School Cafeteria, 9373 Woodville Highway, 5–7 p.m.) to provide citizens an opportunity to learn about the project and to provide comments. Letters requesting comments on the proposed action will be mailed to the public involvement mailing list for the Apalachicola National Forest and local citizens that may be affected by the project.

It is important that reviewers provide their comments at such times and in such manner that they are useful to the agency’s preparation of the environmental impact statement. Therefore, comments should be provided prior to the close of the comment period and should clearly articulate the reviewer’s concerns and contentions.

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be part of the public record for this proposed action. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, anonymous comments will not provide the Agency with the ability to provide the respondent with subsequent environmental documents.


Susan Jeheber-Matthews, Forest Supervisor.

[Solicitation of Input From Stakeholders Regarding Administration of the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)]

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

National Institute of Food and Agriculture

RIN 0524–AA43

Solicitation of Input From Stakeholders Regarding Administration of the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)

AGENCY: National Institute of Food and Agriculture, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting and request for stakeholder input.

SUMMARY: The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) is soliciting stakeholder input on the recent implementation of the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP) authorized under section 1415A of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3151a). The purpose of this program is for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to enter into agreements with veterinarians under which the veterinarians agree to provide, for a specific period of time as identified in the agreement, veterinary services in veterinarian shortage situations. As part of the stakeholder input process, NIFA is conducting a public meeting to solicit comments regarding the processes developed and implemented for the first application cycle that concluded with the first group of awards under this program in September 2010. Input collected will be used to modify and improve processes for subsequent calls of shortage situation nominations and request for applications.

DATES: The meeting will be held October 29, 2010; 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Prescott Fire Center, 2400 Melville Dr., Prescott, AZ 86301.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Debbie Maneely, RAC Coordinator, Prescott National Forest, 344 S. Cortez, Prescott, AZ 86301; (928) 443–8130 or dmaneely@fs.fed.us.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The meeting is open to the public. The following business will be conducted: (1) Approve September meeting minutes; (2) discuss possible Grants and Agreements workshops; (3) financial reporting; (4) RAC timeline; (5) create project evaluation criteria; (6) followup on bin items from last meeting; (7) next meeting agenda, location, and date.


Alan Quan, Forest Supervisor.

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to pre-register by contacting Ms. Lisa Stephens at (202) 401–6438, by fax at (202) 401–6156 or by e-mail to lstephens@nifa.usda.gov. Participants may reserve one 5-minute comment period per topic area, and should indicate the topic area(s) for which they are registering (i.e., identification of veterinarian shortage situations and/or administration of the VMLRP). For any participant who may require only one 5-minute period to fully present testimony regarding both topic areas, the participant should indicate this intention and may reserve their 5-minute comment period under one of the two topic areas. More time may be available, depending on the number of people wishing to make a presentation and the time needed for questions following presentations. Reservations will be confirmed on a first-come, first-served basis. All other attendees may register at the meeting. Written comments may also be submitted for the record at the meeting. All comments must be received by close of business Monday, November 15, 2010, to be considered. All comments and the official transcript of the meeting, when they become available, may be reviewed on the NIFA Web site for six months. Participants who require a sign language interpreter or other special accommodations should contact Ms. Stephens as directed above.

Background and Purpose

Note: On October 1, 2009, the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) became the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) as mandated by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (FCEA), section 7511(f).

In December 2003, the National Veterinary Medical Service Act (NVMSA) was passed into law adding section 1415A to the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (NARETPA). This law established a new Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (7 U.S.C. 3151a) authorizing the Secretary of Agriculture (Secretary) to carry out a program of entering into agreements with veterinarians under which they agree to provide veterinary services in veterinarian shortage situations. In November 2005, the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2006 (Pub. L. 109–97), appropriated $495,000 to implement the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP) and represented the first time funds had been appropriated for this program. In February 2007, the Revised Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2007 (Pub. L. 110–5), appropriated an additional $495,000 for support of the program, and in December 2007, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2008 (Pub. L. 110–161), appropriated an additional $868,875 for support of this program, and on March 11, 2009, the Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009 (Pub. L. 111–8) was enacted, providing an additional $2,950,000, for the VMLRP. In October 2009, the President signed into law, Pub. L. 111–80, Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2010, which appropriated $4,800,000 for the VMLRP. Consequently, there was a cumulative total of approximately $9.6 million available for NIFA to administer this program when NIFA rolled out its first Request for Applications for this program on April 30, 2010.

The first VMLRP application period resulted in 260 applications in which 62 applications were selected for loan repayment awards totaling $5,986,086. Section 7105 of the FCEA amended section 1415A to revise the determination of veterinarian shortage situations to consider (1) geographical areas that the Secretary determines have a shortage of veterinarians; and (2) areas of veterinary practice that the Secretary determines have a shortage of veterinarians, such as food animal medicine, public health, epidemiology, and food safety. This section also added that priority should be given to agreements with veterinarians for the practice of food animal medicine in veterinarian shortage situations.

NARETPA section 1415A requires the Secretary, when determining the amount of repayment for a year of service by a veterinarian, to consider the ability of USDA to maximize the number of agreements from the amounts appropriated and to provide an incentive to serve in veterinary service shortage areas with the greatest need. This section also provides that loan repayments may consist of payments of the principal and interest on government and commercial loans received by the individual for the attendance of the individual at an accredited college of veterinary medicine resulting in a degree of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine or the equivalent. This program is not authorized to provide repayments for any government or commercial loans incurred during the pursuit of another degree, such as an associate or bachelor degree. Loans eligible for repayment include educational loans made for one or more of the following: Loans for tuition expenses; other reasonable educational expenses, including fees, books, and laboratory expenses, incurred by the individual; and reasonable living expenses as determined by the Secretary. In addition, the Secretary is directed to make such additional payments to participants as the Secretary determines appropriate for the purpose of providing reimbursements to participants for individual tax liability resulting from participation in this program. The Secretary delegated the authority to carry out this program to NIFA.

NIFA is holding a public meeting to obtain comments to use in improving the administration of the VMLRP. The meeting is open to the public. Written comments and suggestions on issues that may be considered during the meeting may be submitted to the NIFA Docket Clerk at the address above.

Done in Washington, DC, this 7th day of October 2010.

Meryl Broussard,
Deputy Director, National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

ADDITIONAL NOTICES

COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Sunshine Act Notice

AGENCY: United States Commission on Civil Rights.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

DATE AND TIME: Friday, October 22, 2010; 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. Program Planning.

• Approval of New Black Panther Party Enforcement Report.

• Consideration of Findings and Recommendations for Briefing Report on English-Only in the Workplace.

• Consideration of Policy on Commissioner Statements and Rebuttals.

• Update on Sex Discrimination in Liberal Arts College Admissions—Some of the discussion of this agenda item may be held in closed session.

• Update on Clearinghouse Project.

III. State Advisory Committee Issues.

• Kentucky SAC.

• Maryland SAC.

• Vermont SAC.

IV. Staff Director’s Report.