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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. FSIS-2010-0042]

Codex Alimentarius Commission: Meeting of the Codex Committee on Fat and Oils

AGENCY: Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) are sponsoring a public meeting on February 9, 2011. The objective of the public meeting is to provide information and receive public comments on agenda items and draft United States (U.S.) positions that will be discussed at the 22nd session of the Codex Committee on Fats and Oils (CCFO) of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex), which will be held in Penang, Malaysia, February 21–25, 2011. The Under Secretary for Food Safety and the FDA recognize the importance of providing interested parties the opportunity to obtain background information on the 22nd session of the CCFO and to address items on the agenda.

DATES: The public meeting is scheduled for February 9, 2011, from 1:30–4 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will be held at FDA, Harvey W. Wiley Building, Auditorium (1A003), 5100 Paint Branch Parkway, College Park, MD 20740. Documents related to the 22nd session of the CCFO will be accessible via the World Wide Web at the following address: <http://www.codexalimentarius.net/current.asp>.

Martin Stutsman, U.S. Delegate to the 22nd Session of the CCFO, and the FDA, invite U.S. interested parties to submit

their comments electronically to the following e-mail address:

Martin.Stutsman@fda.hhs.gov.

Call-In Number:

If you wish to participate in the public meeting for the 22nd session of the CCFO by conference call, please use the following call-in number and participant code listed below:

Call-in Number: 1-866-859-5767

Participant Code: 2225276

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE 22ND SESSION OF THE CCFO CONTACT:

Martin Stutsman, J.D., Office of Food Safety (HFS-317) Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, FDA, 5100 Paint Branch Parkway, College Park, Maryland 20740, phone: (301) 436-1642, fax: (301) 436-2651, e-mail: *Martin.Stutsman@fda.hhs.gov*.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE PUBLIC MEETING CONTACT:

Marie Maratos, U.S. Codex Office, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Room 4861, Washington, DC 20250, phone: (202) 690-4795, mobile: (202) 412-7901, fax: (202) 720-3157, e-mail:

Marie.Maratos@fsis.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Codex was established in 1963 by two United Nations organizations, the Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Health Organization. Through adoption of food standards, codes of practice, and other guidelines developed by its committees, and by promoting their adoption and implementation by governments, Codex seeks to protect the health of consumers and ensure that fair practices are used in trade.

The CCFO is responsible for elaborating worldwide standards for fats and oils of animal, vegetable, and marine origin, including margarine and olive oil.

The Committee is hosted by Malaysia.

Issues To Be Discussed at the Public Meeting

The following items on the agenda for the 22nd Session of the CCFO will be discussed during the public meeting:

- Matters referred by Codex and other Committees
- Draft Amendment to the Standard for Named Vegetable Oils: Inclusion of Palm Kernel Olein and Palm Kernel Stearin

- Code of Practice for the Storage and Transport of Edible Fats and Oils in Bulk

(a) Draft Criteria to Assess the

Acceptability of Substances for Inclusion in a list of Acceptable Previous Cargoes

(b) Draft List of Acceptable Previous Cargoes

(c) Proposed Draft List of Acceptable Previous Cargoes

- Proposed Draft Amendment to the Standard for Olive Oils and Olive Pomace Oils: Linolenic Acid Level
- Proposal to Amend the Standard for Olive Oils and Olive Pomace Oils: Content of Delta-7- stigmastenol
- Proposal for New Work on a Standard for Fish Oils
- Proposal to Amend the Standard for Named Vegetable Oils: Sunflower Seed Oils

Each issue listed will be fully described in documents distributed, or to be distributed, by the Secretariat prior to the meeting. Members of the public may access copies of these documents (*see ADDRESSES*).

Public Meeting

At the February 9, 2011, public meeting, draft U.S. positions on the agenda items will be described and discussed, and attendees will have the opportunity to pose questions and offer comments. Written comments may be offered at the meeting or sent to the U.S. Delegate for the 22nd Session of the CCFO—Martin Stutsman (*see ADDRESSES*). Written comments should state that they relate to activities of the 22nd Session of the CCFO.

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202-720-5964 (voice and TTY). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Additional Public Notification

Public awareness of all segments of rulemaking and policy development is important. Consequently, in an effort to ensure that the public and in particular minorities, women, and persons with disabilities, are aware of this notice, FSIS will announce it on-line through the FSIS Web page located at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations_&_policies/Federal_Register_Notices/index.asp.

