

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

Advisory Committee on Biotechnology and 21st Century Agriculture; Nominations

AGENCY: Office of the Under Secretary, Research, Education, and Economics, USDA.

SUMMARY: The Agricultural Research Service is requesting nominations for qualified persons to serve as members of the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Biotechnology and 21st Century Agriculture (AC21). The charge for the AC21 is two-fold: To examine the long-term impacts of biotechnology on the U.S. food and agriculture system and USDA; and to provide guidance to USDA on pressing individual issues, identified by the Office of the Secretary, related to the application of biotechnology in agriculture.

DATES: Written nominations must be received by fax or postmarked on or before December 23, 2004.

ADDRESSES: All nomination materials should be sent to Michael Schechtman, Designated Federal Official, Office of the Deputy Secretary, USDA, 202B Jamie L. Whitten Federal Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250. Forms may also be submitted by fax to (202) 690-4265.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Questions should be addressed to Michael Schechtman, Designated Federal Official, telephone (202) 720-3817; fax (202) 690-4265; e-mail mschechtman@ars.usda.gov. To obtain form AD-755 ONLY please contact Dianne Harmon, Office of Pest Management Policy, telephone (202) 720-4074, fax (202) 720-3191; e-mail dhharmon@ars.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: AC21 members serve staggered 2-year terms, with terms for half of the Committee members expiring in any given year.

Nominations are being sought for open Committee seats. The terms of 9 members of the AC21 will expire in early 2005. The AC21 Charter allows for flexibility to appoint up to a total of 11 members. Members can be reappointed to serve up to 6 consecutive years. 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.

Nominees of the AC21 should have recognized expertise in one or more of the following areas: Recombinant-DNA (rDNA) research and applications using plants; rDNA research and applications using animals; rDNA research and applications using microbes; food science; silviculture and related forest science; fisheries science; ecology; veterinary medicine; the broad range of farming or agricultural practices; weed science; plant pathology; biodiversity; applicable laws and regulations relevant to agricultural biotechnology policy; risk assessment; consumer advocacy and public attitudes; public health/epidemiology; ethics, including bioethics; human medicine; biotechnology industry activities and structure; intellectual property rights systems; and international trade. Members will be selected by the Secretary of Agriculture in order to achieve a balanced representation of viewpoints to address effectively USDA biotechnology policy issues under consideration.

Nominations for AC21 membership must be in writing and provide the appropriate background documents required by USDA policy, including background disclosure form AD-755.

The AC21 meets in Washington, DC, up to four (4) times per year. The function of the AC21 is solely advisory. Members of the AC21 and its subcommittees serve without pay, but with reimbursement of travel expenses and per diem for attendance at AC21 and subcommittee functions for those AC21 members who require assistance in order to attend the meetings. While away from home or their regular place

of business, those members will be eligible for travel expenses paid by REE, USDA, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at the same rate as a person employed intermittently in the government service as allowed under Section 5703 of Title 5, United States Code.

Submitting Nominations: Nominations should be typed and include the following:

1. A brief summary of no more than two (2) pages explaining the nominee's suitability to serve on the AC21.
 2. A resume or curriculum vitae.
 3. A completed copy of form AD-755.
- Nominations should be sent to Michael Schechtman at the address listed above, and be post marked no later than December 23, 2004.

Dated: November 16, 2004.

Joseph Jen,

Under Secretary for Research, Education and Economics.

[FR Doc. 04-25981 Filed 11-22-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Office of the Under Secretary, Research, Education, and Economics

Notice of the Advisory Committee on Biotechnology and 21st Century Agriculture Meeting

AGENCY: Agricultural Research Service.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. II, the United States Department of Agriculture announces a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Biotechnology and 21st Century Agriculture (AC21).

DATES: December 9-10, 2004, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the first day and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the second day. Written requests to make oral presentations at the meeting must be received by the contact person identified herein at least three business days before the meeting.

ADDRESSES: Waugh Auditorium, USDA Economic Research Service, Third Floor, South Tower, 1800 M St., NW., Washington, DC 20036. Requests to make oral presentations at the meeting may be sent to the contact person at USDA, Office of the Deputy Secretary, 202 B Jamie L. Whitten Federal

