

# 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

### Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service

#### Agricultural Research Service

#### National Food Safety Research Conference

**AGENCY:** Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service; and Agricultural Research Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of National Food Safety Research Conference.

**SUMMARY:** Section 615 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998, specifies that "the Secretary shall sponsor a conference to be known as the National Conference on Food Safety Research, for the purpose of beginning the task of prioritization of food safety research. The Secretary shall sponsor annual workshops in each of the subsequent 4 years after the conference so that priorities can be updated or adjusted to reflect changing food safety concerns." By this notice the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) and the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) announce a National Food Safety Research Conference which is planned to solicit comment for setting priorities of USDA food safety research programs. The goal of the conference will be to identify the gaps in the knowledge base of safe food production, processing, handling, storage and preparation.

All food products which are considered to be significant sources of food-borne illness will be addressed at the conference—meat, poultry, eggs, milk, fresh fruits, vegetables, and other plant-based foods.

The agencies seek broad input from producers, processors, food handlers, consumers, and regulatory agencies who are users of food safety research information.

Day 1 will consist of presentations from the public research community profiling current food safety research programs throughout the pre- and post-harvest, transport, handling and storage, and retail/consumer components of the food chain.

Day 2 will be devoted to receiving individual commentary and input from stakeholders on research needs and priorities for future food safety research. Input is sought primarily from organizations which represent broad constituencies and can speak to the national priorities.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on Thursday, November 12, and Friday, November 13, 1998, from 8:00 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day.

**ADDRESSES:** The conference will be held at the Ramada Plaza Hotel Old Town, 901 N. Fairfax Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Individuals or organizations who wish to make oral presentations during the comment session on November 13, 1998, are asked to pre-register by contacting Dr. Jennifer Kuzma in writing indicating the organization and area(s) of food safety issues which you wish to address. Please send your written request to Dr. Jennifer Kuzma, USDA-CSREES, STOP 2220, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-2220, e-mail to [jkuzma@reusda.gov](mailto:jkuzma@reusda.gov), phone: 202/401-6223, or fax: 202-401-4888.

Presentations will be arranged by food system areas, i.e., pre-harvest, post-harvest, and transport/storage/consumer, with equal time for all presenters. It is anticipated that individual oral comments will not exceed five minutes. Written comments are welcome and should be sent to Dr. Kuzma at the above address either prior to the meeting or to be received no later than December 1, 1998.

All persons wishing to attend are required to pre-register by contacting Mrs. Armindia Fleming at (202) 401-6617; fax, (202) 401-4888; or e-mail, [afleming@reusda.gov](mailto:afleming@reusda.gov). A registration fee will not be charged. Registration materials are available upon request. Hotel reservations may be made at the Ramada Plaza Hotel Old Town by calling (703) 683-6000. A block of rooms has been reserved under the name USDA/CSREES/Food Safety Conference. Reservations must be made

by October 11, 1998. After that date, reservations will be accepted on an availability basis at the regular published rate.

To obtain additional information, contact Dr. William Wagner, USDA-CSREES, at the above address, or by phone on (202) 401-4952; or Dr. Jane Robens, USDA-ARS, BARC, Bldg. 005, Beltsville, MD 20708; phone (301) 504-5381; e-mail, [jfr@ars.usda.gov](mailto:jfr@ars.usda.gov).

Done in Washington DC, on this 25th day of September, 1998

**Colien Hefferan,**

*Acting Administrator, Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service.*

**Floyd Horn,**

*Administrator, Agricultural Research Service.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Foreign Agricultural Service

#### Foreign Currencies Available for the Development of Foreign Markets

**AGENCY:** Foreign Agricultural Service.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Foreign Agricultural Service ("FAS") invites proposals from interested parties to use Costa Rican, Dominican Republic, Guatemalan, Jamaican, and Sri Lankan currencies acquired by the United States government for market development projects and technical assistance activities in those countries. These currencies were acquired pursuant to agreements under title I of the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954, (Pub. L. 480).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Evans Browne, Program Development Division, Export Credits, Foreign Agricultural Service, Room 4506, South Building, Stop 1034, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-1034. Telephone: (202) 720-4228.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Title I, Pub. L. 480 authorizes the United States to finance the sale and exportation of agricultural commodities to foreign governments on concessional terms. Between 1986 and 1991, the United States entered into various title I, Pub. L. 480 agreements with foreign governments, on terms which required