karen Thomas at the above address or phone (202) 690-3655.

TYPE OF MEETING: All meetings will be open to the public. NOSB has scheduled time for public input on July 21, 1998, beginning at 1:30 p.m. and continuing until 5:00 p.m. Individuals and organizations wishing to make an oral presentation at the meeting on any organic issue should forward the request to Ms. Thomas at the above address or by FAX to (202) 205-7808 by July 15, 1998, in order to be scheduled. While persons wishing to make a presentation may sign up at the door, advance registration will ensure an opportunity to speak during the allotted time period and will help NOSB better manage the meeting and accomplish its agenda. Individuals or organizations will be given approximately 5 minutes to orally present their views. All persons making an oral presentation are requested also to provide their comments in writing, if possible. Written submissions may of course expand on or supplement the

oral presentation with additional material. Attendees who do not wish to make an oral presentation are invited to submit written comments to NOSB at the meeting. All persons submitting written comments should provide 20 copies to NOSB.

Dated: July 7, 1998.

Eileen S. Stommes,

Deputy Administrator, Transportation and Marketing.

[FR Doc. 98-18540 Filed 7-8-98; 11:55 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Sierra Nevada Conservation Planning for National Forests in California

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Announcing the beginning of a planning process that will: (1) Examine existing management direction for the National Forests in the Sierra Nevada in light of new scientific information, and (2) develop new management direction where necessary, supported by an environmental impact statement to be completed by July 31, 1999. After an initial public involvement period, the Agency will amend this notice with a Notice of Intent that will more fully describe an Agency proposed action.

SUMMARY: The USDA, Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region, is beginning a planning process to ensure that new scientific information is adequately considered in management direction contained in the Pacific Southwest Regional Guide and the ten Forest Plans for the National Forests in the Sierra Nevada. The Pacific Southwest Regional Forester, in consultation with the Director of the Pacific Southwest Research Station, anticipates (1) having a completed and peer reviewed report that synthesizes new scientific information of rangewide urgency to the National Forests in the Sierra Nevada by late-July, 1998; (2) having completed an examination of current management direction in light of the new scientific information and the identification of weaknesses in current management direction along with possible changes that could be made in management direction to rectify those weaknesses by the end of July, 1998; (3) providing a 60-