Requests have already been made for producer records by State trusts which are preparing to make the multi-billion dollar "Phase II" distribution to farmers. Because these funds could provide much needed help to farmers, the Secretary intends to provide the records to the requesting organizations, consistent with the new law, except in the case of those parties who wish to opt out of the release. Those who do wish to opt out of the release should send notice in writing of that election to Charles Hatcher, FSA, Tobacco and Peanuts Division, STOP 0514, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-0514. Such notice must be received by September 7, 1999.

As the release only affects farm records, warehouses and buyers of tobacco need not file any exemption elections. With respect to producers and other parties involved in the growing of tobacco, those producers should be advised that a request for an exemption from the disclosure could result in a delay in receiving a distribution from the State trust, or, depending on the eligibility criteria created by the State organizations, an inability to share in the distribution. It is therefore not expected that there will be many exemption requests filed. Accordingly, it appears that the record collections can be made at one location for re-routing to the national record center for processing.

Signed at Washington, DC, on August 18, 1999.

Keith Kelly,
Administrator, Farm Service Agency.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

Solicitation of Nominations for Members of the Grain Inspection Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, USDA.

ACTION: Notice to solicit nominees.

SUMMARY: The Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) is announcing that nominations are being sought for persons to serve on GIPSA’s Grain Inspection Advisory Committee.


The Advisory Committee presently consists of 15 members, appointed by the Secretary, who represent the interests of grain producers, processors, handlers, merchandisers, consumers, and exporters, including scientists with expertise related to the policies in section 2 of the Act. Members of the Committee serve without compensation. They are reimbursed for travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, for travel away from their homes or regular places of business in performance of Advisory Committee service, as authorized under section 5703 of title 5, United States Code. Alternatively, travel expenses may be paid by Committee members.

Nominations are being sought for persons to serve on the Advisory Committee to replace the five members whose terms expire in March 2000. Nominations are also being sought for three alternate members to replace the alternates whose terms expire in March 2000 as well as to bring the total number of alternates back up to fifteen.

Persons interested in serving on the Advisory Committee, or in nominating individuals to serve, should contact GIPSA, by telephone (202-720-0219), fax (202-205-9237), or electronic mail (mplaus@gipsadc.usda.gov) and request Form AD-755, which must be completed and submitted to GIPSA by fax or at the following address: GIPSA, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Stop 3601, Washington, DC 20250-3601. Form AD-755 must be received not later than October 22, 1999.

Nominations are open to all individuals without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, mental or physical handicap, marital status, or sexual orientation. To ensure that recommendations of the Committee take into account the needs of the diverse groups served by the Department, membership shall include, to the extent practicable, individuals with demonstrated ability to represent minorities, women, and persons with disabilities.

The final selection of Advisory Committee members and alternates will be made by the Secretary.


James R. Baker,
Administrator.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

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

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

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

SUMMARY: It is the intention of NRCS in Oklahoma to issue revised conservation practice standards in Section IV of the FOTG. The revised standards are: Contour Buffer Strips (Code 332), Cross Wind Trap Strips (Code 589C), Field Border (Code 386), Filter Strip (Code 393), Residue Management, Mulch Till (Code 329B), Residue Management, No Till and Strip Till (Code 329A), Pasture and Hayland Planting (Code 512), and Conservation Crop Rotation (Code 328). These practices may be used in conservation systems that treat highly erodible land.

DATES: Comments will be received until September 22, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Inquire in writing to Keith Vaughan, ASTC (Ecological Sciences), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), 100 USDA, Suite 206, Stillwater, OK 74074-2655. Copies of these standards will be made available upon written request. You may submit electronic requests and comments to Keith.Vaughan@ok.usda.gov. Telephone 405-742-1240.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 343 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 states that revisions made after enactment of the law, 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, the NRCS in Oklahoma will receive comments relative to the proposed change. Following that period a determination will be made by the NRCS in Oklahoma regarding