Building, 12th and Independence Avenues, SW., Washington, DC 20250.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael Schechtman, Designated Federal Official, Office of the Deputy Secretary, USDA, Telephone (202) 720-3817; Fax (202) 690-4265; E-mail mschechtman@ars.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The seventh meeting of the AC21 has been scheduled for December 9-10, 2004. The AC21 consists of 18 members representing the biotechnology industry, the seed industry, international plant genetics research, farmers, food manufacturers, commodity processors and shippers, environmental and consumer groups, and academic researchers. In addition, representatives from the Departments of Commerce, Health and Human Services, and State, and the Environmental Protection Agency, the Council on Environmental Quality, and the Office of the United States Trade Representative serve as "ex officio" members. The AC21 at this meeting will continue its work to develop a report examining the impacts of agricultural biotechnology on American agriculture and USDA over the next 5 to 10 years. In particular, the AC21 will review the progress of four work groups developing portions of the report, specifically: A work group developing the two introductory report chapters; a work group on key definitions; a work group on potential issues to consider; and a work group on preparing for the future. In this review, the AC21 will provide comments and suggestions for how the Committee can develop the reports and move them toward completion. The AC21 will seek to achieve consensus on the contents of the report. The AC21 will also discuss, with a view to finalizing, a second draft report developed by another work group on the issue of the proliferation of traceability and mandatory labeling regimes for biotechnology-derived products in other countries, the implications of those regimes, and what industry is doing to attempt to address those requirements for products shipped to those countries. Background information regarding the work of the AC21 will be available on the USDA Web site at <http://www.usda.gov/agencies/biotech/ac21.html>. On December 9, 2004, if time permits, reasonable provision will be made for oral presentations of no more than five minutes each in duration.

The meeting will be open to the public, but space is limited. If you would like to attend the meetings, you must register by contacting Ms. Dianne Harmon at (202) 720-4074, by fax at

(202) 720-3191 or by E-mail at dharmmon@ars.usda.gov at least 5 days prior to the meeting. Please provide your name, title, business affiliation, address, and telephone and fax numbers when you register. If you require a sign language interpreter or other special accommodation due to disability, please indicate those needs at the time of registration.

Dated: November 16, 2004.

Joseph J. Jen,

Under Secretary, Research, Education, and Economics.

[FR Doc. 04-25982 Filed 11-22-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

[Docket No. 000817241-4320-03]

Notice of Funding Availability for Postsecondary Internship Program

AGENCY: Office of Human Resources Management, U.S. Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice and request for proposals.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce (DOC) established a postsecondary internship program to aid and promote experiential training activities which foster future employment in DOC or the Federal Government in general. United States citizens enrolled as students in 2- and 4-year accredited educational institutions will participate in onsite work experiences in DOC bureaus and office in order to integrate academic theory and workplace requirements, gain relevant skills and knowledge, explore federal career options, develop professional networks, and develop a greater awareness of the role of federal agencies. The program will be administered through a partnership between the DOC and nonprofit and/or educational institution(s) of higher education and funded by cooperative agreement(s). There will be no employer-employee relationship between DOC and its hosted interns. The recipient will be the supervisor of record for the interns and shall control the means and manner of the interns' activities. This notice solicits proposals from eligible institutions that desire to collaborate with the DOC on this initiative.

DATES: Proposals must be received by the DOC no later than 12 noon Eastern Standard Time (EST), December 23, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Proposals must be submitted to the U.S. Department of

Commerce, Office of Human Resources Management, ATTN: Carin Otero, 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW., Room 5004, Washington DC 20230. Note: If the application is hand-delivered by the applicant or its representative to the U.S. Department of Commerce, Herbert C. Hoover Building, the application must be delivered to Room 1874, which is located at Entrance #10, 15th Street, NW., between Pennsylvania and Constitution Avenues. The application should be addressed as specified above. Applications delivered on the date of the application deadline must be delivered by 12 noon EST. Applications will not be accepted electronically or via facsimile.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For a copy of the full funding opportunity announcement for this request for proposals and/or an application kit, please note the Web site below listed under "Electronic Access." For a paper copy of the full funding opportunity announcement and/or an application kit, contact Carin Otero, U.S. Department of Commerce, Office of Human Resources Management, 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW., Room 5004, Washington DC 20230, or via Internet at Cotero1@doc.gov, or via telephone at (202) 482-1445.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Electronic Access: The full funding opportunity announcement for the Postsecondary Internship Program is available via the Internet at: <http://ohrm.doc.gov/Intern/internprogram.htm>. This announcement will also be available through Grants.gov at: <http://www.Grants.gov>.

Funding Availability: Projections based upon previous programs indicate an average availability of between \$230,000-\$950,000 to support from 25 to 100 interns. However, the exact level of funding is not yet known until DOC and other agency host offices project their participation levels. Proposals should be based upon the cost of administering a summer program for 25 student interns and five interns for each academic year session.

Statutory Authority: Authority for the Postsecondary Internship Program is provided by 5 U.S.C. 7201, which requires that each Executive agency conduct a continuing program for the recruitment of members of minorities to address under representation of minorities in various categories of Federal employment. Executive Order 13256 provides for Executive departments to enter into, among other things, cooperative agreements with Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) to further the