

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

Agriculture Marketing Service

[Doc. No. TM-03-10]

Notice of Agricultural Marketing Assistance Organic Certification Cost Share Program

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This Notice invites eligible States to submit a Standard Form 424, Application for Federal Assistance, and to enter into a Cooperative Agreement with the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) for the Allocation of Organic Certification Cost-Share Funds. The AMS has allocated \$1.0 million for this organic certification cost-share program in Fiscal Year 2003. Funds will be available under this program to 15 designated States to assist organic crop and livestock producers certified by the Department of Agriculture (USDA) accredited certifying agents to the National Organic Program (NOP). Eligible States interested in obtaining cost-share funds for their organic producers will have to submit an Application for Federal Assistance, and will have to enter into a cooperative agreement with AMS for the allocation of such funds.

DATES: Completed applications for federal assistance along with signed cooperative agreements must be received by November 21, 2003 in order to participate in this program.

ADDRESSES: Applications for federal assistance and cooperative agreements shall be requested from and submitted to: Robert Pooler, Agricultural Marketing Specialist, National Organic Program, USDA/AMS/TMP/NOP, Room 4008-South, Ag Stop 0268, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-0264; Telephone: (202) 720-3252; Fax: (202)

205-7808; E-mail: bob.pooler@usda.gov. Additional information may be found through the National Organic Program's Home page at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robert Pooler, Agricultural Marketing Specialist, National Organic Program, USDA/AMS/TM/NOP, Room 4008-South, Ag Stop 0268, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-0264; Telephone: (202) 720-3252; Fax: (202) 205-7808; E-mail: bob.pooler@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This Organic Certification Cost-Share Program is part of the Agricultural Management Assistance Program authorized under the Federal Crop Insurance Act (FCIA), as amended, (7 U.S.C. 1521). Under the applicable FCIA provisions, the Department is authorized to provide cost share assistance to producers in the States of Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wyoming. This organic certification cost share program provides financial assistance to organic producers certified to the National Organic Program authorized under the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990, as amended (7 U.S.C. 6501 *et seq.*)

To participate in the program, eligible States must complete a Standard Form 424, Application for Federal Assistance, and enter into a written cooperative agreement with AMS. The program will provide cost-share assistance, through participating States, to organic crop and livestock producers receiving certification or update of certification by a USDA accredited certifying agent from October 1, 2003 through September 30, 2004. The Department has determined that payments will be limited to 75 percent of an individual producer's certification costs up to a maximum of \$500.00.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 1521.

Dated: October 2, 2003.

A.J. Yates,

Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 03-25458 Filed 10-6-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Doc. # TM-03-09]

Notice of Meeting of the National Organic Standards Board

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is announcing a forthcoming meeting of the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB).

DATES: The meeting dates are: Wednesday, October 22, 2003, 1 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., Thursday, October 23, 2003, 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Friday, October 24, 2003, 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Requests from individuals and organizations wishing to make an oral presentation at the meeting are due by the close of business on October 7, 2003. A closed session will be held on Wednesday, October 22, 2003, 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., at which administrative matters will be handled.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will take place at the Radisson Barceló Hotel Washington, The Phillips Ballroom, 2121 P Street, NW., Washington, DC. Requests for copies of the NOSB meeting agenda, requests to make an oral presentation at the meeting, or written comments may be sent to Ms. Katherine Benham at USDA-AMS-TMD-NOP, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Room 4008-So., Ag Stop 0268, Washington, DC 20250-0200. Requests to make an oral presentation at the meeting may also be sent electronically to Ms. Katherine Benham at katherine.benham@usda.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Richard Mathews, Program Manager, National Organic Program, (202) 720-3252.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 2119 (7 U.S.C. 6518) of the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (OFPA), as amended (7 U.S.C. Section 6501 *et seq.*) requires the establishment of the NOSB. The purpose of the NOSB is to make recommendations about whether a substance should be allowed or prohibited in organic production or handling, to assist in the development of standards for substances to be used in