

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

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

AGENCY: National Sheep Industry Improvement Center, USDA.

ACTION: Notice: Invitation to submit nominations.

SUMMARY: The National Sheep Industry Improvement Center announces that it is accepting nominations for the Board of Directors of the National Sheep Industry Improvement Center for two directors' positions whose terms are expiring on February 13, 2002. Both positions are for voting members who are 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 in accordance with 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 December 17, 2001. Nominations must be received by, or postmarked, on or before, this date.

ADDRESSES: Submit nominations and statements on qualifications to National

Sheep Industry Improvement Center, PO Box 23483, Washington DC 20026-3483 if using USPS or 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Room 2117, Washington, DC 20250-3252, Attn.: National Sheep Improvement Center, Nominations.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jay B. Wilson, Executive Director, National Sheep Industry Improvement Center, PO Box 23483, Washington DC 20026-3483 if using USPS or 1400 Independence Ave, SW., Washington, DC 20250-3252 if using another carrier, telephone (202) 690-0632, (This is not a toll free number.) FAX 202-720-1053.

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. Both of the open positions are for voting members who are active producer of sheep or goats in the United States. 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. Member's term of office shall be three years. Voting members are limited to two terms. The two positions for which nominees are sought are currently held by one member who is completing a first term and is eligible for reappointment and one member who is serving a second term and is therefore not eligible to be re-nominated. The Board shall meet not less than once each fiscal year, but is 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: October 26, 2001.

Jay B. Wilson,

Executive Director, National Sheep Industry Improvement Center.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

National Sheep Industry Improvement Center; Inviting Grant Proposals for the Sheep and Goat Industry Grant Program

AGENCY: National Sheep Industry Improvement Center, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The National Sheep Industry Improvement Center (NSIIC) announces the availability of approximately \$200,000 in competitive grants for product or business development, producer information or education, marketing and promotion for sheep or goats or their products, genetic retention or animal health. Funds have been made available by the Board of Directors of the National Sheep Industry Improvement Center (NSIIC) to be awarded in Fiscal Year (FY) 2002 with projects completed by the end of FY 2003. The intent is to fund a variety of