

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-98-00-6]

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: October 27, 1998, at 9:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.; October 28, 1998, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; and October 29, 1998, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

PLACE: U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Room 3501 South Building, Washington, D.C. 20250. Phone: (202) 690-3655.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Keith Jones, Program Manager, Room 2945 South Building, U.S. Department of Agriculture, AMS, Transportation and Marketing, National Organic Program, 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 the NOSB. The purpose of the 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. The 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, the 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 the NOSB was held in July 1998, in Washington, DC. The Department of Agriculture (USDA) published its proposed rule in the **Federal Register** on December 16, 1997 (62 FR 65849). An extension of the comment period on the proposed rule was published in the **Federal Register** on February 9, 1998 (63 FR 6498-6499). The comment period was extended until April 30, 1998.

Purpose and Agenda

The principal purpose of this meeting is to provide an opportunity for the NOSB and the Agency to discuss issues raised during the comment period on the proposed rule, as well options under consideration concerning those issues. The Board will also receive committee reports from its standing and ad hoc committees. A detailed agenda for this meeting will be available on October 19, 1998. Copies of the final agenda can be requested from Ms. Karen Thomas, Room 2510, South Building, U.S. Department of Agriculture, AMS, Transportation and Marketing, National Organic Program, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456, by phone at (202) 690-3655 or by accessing the NOP website at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop>.

Type of Meeting

All meetings will be open to the public. The NOSB has scheduled time for public input on October 27, 1998, from 8:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. and on October 29, 1998 from 1:30 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. Individuals and organizations wishing to make an oral presentation at the meeting should forward the request to Ms. Thomas at the above address or by FAX to (202) 205-7808 by October 16, 1998. 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 the NOSB to 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 to provide their comments in writing, if possible. Written submissions may supplement the oral presentation with additional material. Attendees who do not wish to make an oral presentation are invited to submit written comments to the NOSB at the meeting. All persons submitting written comments should provide 20 copies.

Dated: October 8, 1998.

Eileen S. Stommes,

Deputy Administrator, Transportation and Marketing.

[FR Doc. 98-27580 Filed 10-8-98; 4:40 pm]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 98-108-1]

Availability of a Draft Environmental Assessment

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: We are advising the public that a draft environmental assessment has been prepared by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) relative to the management of conflicts with humans and the management of damage caused by nonmigratory Canada geese in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The draft environmental assessment has been prepared to analyze the environmental impact of APHIS activities to manage the conflicts and damage. APHIS is seeking public comments on this draft environmental assessment.

DATES: Consideration will be given only to comments received on or before November 13, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the environmental assessment are available for public inspection at USDA, room 1141, South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Persons wishing to inspect those documents are requested to call ahead on (202) 690-