

# 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

#### Research, Education, and Economics; Notice of Strategic Planning Task Force Meeting

**AGENCY:** Research, Education, and Economics, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The United States Department of Agriculture announces a meeting of the Strategic Planning Task Force on Research Facilities.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Strategic Planning Task Force on Research Facilities, currently consisting of 14 members, is scheduled to meet for the eighth of eight planned meetings. The meeting is scheduled to be held at the Hilton Washington Dulles Airport beginning at 1:00 p.m. on May 10, 1999, and concluding May 11, 1999. The meeting will be a review of the data collected by the Task Force and will continue discussion of the draft report.

*Times and Dates:* May 10, 1999, beginning at 1:00 p.m., and May 11, 1999, beginning at 8:00 a.m.

*Place:* Hilton Washington Dulles Airport, 13869 Park Center Road, Herndon, Virginia 20171.

*Type of Meeting:* Open to the public.

*Comments:* The public may file written comments before or after the meeting with the contact person listed below.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mitch Geasler, Project Director, Strategic Planning Task Force on Research Facilities, Room 344-A Jamie L. Whitten Building, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-0113. Telephone 202-720-3803.

Done at Washington, DC, this 7th day of April, 1999.

**Eileen Kennedy,**

*Deputy Under Secretary, Research, Education, and Economics.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Foreign Agricultural Service

#### Agricultural Advisory Committees for Trade

**AGENCY:** Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Rechartering of the Agricultural Advisory Committees for Trade.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that the Secretary of Agriculture, after consultation with the United States Trade Representative, has rechartered the following advisory committees:

- Agricultural Policy Advisory Committee for Trade
- Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee for Trade in Animals and Animal Products
- Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee for Trade in Fruits and Vegetables
- Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee for Trade in Grains, Feed, and Oilseeds
- Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee for Trade in Sweeteners and Sweetener Products
- Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee for Trade in Tobacco, Cotton, and Peanuts

The purpose of these committees is to provide advice to the Secretary of Agriculture and the U.S. Trade Representative with respect to the trade policy of the United States pursuant to Section 135(c) of the Trade Act of 1974 (Pub. L. 93-618) as amended. Meetings of these committees will be open to the public, unless the U.S. Trade Representative determines that the committees will be discussing issues the disclosure of which justify closing such meetings or portions thereof in accordance with Section 552(c) of Title 5 of the United States Code. The renewal of such committees is in the public interest in connection with the duties of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) imposed by the Trade Act of 1974, as amended.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Comments regarding the reestablishment of these committees should be addressed to Paula Scott or Denise Bell, Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS), USDA, Room 5065-S, Washington, DC 20250-1000.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) (5 U.S.C. Appendix), notice is hereby given that the Secretary of Agriculture and the U.S. Trade Representative are reestablishing the Agricultural Policy Advisory Committee for Trade (APAC) and the Agricultural Technical Advisory Committees for Trade (ATACs). In 1974, Congress established a private sector advisory committee system to ensure that U.S. trade policy and trade negotiation objectives adequately reflect U.S. commercial and economic interests. Congress expanded and enhanced the role of this system in three subsequent trade acts. The private sector advisory system now consists of almost 40 committees, arranged in three tiers; The President's Advisory Committee on Trade and Policy Negotiations (ACTPN); seven policy advisory committees, including the APAC; and more than 30 technical advisory committees including the ATACs. The duties of the APAC are to provide the Secretary of Agriculture and the U.S. Trade Representative with advice concerning negotiating objectives and bargaining positions before entering into a trade agreement, the operation of an agreement once entered into, and other matters arising in connection with the administration of the trade policy of the United States. The duties of the ATACs are to provide advice and information regarding trade issues which affect both domestic and foreign production and trade concerning the respective agricultural commodities, drawing upon the technical competence and experience of its members. Each committee is required to meet at the conclusion of negotiations for each trade agreement entered into under the Act to provide a report on such agreement to the President, to Congress, and to the U.S. Trade Representative. The APAC is comprised of approximately 50 members. The members elect a chairperson from the membership of the committee. The Assistant to the Administrator, FAS, and the Assistant U.S. Trade Representative,