

ACTION: Notice requesting nominations.

SUMMARY: The Secretary of Agriculture is renewing the charter of the Advisory Committee on Beginning Farmers and Ranchers (Committee). The Committee provides advice to the Secretary on ways to encourage Federal and State beginning farmer programs to provide joint financing to beginning farmers and ranchers, and other methods of creating new farming and ranching opportunities. This notice invites nominations for persons to service on the Committee.

DATES: We will consider nominations that we receive by October 5, 2009.

ADDRESSES: The instructions for submission of nominations are provided in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section. You may submit nominations to: Mark Falcone, Designated Federal Official (DFO) for the Advisory Committee on Beginning Farmers and Ranchers, or Ken Hill, Farm Service Agency, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., STOP 0522, Washington, DC 20250-0522; telephone (202) 720-1632; Fax (202) 690-1117.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mark Falcone at (202) 720-1632; or e-mail: mark.falcone@usda.gov, or Ken Hill at (202) 720-5199, or e-mail: Kenneth.Hill@wdc.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: As required by section 5 of the Agricultural Credit Improvement Act of 1992 (Pub. L. 102-554), the Secretary of Agriculture established the Committee to advise the Secretary on:

(1) Development of a program of coordinated financial assistance to qualified beginning farmers and ranchers under section 309(i) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (Federal and State beginning farmer programs provide joint financing to beginning farmers and ranchers);

(2) Methods of maximizing the number of new farming and ranching opportunities created through the program;

(3) Methods of encouraging States to participate in the program;

(4) Administration of the program; and

(5) Other methods of creating new farming or ranching opportunities.

The law requires that members of the Committee be representatives from the following groups:

(1) The Farm Service Agency (FSA);

(2) State beginning farmer programs (as defined in section 309(i)(5) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act);

(3) Commercial lenders;

(4) Private nonprofit organizations with active beginning farmer or rancher programs;

(5) The USDA Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES);

(6) Community colleges or other educational institutions with demonstrated experience in training beginning farmers or ranchers; and

(7) Other entities or persons providing lending or technical assistance to qualified beginning farmers or ranchers.

The Secretary will also appoint farmers and ranchers to the Committee. USDA Departmental Regulation 1042-119, dated November 25, 1998, first established the Committee and designated FSA to provide support. Seven of the Committee members were replaced when the Committee charter was last renewed on March 28, 2008. Approximately one-third of the 20 existing members will be replaced when the charter is renewed.

We are now accepting nominations of individuals to serve for a 2-year term on the Committee. Reappointments are made to assure effectiveness and continuity of operations. The duration of the Committee is indefinite. No member, other than a USDA employee, can serve for more than 6 consecutive years. There will be a vacancy in at least four groups: State beginning farmer programs, commercial lenders, CSREES, and farmers and ranchers.

Appointments and reappointments to the Committee will be made by the end of the calendar year and all nominees will be notified in writing.

The Committee generally meets at least once a year and all meetings are open to the public. Committee meetings provide an opportunity for members to exchange ideas and provide advice on ways to increase opportunities for beginning farmers and ranchers. Members discuss various issues and draft recommendations, which are submitted to the Secretary in writing.

Nominations are being sought through the media, this **Federal Register** notice, and other appropriate methods. Persons nominated for the Committee will be required to complete and submit an Advisory Committee Membership Background Information Questionnaire (Form AD-755). Submission of this form will constitute a nomination. The form is available on the Internet at http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/ad755.pdf. AD-755 can be completed on-line. However, nominees must print their completed forms from the Adobe PDF file, sign, and mail or fax them to the above address or fax number. The form also may be requested by

telephone, fax, or e-mail. Letters of recommendation may be submitted, but should not be solicited or obtained from USDA officials employed in Washington DC. All inquiries about the nomination process and submissions of the AD-755 should go to Mark Falcone or Ken Hill, as provided in the **ADDRESSES** section for addresses and numbers.

Appointments to the Committee will be made by the Secretary of Agriculture. Equal opportunity practices, consistent with USDA policies, will be followed in making all appointments to the Committee. To ensure that the recommendations of the Committee have taken into account the needs of the diverse groups served by the Department, membership should include, to the extent practicable, individuals with demonstrated ability to represent minorities, women, persons with disabilities, and senior citizens.

