

international standards on the plant pest risks of LMOs/products of modern biotechnology and on the environmental risks associated with plant pests. The United States will consider its position on this standard after it reviews a prepared draft.

Citrus Panel: This panel will continue the development of a NAPPO citrus standard entitled, "Guidelines for the Importation into and Movement of Citrus Propagative Material within NAPPO Countries with Respect to Viruses and Virus-like Pests, Viroids, Phytoplasmas, Bacteria, and Fungi." The United States will consider its position on this standard after it reviews a prepared draft.

Forestry Panel: This panel will continue to share information received from consultations on the NAPPO nonmanufactured wood packing material standard, participate in the development of the international standard on nonmanufactured wood packing material, and cooperate with the Insect and Disease Study Group of the North American Forestry Commission to identify quarantine pests and treatment options for nonmanufactured wood packing material and research priorities in support of regional and international standards for nonmanufactured wood packing material. The United States will consider its position on any standard developed by this panel after it reviews a prepared draft.

Fruit Panel: This panel will complete the standard on "Verification and Maintenance of Fruit Fly-Free Areas." The United States will consider its position on this standard after it reviews a prepared draft.

Fruit Tree Panel: This panel will develop a list of standardized diagnostic tests to be used when certifying fruit tree nursery stock. The United States will consider its position on the list of tests after it reviews a prepared draft.

Grain Panel: This panel will develop a list of standardized diagnostic tests to be used when certifying grain shipments and will complete guidelines for the establishment, verification, and maintenance of free areas for Karnal bunt. The United States will consider its position on the list of tests and the guidelines after it reviews the prepared drafts.

Grapevine Panel: This panel will develop a list of standardized diagnostic tests to be used when certifying grapevine shipments. The United States will consider its position on the list of tests after it reviews a prepared draft.

Pest Risk Analysis Panel: This panel will collaborate with the Potato Panel in the development of a PRA to support

implementation of the NAPPO standard on "Requirements for the Importation of Potatoes into a NAPPO Member Country." Also, it will collaborate with the NAPPO Biotechnology Panel to contribute to the development of international standards on the plant pest risks of LMOs/products of modern biotechnology and on the environmental risks associated with plant pests. The United States will consider its position on this standard after it reviews a prepared draft.

Potato Panel: This panel will develop a standard that provides detailed criteria that would define appropriate conditions for minituber production and list the standardized diagnostic tests to be used when certifying potato shipments. The United States will consider its position on this standard after it reviews a prepared draft.

Seeds Panel: This panel will prepare a proposal to the IPPC to endorse the seed-testing methods of the International Seed Testing Association, as well as develop a list of standardized diagnostic tests to be used when certifying seed shipments. The United States will consider its position on the proposal and the list of tests after it reviews the prepared drafts.

Standards Panel: This panel is responsible for providing updates on standards in the NAPPO newsletter; coordinating the review of new and amended NAPPO standards and ensuring that comments received during the country consultation phase are incorporated as appropriate; organizing conference calls and preparing NAPPO discussion documents for possible use at the IPPC; promoting implementation of finalized NAPPO guidelines and standards; and developing a NAPPO process for implementing the recently adopted IPPC standard for the "Notification of Interceptions and Non-Compliance" within the NAPPO region.

The PPQ Deputy Administrator, as the official U.S. delegate to NAPPO, intends to participate in the adoption of those regional plant health standards, including the work described above, once they are completed and ready for such consideration.

The information in this notice includes all the information available to us on NAPPO standards currently under development or consideration. For updates on meeting times and for information on the working panels that becomes available following publication of this notice, check the NAPPO web page at <http://www.nappo.org> or contact Mr. Nancy Klag (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** above). Information on official U.S. participation in NAPPO activities,

including U.S. positions on standards being considered, may also be obtained from Mr. Klag.

Those wishing to provide comments on any of the topics being addressed by any of the NAPPO panels may do so at any time by responding to this notice (see **ADDRESSES** above) or by transmitting comments through Mr. Klag.

Done in Washington, DC, this 9th day of August 2001.

Craig A. Reed,

Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 01-20692 Filed 8-16-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Farm Service Agency

Income Assistance for Grape Vine Losses Due to Pierce's Disease

AGENCY: Farm Service Agency, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to make monies available to the State of California for grower losses due to Pierce's disease.

SUMMARY: Section 203 of the Agricultural Risk Protection Act of 2000, Pub. Law 106-224, addresses losses caused to growers for losses due to Pierce's disease. As set out in this notice, it appears specifically that it was the intent of Congress that \$7 million be made available to the State of California to cover such losses in that State. In this notice, it is proposed that the payment be made to the State should the State agree to undertake the disposition of the funds to growers under such standards as the State might develop.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sharon Biastock, telephone (202) 720-6336.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by September 17, 2001 to be assured of consideration.

