

# Notices

**Federal Register**

Vol. 63, No. 180

Thursday, September 17, 1998

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.

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. 98-043N]

#### Meeting on Risk Analysis for Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) in the United States

**AGENCY:** Food Safety and Inspection Service; Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) are announcing that they will hold a public meeting to assess Department of Agriculture (USDA) measures to prevent Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) from entering the United States and endangering the U.S. food supply. On April 24, 1998, USDA entered into a cooperative agreement with Harvard University's School of Public Health to conduct a risk analysis to assess the potential pathways for entry into U.S. cattle and the U.S. food supply, to evaluate existing regulations and policies, and to identify any additional measures that could be taken to protect human and animal health. This meeting will provide an opportunity for public input and a chance to comment on the scope of the BSE risk analysis project.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on September 28, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** The September 28 meeting will be held at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, 4301 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22203-1850; telephone (703) 907-5500. To register for the meeting, contact Ms. Jennifer Callahan by telephone at (202) 501-7251 or by FAX at (202) 501-7642. If a sign language interpreter or other special accommodation is needed, contact Ms. Callahan at the above

numbers by September 21, 1998. Persons wishing to present technical data at the public meeting are asked to bring 100 copies of their data for distribution to participants in the meeting and to submit one original and two copies of the data to the FSIS Docket Clerk, Room 102, Cotton Annex Building, 300 12th Street, SW, Washington, DC 20250-3700. All other written comments should be submitted to the FSIS Docket Clerk at the above address.

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Ruth Etzel, Director, Epidemiology and Risk Assessment Division, Office of Public Health and Science, at (202) 501-7472 or by FAX at (202) 501-6982.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** BSE is a progressive neurological disorder of cattle that results from infection by an unknown transmissible agent. Although the nature of the transmissible agent is unknown, a theory which has gained increasing acceptance is that the agent is a modified form of a normal cell surface component known as the prion protein, a pathogenic form of the protein that is less soluble and more resistant to enzyme degradation than the normal form. Two other theories are the virus and virino theories.

From 1986 to 1998, an estimated 171,000 head of cattle were diagnosed with BSE in Great Britain. The epidemic may have resulted from the feeding of scrapie-containing sheep meat-and-bone meal to cattle, but most likely was amplified by feeding rendered bovine meat-and-bone meal back to cattle. Several other European countries have reported indigenous cases of BSE.

No cases of BSE have been diagnosed in the United States. The USDA BSE Working Group has taken aggressive measures to prevent BSE from entering the U.S. over the last 10 years. These measures include the 1989 ban of cattle and cattle products from countries where BSE has been reported and active inspection, testing, and education programs targeted toward preventing the entry of suspect animals and animal products into this country. USDA cooperates with other government agencies in carrying out this mission. The information developed through the risk analysis will be used to refine USDA's regulatory activities.

Done in Washington, DC, on September 11, 1998.

**Thomas J. Billy,**  
*Administrator.*

[FR Doc. 98-24888 Filed 9-15-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6351-01-M

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## CENSUS MONITORING BOARD

### Meeting

**AGENCY:** U.S. Census Monitoring Board.

**ACTION:** Notice of Cancellation of Public Hearing.

**SUMMARY:** This notice hereby cancels the Sept. 18 public hearing of the U.S. Census Monitoring Board. The original hearing notice was published on Sept. 10, 1998 in the **Federal Register** (FR Doc. 98-24258) Vol. 63, No. 175 (63 FR 48467). The hearing will be rescheduled in the near future.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:** Carrie Hyun, Communications Director, Presidential Members, U.S. Census Monitoring Board, Phone 301/457-9903 or Michael Miguel, Press Secretary, Congressional Members, U.S. Census Monitoring Board, Phone 301/457-5080.

**Mark R. Johnson,**

*Executive Director, Presidential Members.*

[FR Doc. 98-24988 Filed 9-14-98; 4:47 pm]

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## COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

### Agenda and Notice of Public Meeting of the Oklahoma Advisory Committee

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, that a meeting of the Oklahoma Advisory Committee to the Commission will convene at 9:00 a.m. and adjourn at 4:00 p.m. on September 29, 1998, at the Clarion/Comfort Inn Conference Center, 4345 North Lincoln Boulevard, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 74105. The purpose of the meeting is to collect pertinent information from school district officials and the community on student discipline and students exempt from taking the Iowa Test of Basic Skills.

Persons desiring additional information, or planning a presentation to the Committee, should contact Melvin L. Jenkins, Director of the