

# 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

### Office of the Secretary

#### Notice Inviting Applications for Designation of Rural Empowerment Zones; Correction

**AGENCY:** Office of the Secretary, USDA.

**ACTION:** Correction.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) corrects a notice published April 16, 1998 (63 FR 19143). This action is taken to correct cross references relating to the form and content of strategic plans which are required as part of the application package for rural empowerment zone designations. Accordingly, the notice published April 16, 1998 (63 FR 19143), is corrected as follows:

On page 19144, in the second column, the first sentence of paragraph VII(A) should cross reference sections 25.202 and 25.203.

On page 19145, in the first column, the sentence comprising paragraph VII(E)(2) "Section 2—Phase 1 operational budget" should cross reference section 25.403(c)(2).

Dated: September 11, 1998.

**Dan Glickman,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 98-26022 Filed 9-28-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-01-P

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 98-042-2]

#### National Wildlife Services Advisory Committee (formerly known as the National Animal Damage Control Advisory Committee); Notice of Intent to Reestablish

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

**ACTION:** Notice of intent.

**SUMMARY:** We are giving notice that the Secretary of Agriculture intends to reestablish the National Wildlife Service Advisory Committee (the Committee) for a 2-year period. The Secretary of Agriculture has determined that the Committee is necessary and in the public interest.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Mr. Martin Mendoza, Director, Operational Support Staff, Wildlife Services, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 87, Riverdale, MD 20737-1234, (301) 734-7921.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The purpose of the National Wildlife Services Advisory Committee is to advise the Secretary of Agriculture on policies, program issues, and research needed to conduct the Wildlife Services program. The Committee also serves as a public forum enabling those affected by the Wildlife Services program to have a voice in the program's policies.

Done in Washington, DC, this 23rd day of September 1998.

**Reba Evans,**

*Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Administration.*

[FR Doc. 98-26024 Filed 9-28-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-M

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Federal Crop Insurance Corporation

#### Crop Insurance Pilot Program

**AGENCY:** Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice; Request for Comments.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces a public comment period on developing a new pilot program that would indemnify crop losses that result due to scab problems in the Northern Plains area of the United States in conjunction with the Federal crop insurance program. This action is necessary to address the scab problems in the Northern Plains. It is intended to ensure that producers have an adequate risk management tool for handling this disease.

**DATES:** Submit comments on or before October 29, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Interested persons are invited to submit written comments to the Director, Product Development

Division, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, United States Department of Agriculture, 9435 Holmes Road, Kansas City, Mo 64131. A copy of each response will be available for public inspection and copying from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., CDT, Monday through Friday, except holidays, at the above address.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Tim Hoffmann, Director, Product Development Division, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, at the Kansas City, Mo., address listed above, telephone (816) 926-7387.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Section 193(b) of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (1996 Act) authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to develop and administer a pilot program for crop insurance coverage that indemnifies crop losses due to a natural disaster such as insect infestation or disease. This section also requires the pilot program to be actuarially sound, as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture and administered at no net cost. The pilot can last no more than two years.

Some interested parties, including producer groups, have indicated that the scab problems in the Northern Plains may require a unique approach to ensure that producers have an adequate risk management tool for handling this disease. The scab problems have lowered small grains grade qualities for wheat and barley in this region. The current small grains crop insurance provisions, 7 CFR 457.101, section 11(b) allow for quality adjustment of barley and wheat only when barley or wheat production grades U.S. No. 5 or worse. In some instances, barley and wheat damaged by scab do not meet this threshold, yet some price reduction is incurred by the producer in the marketing of such grain.

FCIC is soliciting comments concerning development of a pilot program for addressing scab problems in the Northern Plains. FCIC encourages and welcomes any proposals, recommendations, options, concerns, or other comments the public may have with respect to the development of such a pilot program. Parties affected by any pilot program resulting from this notice will include producers, grain elevators, insurance companies reinsured by FCIC, and insurance agents.