FSIS also will make copies of this **Federal Register** publication available through the FSIS Constituent Update, which is used to provide information regarding FSIS policies, procedures, regulations, **Federal Register** notices, FSIS public meetings, and other types of information that could affect or would be of interest to our constituents and stakeholders. The Update is communicated via Listserv, a free e-mail subscription service consisting of industry, trade, and farm groups, consumer interest groups, allied health professionals, scientific professionals, and other individuals who have requested to be included. The Update also is available on the FSIS Web page. Through Listserv and the Web page, FSIS is able to provide information to a much broader, more diverse audience. In addition, FSIS offers an e-mail subscription service which provides automatic and customized access to selected food safety news and information. This service is available at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&_Events/Email_Subscription/.

Options range from recalls, export information, regulations, directives, and notices. Customers can add or delete subscriptions themselves, and have the option to password protect their accounts.

Done at Washington, DC on January 24, 2011.

Karen Stuck,

U.S. Manager for Codex Alimentarius.

[FR Doc. 2011-1916 Filed 1-27-11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-DM-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

National Institute of Food and Agriculture

Solicitation of Nomination of Veterinary Shortage Situations for the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)

AGENCY: National Institute of Food and Agriculture, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and solicitation for nominations.

SUMMARY: The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) is soliciting nominations for veterinary service shortage situations for the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP; [75 FR 20239-20248]), as authorized under the National Veterinary Medical Services Act (NVMSA), 7 U.S.C. 3151a. This Notice initiates a 60-day nomination solicitation period and prescribes the procedures and criteria to be used by State, Insular Area, DC and Federal Lands (hereafter referred to as State(s)) Animal Health Officials (SAHO) in order to nominate veterinary shortage situations. All States are eligible to submit nominations, up to the maximum indicated for each State in this notice. NIFA is conducting this solicitation of veterinary shortage situation nominations under previously approved information collection (OMB Control Number 0524-0046).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gary Sherman; National Program Leader, Veterinary Science; National Institute of Food and Agriculture; U.S. Department of Agriculture; STOP 2220; 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-2220; Voice: 202-401-4952; Fax: 202-401-6156; E-mail: vmrlrp@nifa.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background and Purpose

A landmark series of three peer-reviewed studies published in 2007 in the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association (JAVMA), and sponsored by the Food Supply Veterinary Medicine Coalition (<http://www.avma.org/fsvm/recognition.asp>), gave considerable attention to the growing shortage of food supply veterinarians, the causes of shortages in this sector, and the consequences to the U.S. food safety infrastructure and to the general public if this trend continues to worsen. Food supply veterinary medicine embraces a broad array of veterinary professional activities, specialties and responsibilities, and is defined as the full range of veterinary

medical practices contributing to the production of a safe and wholesome food supply and to animal, human, and environmental health. However, the privately practicing food animal veterinary practitioner population within the U.S. is, numerically, the largest, and arguably the most important single component of the food supply veterinary medical sector. Food animal veterinarians, working closely with livestock producers and State and Federal officials, constitute the first line of defense against spread of endemic and zoonotic diseases, introduction of high consequence foreign animal diseases, and other threats to the health and wellbeing of both animals and humans who consume animal products.

Among the most alarming findings of the Coalition-sponsored studies was objective confirmation that insufficient numbers of veterinary students are selecting food supply veterinary medical careers. This development has led both to current shortages and to projections for worsening shortages over the next 10 years. While there were many reasons students listed for opting not to choose a career in food animal practice or other food supply veterinary sectors, chief among the reasons was concern over burdensome educational debt. According to a survey of veterinary medical graduates conducted by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) in the spring of 2009, the average educational debt for students graduating from veterinary school is approximately \$130,000. Such debt loads incentivize students to select other veterinary careers, such as companion animal medicine, which tend to be more financially lucrative and, therefore, enable students to more quickly repay their outstanding educational loans. Furthermore, when this issue was studied in the Coalition report from the perspective of identifying solutions to this workforce imbalance, panelists were asked to rate 18 different strategies for addressing shortages. Responses from the panelists overwhelmingly showed that student debt repayment and scholarship programs were the most important strategies in addressing future shortages (JAVMA 229:57-69).

Paperwork Reduction Act

In accordance with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations (5 CFR Part 1320) that implement the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), the information collection and recordkeeping requirements imposed by the implementation of these guidelines