

Substances. The last meeting of the NOSB was held February 9–11, 1999, in Washington, DC.

The Department of Agriculture (USDA) published its proposed rule for the NOP in the **Federal Register** on December 16, 1997 (62 FR 65849). A notice extending 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. On October 28, 1998, three issue papers for which public comment was requested by USDA were published in the **Federal Register** (63 FR 57624–57626). These papers addressed certain issues raised during the NOP's proposed rule's comment period. The issue papers were: Issue Paper 1—Livestock Confinement in Organic Production Systems; Issue Paper 2—The Use of Antibiotics and Parasiticides in Organic Livestock Production; and Issue Paper 3—Termination of Certification by Private Certifiers. Comments received on these papers are being considered during the development of a revised NOP proposed rule. The comment period for the issue papers closed December 14, 1998.

PURPOSE AND AGENDA: The principal purpose of this meeting is to provide an opportunity for NOSB to receive committee reports from its standing and ad hoc committees and address issues that arose from the February 1999 NOSB meeting. These issues include, wild caught salmon, the NOP recommendations on manure use in vegetable production, a mock materials review, and enforcement criteria. At the meeting the Agency will give a status report on the proposed rule, report on the 27th Codex Committee meeting on Food Labeling, and report on other trade related issues. Copies of the NOSB meeting agenda can be requested from Karen Thomas, Room 2510-South Building, U.S. Department of Agriculture, AMS, Transportation and Marketing, National Organic Program, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, DC 20090–6456, or 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. NOSB has scheduled time for public input on Tuesday, June 8, 1999, from 1:30 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. in Room 3109–S. Individuals and organizations wishing to make an oral presentation at the meeting should forward their request to Ms. Thomas at the above address, or by FAX to (202) 205–7808, by the close of business June 4, 1999. 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 present their views. All persons making an oral presentation are requested to provide their comments in writing, if possible. Written submissions may supplement any oral presentation that is made at the meeting. Attendees who do not wish to make an oral presentation are invited to submit written comments to the NOSB at the meeting, or to Ms. Thomas after the meeting at the above address. All persons submitting written comments should provide 20 copies.

Dated: May 21, 1999.

Eileen S. Stommes,

Deputy Administrator, Transportation and Marketing.

[FR Doc. 99–13355 Filed 5–21–99; 1:08 pm]

BILLING CODE 3410–02–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Proposed Changes to Section IV of the Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) of the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Idaho

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Idaho, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

ACTION: Notice of availability of a proposed change in Section IV of the FOTG of the NRCS in Idaho for review and comment.

SUMMARY: It is the intention of NRCS in Idaho to issue six revised conservation practices in Section IV of the FOTG that may be used in conservation systems that treat highly erodible land and one that may be used in any conservation system. The revised standards are Conservation Crop Rotation (Code 328); Residue Management No Till/Strip Till (Code 329A); Residue Management Mulch Till (Code 329B); Residue Management Ridge Till (Code 329C); Residue Management Seasonal (Code 344); Chiseling and Subsoiling (Code 324); Contour Farming (Code 330); and Nutrient Management (Code 590).

DATES: Comments will be received on or before June 24, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Copies of these standards will be made available upon written request to Lee E. Brooks, Assistant State Conservationist, Technology, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), 9173 W.

Barnes Dr., Suite C, Boise, ID 83709–1574 (phone 208–378–5720). Electronic requests and comments can be submitted to nrcs@id.usda.gov, Attention Lee Brooks.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 343 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 states that after enactment of the law, revisions made to NRCS state technical guides used to carry out highly erodible land and wetland provisions of the law shall be made available for public review and comment. For the next 30 days, NRCS in Idaho will receive comments relative to the proposed changes. Following that period, a determination will be made by NRCS in Idaho regarding disposition of these comments, and a final determination of changes will be made.

Dated: May 18, 1999.

Gary Pfeifle,

Assistant State Conservationist, Boise, Idaho.

[FR Doc. 99–13224 Filed 5–24–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–16–U

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

National Sheep Industry Improvement Center; Solicitation of Nominations of Board Members

AGENCY: Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice: Invitation to submit nominations.

SUMMARY: The Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS) announces that it is accepting nominations for the Board of Directors of the National Sheep Industry Improvement Center for three directors' positions whose terms are expiring on February 13, 2000. Two of the positions are for those that have expertise in finance and management and the other position is for active producers of sheep or goats. Board members manage and oversee the Center's activities. Nominations may only be submitted by National organizations that consist primarily of active sheep or goat producers in the United States and who have as their primary interest the production of sheep or goats in the United States. Nominating organizations should submit:

- (1) Substantiation that the nominating organization is national in scope,
- (2) The number and percent of members that are active sheep or goat producers,
- (3) Substantiation of the primary interests of the organization, and

(4) An Advisory Committee Membership Background Information form (Form AD-755) for each nominee.

This action is taken to carry out section 759 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 for the establishment of a National Sheep Industry Improvement Center.

