

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

Designation of Rural Empowerment Zones and Rural Enterprise Communities

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, USDA.
ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This Notice announces the designation of five new rural empowerment zones and 20 new rural enterprise communities from the applications received in response to the Notice Inviting Applications published in the **Federal Register** on April 16, 1998. The Secretary of Agriculture (Secretary) will award newly authorized direct federal grants of \$2,000,000 to each rural empowerment zone and \$250,000 to each rural enterprise community. Notice is also given that

rural empowerment zones and rural enterprise communities designated by the Secretary are expected to sign a memorandum of agreement substantially in the form attached to this notice.

DATES: The designation date for the five Round II rural empowerment zones and 20 Round IIS rural enterprise communities announced in this notice was December 24, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Deputy Administrator for Community Development, USDA Rural Development, Office of Community Development, Reporters Building, Room 701, STOP 3203, 300 7th Street, SW, Washington, DC 20024-3203, telephone 1-800-851-3403, or by sending an Internet e-mail message to "info@www.ezec.gov". For hearing- and speech-impaired persons, information concerning this program may be obtained by contacting USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (Voice and TDD).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Title IX of the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 authorized the Secretary to designate up to five rural empowerment zones ("Round II") in addition to those rural empowerment zones and enterprise communities designated by the

Secretary in December 1994 pursuant to title XIII of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 ("Round I"). A Notice Inviting Applications for Round II was published on April 16, 1998 (63 FR 19143). One hundred sixty eligible applications were received in response to this invitation in time to meet the October 9, 1998, deadline. On October 21, 1998, the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, Appropriations Act, 1999 (Pub. L. 105-277) (Round IIS) was signed into law (1999 Appropriations Act). Section 766 of the 1999 Appropriations Act authorized 20 new rural enterprise communities and also appropriated new USDA grant funding for Round II rural empowerment zones and Round IIS rural enterprise communities. The statutory deadline for Round II rural empowerment zone designations was January 1, 1999. There is no statutory deadline for Round IIS rural enterprise community designations.

I. Designation of Five New Rural Empowerment Zones

On December 24, 1998, the Secretary designated the following nominated areas as rural empowerment zones pursuant to the Round II legislative authorization:

USDA RURAL EMPOWERMENT ZONES (ROUND II)

[Asterisked "*" counties have areas not included in the designated empowerment zone]

Name	State	Counties
Desert Communities EZ	CA	Riverside*
Southwest Georgia United EZ	GA	Crisp*, Dooly
Southernmost Illinois Delta EZ	IL	Alexander*, Johnson*, Pulaski
Griggs-Steele EZ	ND	Griggs*, Steele
Oglala Sioux Tribe EZ	SD	Bennett, Jackson*, Shannon

II. Designation of 20 New Rural Enterprise Communities

On December 24, 1998, the Secretary designated the following nominated areas as rural enterprise communities pursuant to the Round IIS legislative authorization:

USDA RURAL ENTERPRISE COMMUNITIES (ROUND IIS)

[Asterisked "*" counties have areas not included in the designated enterprise community]

Name	State	Counties
Metlakatla Indian EC	AK	Ketchikan Borough
Four Corners	AZ	Apache*, Coconino*, Navajo*, (AZ)
	NM	San Juan* (NM)
	UT	San Juan* (UT)
Central California EC	CA	Fresno*, Tulare
Empowerment Alliance of Southwest Florida EC	FL	Collier*, Hendry*
Molokai EC	HI	Maui*
Town of Austin EC	IN	Scott*

USDA Rural Enterprise Communities (Round IIS)—Continued

[Asterisked "*" counties have areas not included in the designated enterprise community]

Name	State	Counties
Wichita County EC	KS	Wichita
Bowling Green EC	KY	Warren*
City of Lewiston EC	ME	Androscoggin*
Clare County EC	MI	Clare*
Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Tribe EC	MT	Roosevelt, Valley*
City of Deming EC	NM	Luna
Tri County Nations EC	OK	Coal, Johnston*, Pontotoc*
Fayette EC	PA	Fayette*
Allendale ALIVE EC	SC	Allendale
Clinch-Powell EC	TN	Claiborne*, Grainger*, Hancock, Hawkins*, Union*
Middle Rio Grande EC	TX	Dimmit*, Maverick*, Uvalde*, Zavala*
Tri County Rural EC	WA	Ferry*, Okanogan*, Pend Oreille*, Stevens*
Northwoods Nijiji EC	WI	Forest*, Minominee, Vilas*
Upper Kanawha Valley EC	WV	Kanawha*, Fayette*

The Secretary selected the new rural enterprise communities from the pool of applicants for Round II rural empowerment zones. This notice satisfies the notice requirement of 7 C.F.R. 25.300(a) for purposes of Round IIS.