Signed in Washington, DC on August 28, 2009.

Jonathan W. Coppess,

Administrator, Farm Service Agency.

[FR Doc. E9-21293 Filed 9-2-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-05-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

Publication of Depreciation Rates

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS), an agency of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), announces the depreciation rates for telecommunications plant for the period ending December 31, 2008.

DATES: These rates are effective immediately and will remain in effect until rates are available for the period ending December 31, 2009.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jonathan P. Claffey, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Telecommunications Program, Rural Utilities Service, STOP 1590—Room 5151, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-1590. Telephone: (202) 720-9556.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In the Rural Utilities Service regulation, 7 CFR part 1737, Pre-Loan Policies and Procedures Common to Insured and Guaranteed Telecommunications Loans, § 1737.70(e) explains the depreciation rates that are used by RUS in its feasibility studies. Section 1737.70(e)(2) refers to median depreciation rates published by RUS for all borrowers. The following chart provides those rates,

compiled by RUS for the reporting period ending December 31, 2008:

MEDIAN DEPRECIATION RATES FOR RURAL UTILITIES SERVICE BORROWERS BY EQUIPMENT CATEGORY FOR PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2008

Telecommunications plant category	Depreciation rate
1. Land and Support Assets:	
a. Motor vehicles	16.00
b. Aircraft	11.25
c. Special purpose vehicles	12.00
d. Garage and other work equipment	10.00
e. Buildings	3.28
f. Furniture and office equipment	10.00
g. General purpose computers	20.00
2. Central Office Switching:	
a. Digital	8.83
b. Analog & Electro-mechanical	9.66
c. Operator Systems	9.00
3. Central Office Transmission:	
a. Radio Systems	9.42
b. Circuit equipment	10.00
4. Information origination/termination:	
a. Station apparatus	11.90
b. Customer premises wiring	10.00
c. Large private branch exchanges	11.65
d. Public telephone terminal equipment	11.00
e. Other terminal equipment	10.20
5. Cable and wire facilities:	
a. Aerial cable—poles	6.25
b. Aerial cable—metal	5.90
c. Aerial cable—fiber	5.10
d. Underground cable—metal	5.00
e. Underground cable—fiber	5.00
f. Buried cable—metal	5.00
g. Buried cable—fiber	5.00
h. Conduit systems	3.50
i. Other	6.00

Dated: August 7, 2009.
Jonathan Adelstein,
Administrator, Rural Utilities Service.
 [FR Doc. E9-21235 Filed 9-2-09; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3410-15-P

COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Sunshine Act Notice

AGENCY: United States Commission on Civil Rights.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

DATE AND TIME: Friday, September 11, 2009; 9:30 a.m. EDT.

PLACE: 624 9th St., NW., Room 540, Washington, DC 20425.

Meeting Agenda

This meeting is open to the public.

- I. Approval of Agenda
- II. Approval of Minutes of August 7, 2009 Meeting
- III. Announcements
- IV. Staff Director's Report
- V. Program Planning
 - Discussion of 2010 Statutory Report Topic Ideas

- Discussion of Potential FY 2010 Clearinghouse Reports and Briefings
- Briefing Report on Title IX in Intercollegiate Athletics: Accommodating Interests and Abilities
- Update on Status of Document Request to Government Agencies Regarding their Civil Rights Enforcement Activities
- Update on Status of Briefing Reports

VI. State Advisory Committee Issues

- Iowa SAC
- Nevada SAC

VII. Adjourn

CONTACT PERSON FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Lenore Ostrowsky, Acting Chief, Public Affairs Unit (202) 376-8591. TDD: (202) 376-8116.

Persons with a disability requiring special services, such as an interpreter for the hearing impaired, should contact Pamela Dunston at least seven days prior to the meeting at 202-376-8105. TDD: (202) 376-8116.

Dated: September 1, 2009.
David Blackwood,
General Counsel.
 [FR Doc. E9-21446 Filed 9-1-09; 4:15 pm]
BILLING CODE 6335-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The Department of Commerce will submit to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

Agency: International Trade Administration.
Title: Advocacy Questionnaire.
OMB Control Number: 0625-0220.
Form Number(s): ITA-4133P.
Type of Request: Regular submission.
Burden Hours: 200.
Number of Respondents: 400.
Average Hours Per Response: 30 minutes.