DATES: The closing date for acceptance of nominations is September 22, 1999. Nominations must be received by, or postmarked, on or before, this date.

ADDRESSES: Submit nominations and statements on qualifications to Cooperative Services, RBS, USDA, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Stop 3252, Room 4204, Washington, DC 20250-3252, Attn.: National Sheep Improvement Center, Nominations.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Thomas H. Stafford, Director, Cooperative Marketing Division, Cooperative Services, RBS, USDA, 1400 Independence Ave, SW, Stop 3252, Washington, DC 20250-3252, telephone (202) 690-0368, (This is not a toll free number.) FAX 202-690-2723, or e-mail thomas.stafford@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996, known as the 1996 Farm Bill, established a National Sheep Industry Improvement Center. The Center shall (1) promote strategic development activities and collaborative efforts by private and State entities to maximize the impact of Federal assistance to strengthen and enhance production and marketing of sheep or goat products in the United States; (2) optimize the use of available human capital and resources within the sheep or goat industries; (3) provide assistance to meet the needs of the sheep or goat industry for infrastructure development, business development, production, resource development, and market and environmental research; (4) advance activities that empower and build the capacity of the United States sheep or goat industry to design unique responses to special needs of the sheep or goat industries on both a regional and national basis; and (5) adopt flexible and innovative approaches to solving the long-term needs of the United States sheep or goat industry. The Center has a Revolving Fund established in the Treasury to carry out the purposes of the Center. Management of the Center is vested in a Board of Directors, which has hired an Executive Director and other staff to operate the Center.

The Board of Directors is composed of seven voting members of whom four are active producers of sheep or goats in the United States, two have expertise in finance and management, and one has

expertise in lamb, wool, goat or goat product marketing. Two of the open positions are for the voting members who have expertise in finance and management. One of the open positions is for a producer seat. The Board also includes two non-voting members, the Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development and the Under Secretary of Agriculture for Research, Education, and Economics. Board members will not receive compensation for serving on the Board of Directors, but shall be reimbursed for travel, subsistence, and other necessary expenses.

The Secretary of Agriculture shall appoint the voting members from the submitted nominations. Members term of office shall be three years. Voting members are limited to two terms. The three positions for which nominees are sought are currently held by members serving their first term, thus are eligible to be re-nominated. The Board shall meet not less than once each fiscal year, but are likely to meet at least quarterly.

The statement of qualifications of the individual nominees is being obtained by using Form AD-755, "Advisory Committee Membership Background Information." The requirements of this form are incorporated under OMB number 0505-0001.

Dated: May 17, 1999.

Dayton J. Watkins,

Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service.

[FR Doc. 99-13119 Filed 5-24-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-XY-U

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Housing Service

Notice of Request for Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Rural Housing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Proposed collection; comments requested.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Rural Housing Service's intention to request an extension for a currently approved information collection in support of the program for the Housing Preservation Grant Program.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by July 26, 1999 to be assured of consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tracee L. Lilly, Senior Loan Specialist, RHS, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Stop 0781, Washington, D.C. 20250, Telephone (202)720-1604.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: RHS/Housing Preservation Grant Program.

OMB Number: 0575-0115.

Expiration Date of Approval: September 30, 1999.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: The primary purpose of the Housing Preservation Grant Program is to repair or rehabilitate individual housing, rental properties, or co-ops owned or occupied by very low- and low-income rural persons. Grantees will provide eligible homeowners, owners of rental properties and owners of co-ops with financial assistance through loans, grants, interest reduction payments or other comparable financial assistance for necessary repairs and rehabilitation of dwellings to bring them up to code or minimum property standards. Where repair and rehabilitation assistance is not economically feasible or practical the replacement of existing, individual owner occupied housing is available.

These grants were established by Public Law 98-181, the Housing Urban-Rural Recovery Act of 1983, which amended the Housing Act of 1979 (Pub. L. 93-383) by adding section 533, 42 U.S.C. S 2490(m), Housing Preservation Grants (HPG). In addition, the Secretary of Agriculture has authority to prescribe rules and regulations to implement HPG and other programs under 42 U.S.C. S 1480(j).

Section 533(d) is prescriptive about the information applicants are to submit to RHS as part of their application and in the assessments and criteria RHS is to use in selecting grantees. An applicant is to submit a "statement of activity" describing its proposed program, including the specific activities it will undertake, and its schedule. RHS is required in turn to evaluate proposals on a set of prescribed criteria, for which the applicant will also have to provide information, such as: (1) very low- and low-income persons proposed to be served by the repair and rehabilitation activities; (2) participation by other public and private organizations to leverage funds and lower the cost to the HPG program; (3) the area to be served in terms of population and need; (4) cost data to assure greatest degree of assistance at lowest cost; (5) administrative capacity of the applicant to carry out the program. The information collected will be the minimum required by law and by necessity for RHS to assure that it funds responsible grantees proposing feasible projects in areas of greatest need. Most data are taken from a localized area, although some are derived from census