USDA's efforts to maximize participation of eligible communities in the second round of applications for designation included 16 workshops in 16 cities around the country. The 160 applications on hand for Round II reflect a cross section of 38 states; 23 or more applications include reservation land or were submitted by native American tribal communities. Nineteen Round I enterprise communities submitted applications for Round II empowerment zone designation.

Selection of Round IIS rural enterprise communities from the pool of Round II empowerment zone applicants facilitated more timely and efficient implementation of the financial benefits appropriated for the second round of designations. USDA is of the opinion that a quality strategic plan (required as part of the application process) takes at least six months to develop. Town meetings are held and cross sections of the community are brought together to decide how they wish to develop as a community and how best to achieve those goals. The outreach for Round II, as described above, was comprehensive and thorough. The cost to taxpayers of mounting another round of nationwide workshops is considerable. All of these factors taken together support a decision to take an expeditious approach to implementing Round IIS.

III. Amount of Grants

The Round IIS legislation authorized direct USDA grant funding of \$10,000,000 for the five new rural empowerment zones and \$5,000,000 for the 20 new rural enterprise

communities (USDA EZ/EC grants). The Secretary will make equal USDA EZ/EC grant awards of \$2,000,000 to the rural empowerment zones and \$250,000 to the rural enterprise communities in accordance with a rulemaking to be published as soon as is practicable.

IV. Memorandum of Agreement

Applicants for Round II were advised that newly designated zones would be expected to sign a memorandum of agreement (MOA) substantially in the form of the MOA published as Appendix E to the April 16, 1998, Notice Inviting Applications at 63 FR 19150. This model MOA has been revised and is attached hereto as Appendix A. All Round II and Round IIS rural empowerment zones and enterprise communities will be expected to sign a MOA conforming in all material respects to the form of the model MOA provided in Appendix A to this notice.

Dated: May 14, 1999.

Dan Glickman,
Secretary.

Appendix A—Form of Memorandum of Agreement; Rural Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities

This Agreement among the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the State of _____ (State) and the [Empowerment Zone] [Enterprise Community] Lead Entity relating to the Rural [Empowerment Zone] [Enterprise Community] known as _____, is made pursuant to the Internal Revenue Code (title 26 of the United States Code) as amended by title IX of the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997; title XIII, subchapter C, part I of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993; and section 766 of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1999 (Pub. L. 105-277).

In reliance upon and in consideration of the mutual representations and obligations herein contained, the applicable statute and

part 25 of 7 CFR, USDA, the State and the [Empowerment Zone][Enterprise Community] agree as follows:

The Rural [Empowerment Zone][Enterprise Community] boundaries are as follows:

Census Tracts _____, _____, _____ [as such boundaries may be modified] in accordance with maps provided in the application for designation and inclusive of developable sites, as identified. The term of the designation as a rural [Empowerment Zone] [Enterprise Community] is effective from December 24, 1998 to December 31, 2008, unless sooner revoked.

The State and the [Empowerment Zone] [Enterprise Community] agree as follows:

1. The State and the [Empowerment Zone] [Enterprise Community] will comply with the requirements title XIII, subchapter C, part I of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 as modified by the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997, and the regulations appearing at 7 CFR part 25 and any future regulations.

2. The State and the [Empowerment Zone] [Enterprise Community] will comply with statutory, regulatory and contractual requirements, as amended, as may be applicable to the receipt and expenditure of Social Services Block Grant funds, pursuant to title XX of the Social Security Act.

3. The State and the [Empowerment Zone] [Enterprise Community] will comply with statutory, regulatory and contractual requirements, as amended, as are applicable to the receipt and expenditure of USDA Rural Development EZ/EC grant funds, pursuant to section 766 of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1999.

4. The State and the [Empowerment Zone] [Enterprise Community] will comply with all elements of the USDA approved application for designation, including the strategic plan, submitted to USDA pursuant to 7 CFR part 25 ("strategic plan") and all assurances, certifications, schedules or other submissions made in support of the strategic plan or of this Agreement, all of which are included herein and made a part hereof by reference.

5. The State and the [Empowerment Zone] [Enterprise Community] will annually submit with each 2-year workplan required under 7 CFR § 25.403 documentation, in form and

substance satisfactory to the Secretary, sufficient to identify baselines, benchmark goals, benchmark activities and timetables for the implementation of the strategic plan during the applicable 2 years of the workplan.

