

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Forest Service****Eastern Arizona Counties Resource Advisory Committee**

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Eastern Arizona Counties Resource Advisory Committee will meet in Show Low, Arizona. The purpose of the meeting is to evaluate project proposals for possible funding in accordance with Pub. L. 106-393 (the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act).

DATES: The meeting will be held September 12, 2003 starting at 1 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held in the conference room at the Sleep Inn, 1751 West Deuce of Clubs, Show Low, Arizona 85901. Send written comments to Robert Dyson, Eastern Arizona Counties Resource Advisory Committee, c/o Forest Service, USDA, P.O. Box 640, Springerville, Arizona 85938 or electronically to rdyson@fs.fed.us.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robert Dyson, Public Affairs Officer, Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests, (928) 333-4301.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting is open to the public. Committee discussion is limited to Forest Service staff and Committee members. However, persons who wish to bring Pub. L. 106-393 related matters to the attention of the Committee may file written statements with the Committee staff before or after the meeting. Public input sessions will be provided and individuals who made written requests by September 1, 2003, will have the opportunity to address the Committee at those sessions.

Dated: August 8, 2003.

Elaine J. Zieroth,

Forest Supervisor, Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**National Agricultural Statistics Service****Notice of Invitation for Nominations to the Advisory Committee on Agriculture Statistics**

AGENCY: National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), USDA.

ACTION: Solicitation of nominations for Advisory Committee on Agriculture Statistics membership.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. 2, this notice announces an invitation from the Office of the Secretary of Agriculture for nominations to the Advisory Committee on Agriculture Statistics.

On January 13, 2003, the Secretary of Agriculture renewed the Advisory Committee charter for another 2 years. The purpose of the Committee is to advise the Secretary of Agriculture on the scope, timing, content, *etc.*, of the periodic censuses and surveys of agriculture, other related surveys, and the types of information to obtain from respondents concerning agriculture. The Committee also prepares recommendations regarding the content of agriculture reports and presents the views and needs for data of major suppliers and users of agriculture statistics.

DATES: Nominations must be received by September 17, 2003 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Nominations should be mailed to Carol House, Associate Administrator, National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Room 4117 South Building, Washington, DC 20250-2000. In addition, nominations may be mailed electronically to hq_aa@nass.usda.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Carol House, Associate Administrator, National Agricultural Statistics Service, (202) 720-4333.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Nominations should include the following information: name, title, organization, address, telephone number, and e-mail address. In addition to mailed correspondence to the addresses listed above, nominations may also be faxed to (202) 720-9013, OR telephoned to Carol House, Associate Administrator, NASS, at (202) 720-4333. Each person nominated is required to complete an Advisory Committee Membership Background Information form. This form may be requested by telephone, fax, or e-mail using the information above. Forms will also be available from the NASS Home page <http://www.usda.gov/nass> by selecting "Agency Information," "Advisory Committee on Agriculture Statistics." Completed forms may be faxed to the number above, mailed, or completed and e-mailed directly from the Internet site.

The Committee draws on the experience and expertise of its members to form a collective judgment concerning agriculture data collected and the statistics issued by NASS. This

input is vital to keep current with shifting data needs in the rapidly changing agricultural environment and keep NASS informed of emerging issues in the agriculture community that can affect agriculture statistics activities.

The Committee, appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture, consists of 25 members representing a broad range of disciplines and interests, including, but not limited to, representatives of national farm organizations, agricultural economists, rural sociologists, farm policy analysts, educators, State agriculture representatives, and agriculture-related business and marketing experts.

Members serve staggered 2-year terms, with terms for half of the Committee members expiring in any given year. Nominations are being sought for 13 open Committee seats. Members can serve up to 3 terms for a total of 6 consecutive years. The Chairperson of the Committee shall be elected by members to serve a 1-year term.

Equal opportunity practices, in line with USDA policies, will be followed in all membership appointments to the Committee. To ensure that the recommendations of the Committee have taken into account the needs of the diverse groups served by USDA, membership shall include, to the extent practicable, individuals with demonstrated ability to represent minorities, women, and persons with disabilities.

The duties of the Committee are solely advisory. The Committee will make recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture with regards to the agricultural statistics program of NASS, and such other matters as it may deem advisable, or which the Secretary of Agriculture, Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics, or the Administrator of NASS may request. The Committee will meet at least annually. All meetings are open to the public. Committee members are reimbursed for official travel expenses only.

Send questions, comments, and requests for additional information to the e-mail address, fax number, or address listed above.

Signed at Washington, DC, August 5, 2003.

R. Ronald Bosecker,

Administrator, National Agricultural Statistics Service.

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