

Notices

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Friday, January 31, 2003

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.

[FR Doc. 03-2249 Filed 1-30-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-03-P

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

WHO were to develop clear rules and procedures for the establishment and functioning of a trust fund for consideration by the Commission to ensure its complete transparency and avoidance of bias and influence, to report on its implementation and indicate envisioned sources of funding. These rules and procedures will be discussed at the public meeting and at the 25th (Extraordinary) Session of the Commission.

Public Meeting

At the January 31st public meeting, the agenda items will be described and discussed, and attendees will have the opportunity to pose questions and offer comments. Comments may be sent to the FSIS Docket Room (see **ADDRESSES**). Written comments should state that they relate to activities of the 25th (Extraordinary) Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

Additional Public Notification

Pursuant to Departmental Regulation 4300-4, "Civil Rights Impact Analysis," dated September 22, 1993, FSIS has considered the potential civil rights impact of this notice on minorities, women, and persons with disabilities. Therefore, to ensure that these groups and others are made aware of this meeting, FSIS will announce it and provide copies of the **Federal Register** publication in the FSIS Constituent Update. FSIS provides a weekly FSIS Constituent Update, which is communicated via Listserv, a free e-mail subscription service. In addition, the update is available on line through the Internet at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov>. The update is used to provide information regarding FSIS policies, procedures, regulations, **Federal Register** notices, FSIS public meetings, recalls, and any other types of information that could affect or would be of interest to our constituents and stakeholders. The constituent Listserv consists of industry, trade, and farm groups, consumer interest groups, allied health professionals, scientific professionals, and other individuals who have requested to be included. Through the Listserv and web page, FSIS is able to provide information to a much broader, more diverse audience.

For more information, contact the Congressional and Public Affairs Office at (202) 720-9113. To be added to the free e-mail subscription service (Listserv), go to the "Constituent Update" page on the FSIS Web site at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/oa/update.htm>. Click on the "Subscribe to the Constituent Update Listserv" link, then fill out and submit the form.

Done at Washington, DC, on January 28, 2003.

F. Edward Scarbrough,

U.S. Manager for Codex Alimentarius.

[FR Doc. 03-2305 Filed 1-30-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-DM-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. 03-002N]

Codex Alimentarius: Meeting of the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods

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, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM), U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), are sponsoring a public meeting on Tuesday, February 18, 2003, to provide information and receive public comments on agenda items that will be discussed at the 14th Session of the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (CCRVDF), which will be held in Washington, DC on March 4-7, 2003. The Under Secretary and CVM recognize the importance of providing interested parties with information about CCRVDF of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and of discussing items on the Agenda for the 14th Session of the Committee.

DATES: The public meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 18, 2003 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will be held in Room 0161 of the South Building, Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC (Smithsonian Metro Stop). 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 at the following address: <http://www.codexalimentarius.net/current.asp>. A link is provided there to the agenda.

If you have comments, please send an original and two copies to the FSIS Docket Clerk and reference Docket Number 03-002N. All comments submitted will be available for public

inspection in the Docket Clerk's Office between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Edith E. Kennard, Staff Officer, U.S. Codex Office, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Room 4861, South Building, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250, Phone: (202) 720-5261, Fax: (202) 720-3157, e-mail: edith.kennard@fsis.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Codex Alimentarius Commission 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 encouraging fair international trade in food and protecting the health and economic interests of consumers. 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.

The Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods held its First Session in Washington, DC on 27-31 October, 1986. The Committee's Terms of Reference are:

- (a) To determine priorities for the consideration of residues of veterinary drugs in foods;
- (b) To recommend maximum levels of such substances;
- (c) To develop codes of practice as may be required;
- (d) To consider methods of sampling and analysis for the determination of veterinary drug residues in foods.

The Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods is hosted by the United States.

Issues To Be Discussed at the Public Meeting

- Provisional agenda items to be discussed during the public meeting:
- Consideration of Draft Maximum Residue Limits for Veterinary Drugs;
 - Proposed Draft Appendix on the Prevention and Control of Veterinary Drug Residues in Milk and Milk Products;
 - Proposed Draft Code of Practice to Minimize and Contain Antimicrobial Resistance;