6. Pursuant to the strategic plan, the lead entity for the [Empowerment Zone] [Enterprise Community], _____ [name of lead entity] _____, located at _____ [address] _____, is responsible for the implementation of the strategic plan. The current director of the lead entity, who is duly authorized to execute this agreement, is _____ [name] _____.

7. The use of USDA Rural EZ/EC Grant funds will be directed by the lead entity, in accordance with the strategic plan. The USDA Rural Development State Office will distribute the funds according to the directives of the lead entity, provided that such actions are consistent with the USDA approved strategic plan and USDA grant procedures.

8. The lead entity agrees to timely comply with the reporting requirements contained in 7 CFR part 25, including reporting on progress made in carrying out actions necessary to implement the requirements of the strategic plan and any assurances, certifications, schedules or other submissions made in connection with the designation.

9. The lead entity agrees to submit to periodic performance reviews by USDA in accordance with the provisions of 7 CFR §§ 25.402 and 25.404. Upon request by USDA, the lead entity will permit representatives of USDA to inspect and make copies of any records pertaining to matters covered by this Agreement.

10. Each year after the execution of this Agreement, the lead entity will submit updated documentation sufficient to identify baselines, benchmark goals and activities and timetables for the implementation of the strategic plan during the following 2 years.

Upon written acceptance from USDA, such documentation shall become part of this Agreement and shall replace the documentation submitted previously, for purposes of operations during the following 2 years.

11. All benchmark goals, benchmark activities, baselines, and schedules approved by the [Empowerment Zone][Enterprise Community] after a full community participation process (which must be documented and which may be further amended or supplemented from time to time), will be incorporated as part of this Agreement. All references to the strategic plan in this memorandum of agreement shall be deemed to refer to the strategic plan as modified in accordance with this paragraph.

12. Amendments to the strategic plan may be made only with the approval of the [Empowerment Zone][Enterprise Community] and USDA. The lead entity must demonstrate to USDA that the local governments within the [Empowerment Zone][Enterprise Community] were involved in the amendment process.

13. All attachments and submissions in accordance herewith are incorporated as part of this Agreement.

This Agreement is dated _____.

State Government: State of _____

By: _____ [official authorized to commit the state] _____

Title: _____

Address: _____

Empowerment Zone [Name of Empowerment Zone]

Enterprise Community [Name of Enterprise Community]

By: _____

Title: _____

Address: _____

Lead entity: [Name of Lead Entity]

By: _____

Title: _____

Address: _____

Federal Government: United States Department of Agriculture

By: _____

Title: _____

Address: _____

[FR Doc. 99-13222 Filed 5-24-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-07-U

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Docket No. TB-99-06]

Flue-Cured Tobacco Advisory Committee; Meeting

In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) announcement is made of the following committee meeting:

Name: Flue-Cured Tobacco Advisory Committee.

Date: June 25, 1999.

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Place: United States Department of Agriculture, (USDA), Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), Tobacco Programs, Flue-Cured Tobacco Cooperative Stabilization Corporation Building, Room 223, 1306 Annapolis Drive, Raleigh, North Carolina 27608.

Purpose: To establish submarketing areas, discuss selling schedules, recommend opening dates, and other related matters for the 1999 flue-cured tobacco marketing season.

The meeting is open to the public. Persons, other than members, who wish to address the Committee at the meeting should contact John P. Duncan III, Deputy Administrator, Tobacco Programs, AMS, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 502 Annex Building, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, DC 20090-6456, (202) 205-0567, prior to the meeting. Written statements may be submitted to the Committee before, at, or after the meeting. If you need any accommodations to participate in the meeting, please contact the Tobacco Programs at (202) 205-0567 by June 16, 1999, and inform us of your needs.

Dated: May 20, 1999.

William O. Coats,

Acting Deputy Administrator, Tobacco Programs.

[FR Doc. 99-13221 Filed 5-24-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

[TM-99-00-2]

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: June 8, 1999, from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; June 9, 1999, from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; and, June 10, 1999, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (EST).

PLACE: U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Room 3109-South Building, Washington, DC 20250. Phone: (202) 720-3252.

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, DC 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. 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, DC, in March 1992 and currently has seven 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, NOSB provided its initial recommendations for the National Organic Program (NOP) to the Secretary of Agriculture and since that time it has submitted 30 addenda to the recommendations and reviewed more than 170 substances for inclusion on the National List of Allowed and Prohibited