

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

Agricultural Research Service

Notice of Intent To Grant Exclusive License

AGENCY: Agricultural Research Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service, intends to grant NutraSciences Corp., of San Diego, California a license to U.S. Patent No. 6,017,713, "Ferritin Formation as a Predictor of Iron Availability in Foods," issued on January 25, 2000. This will be the second license granted for this invention. ARS intends to grant no additional licenses. Notice of Availability of this invention for licensing was published in the **Federal Register** on November 3, 1999.

DATES: Comments must be received March 3, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to: USDA, ARS, Office of Technology Transfer, 5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Rm. 4-1174, Beltsville, Maryland 20705-5131.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: June Blalock of the Office of Technology Transfer at the Beltsville address given above; telephone: 301-504-5989.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Federal Government's patent rights in this invention are assigned to the United States of America, as represented by the Secretary of Agriculture. It is in the public interest to so license this invention as NutraSciences Corp. of San Diego, California has submitted a complete and sufficient application for a license. The prospective license will be royalty-bearing and will comply with the terms and conditions of 35 U.S.C. 209 and 37 CFR 404.7. The prospective license may be granted unless, within thirty (30) days from the date of this published Notice, the Agricultural Research Service receives written

evidence and argument which establishes that the grant of the license would not be consistent with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 209 and 37 CFR 404.7.

Michael D. Ruff,

Assistant Administrator.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. 03-001N]

Codex Alimentarius Commission: 25th (Extraordinary) Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission

AGENCY: Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety, United States Department of Agriculture, and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) are sponsoring a public meeting on January 31, 2003, to provide information and receive public comments on agenda items that will be discussed at the meeting of the Codex Alimentarius Commission to be held in Geneva, Switzerland on February 13-15, 2003. The Under Secretary and FDA recognize the importance of providing interested parties the opportunity to obtain background information on the Twenty-fifth (Extraordinary) Session of Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex) and to address items on the Agenda for the 25th Commission meeting.

DATES: The public meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 31, 2003, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will be held in Room 107A, Jamie L. Whitten Federal Building, USDA, 12th and Jefferson Drive, SW., Washington, DC. To receive copies of the documents referenced in the notice contact the FSIS Docket Clerk, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Room 102, Cotton Annex, 300 12th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20250-3700. The documents will also be accessible via the World Wide Web. If you have comments, please send an original and two copies to the FSIS Docket Clerk and reference Docket

Number 03-001N. All comments submitted will be available for public inspection in the Docket Clerk's Office between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: F. Edward Scarbrough, Ph.D., U.S. Manager for Codex, U.S. Codex Office, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Room 4861, South Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250, Phone: (202) 205-7760, Fax: (202) 720-3157.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Codex was established in 1962 by two United Nations organizations, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO). Codex is the major international organization for protecting the health and economic interests of consumers and encouraging fair international trade in food. Through adoption of food standards, codes of practice, and other guidelines developed by its committees, and by promoting their adoption and implementation by governments, Codex seeks to ensure that the world's food supply is sound, wholesome, free from adulteration, and correctly labeled. In the United States, USDA, FDA, and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) manage and carry out U.S. Codex activities.

Issues To Be Discussed at the Public Meeting

Report of the Evaluation of the Codex Alimentarius and other FAO and WHO Food Standards Work. An evaluation was commissioned by FAO and WHO and also designed to meet the request for a review by the Codex Alimentarius Commission. The evaluation team has completed its work and made over 40 recommendations regarding Codex policies and procedures, the expert committees, and capacity building efforts of FAO and WHO. These recommendations will be discussed at the public meeting and at the 25th (Extraordinary) Session of the Commission.

FAO/WHO Trust Fund. At its 24th Session, the Codex Alimentarius Commission agreed in principle to establish an FAO/WHO Trust Fund to support developing country participation in the Codex Commission and subsidiary body meetings. FAO and