Submit written comments to:

ADDRESSES: Sharon Biastock, Production, Emergencies and Compliance Division, Farm Service Agency (FSA), STOP 0517, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250-0540, telephone (202) 720-6336; e-mail address: sharon_biastock@wdc.fsa.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 203(e) of the Agricultural Risk Protection Act of 2000 (ARPA), Public Law No. 106-224, provided in a subsection entitled "Grower Compensation" that of amounts made available under section 261(a)(2) of that

Act \$25,000,000 should be used by the Secretary to compensate growers for losses on several specifically-named plant diseases. No particular breakdown of whom should be paid was set out in the statute, nor was a particular area identified for payments or a particular disposition specified in the statute for dividing up the funds among the eligible causes of loss. However, among the covered causes of losses covered in section 203(e) was that covered in section 203(e)(1)(C), which specified that monies could be used to pay growers for losses due to Pierce's disease, a disease that can damage vines. In this respect, the Managers report that accompanied ARPA specified that: "With respect to Pierce's disease, the Managers expect the Secretary to utilize at least \$7,140,000 in a manner that enables the California Department of Food and Agriculture to utilize such funding for state and local efforts to contain and control Pierce's disease, which is devastating agricultural areas in southern California, and is moving northward. Funds are needed immediately to monitor for the earliest signs of the diseases and to inspect nursery stock prior to shipment. The disease is spread by a vigorous and difficult to control insect called the glassy-winged sharpshooter. This insect is a major problem, but the elimination of the insect would not eliminate the disease." Some ambiguity exists in the Manager's Report because the Manager's Report referred to monies being expended for eradication efforts and the text of the law referred to payments to growers for their losses. Also of note is section 261(a)(2) of ARPA. That subsection specified that funding will be available for section 203, but it was further specified in section 262 of ARPA that funds made available under section 261(a)(2) must be obligated and expended in fiscal year 2001, which ends September 30, 2001. Further, section 804 of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2001 (2001 Appropriations Act) provides that the Secretary could use the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) to administer and make payment for losses not otherwise compensated to compensate growers for losses due to Pierce's disease. CCC does plan to provide for coverage of such losses generally in the crop loss program being implemented under sections 804 and 815 of the 2001 Appropriations Act and will do so for growers in all affected areas. In using the discretionary authority under section 804 CCC has

planned to treat Pierce's disease in the same manner as other losses covered by section 815, which incorporates by reference to previous disaster programs provisions for a payment limitation and a gross income test for eligibility.

In order to assure that any funds for these losses are used to compensate grape growers for vine losses it is proposed in this notice that, as set forth in the Manager's Report accompanying this provision, that \$7,140,000 be made available to the State of California for losses resulting from Pierce's disease infection spread by the Glassy-wing sharpshooter. These funds would be made available directly to the State and the State would decide how it would distribute funds among affected growers. All comments favorable or unfavorable to this disposition should be addressed to the person above by the indicated date.

By statute, the funds under section 203 must be expended by September 30, 2001. Accordingly, it does not appear feasible to do anything but make the payment to the State of California. The State would be allowed to deduct from the sums made available to growers those sums needed to administer the program. If the State was unwilling to take on the burden of disposing of the funds then the fund would go unexpended. As provided under section 804 of the 2001 Appropriations Act, any payments received by producers as a result of disbursements under section 203 of ARPA (that is, any disbursement resulting from the payment contemplated by this notice) would count against that person's eligibility under the program administered by CCC under section 804.

Signed at Washington, DC, on August 13, 2001.

James R. Little,

Acting Administrator, Farm Service Agency.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Giant Sequoia National Monument Scientific Advisory Board

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Giant Sequoia National Monument Scientific Advisory Board (Scientific Advisory Board) will meet in Sequoia National Park, California, September 5 and 6, 2001. The purpose of the meeting is to hear comments from the public; affirm advisories drafted at

the July meeting; review issues from the Giant Sequoia National Monument planning team; and initiate discussions for developing Advisories on issues.

DATES: The meeting will be held September 5 and 6, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. One half-day of the meeting is reserved for a field visit to parts of Sequoia National Park and Giant Sequoia National Monument.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at Wuksachi Lodge, 64720 Wuksachi Way, Sequoia National Park, California.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To receive further information, contact Arthur L. Gaffrey, 559-784-1500.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting is open to the public. If you are planning to attend either day, please contact Arthur L. Gaffrey to ensure adequate seating. Guidelines for the public participation portion of the Scientific Advisory Board's meeting are as follows: The public will be allowed to address the Scientific Advisory Board during the first 30 minutes of the meeting on September 5; when registering participants must provide a written copy of their presentation for inclusion in the meeting minutes; oral presentations may be no more than 5 minutes in length, depending on the number of people wishing to address the Scientific Advisory Board, priority for presentations will be given to persons who did not make a presentation at the July meeting; and all presentations must be related to the science surrounding the development of the Management Plan for the Giant Sequoia National Monument. Some members of the Scientific Advisory Board may participate in the meeting via telephone. In that event, arrangements will be made to enable the public to listen to all the members participating in the meeting.

A field visit to parts of the Sequoia National Park and Giant Sequoia National Monument is planned for part of the meeting. The field visit is also open to the public. Anyone wishing to attend the field visit must provide his or her own transportation. Carpooling is encouraged. Written comments for the Scientific Advisory Board may be submitted to Forest Supervisor Arthur L. Gaffrey, Sequoia National Forest, 900 West Grand Avenue, Porterville, California 93257.

A final agenda can be obtained by contacting Arthur L. Gaffrey or by visiting the Giant Sequoia National Monument web site at www.r5.fs.fed.us/giant_sequoia.