

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

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, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meetings.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. 2, the United States Department of Agriculture announces two meetings of the Advisory Committee on Biotechnology and 21st Century Agriculture (AC21).

DATES: The meeting dates are November 14, 2011, from 11 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. and November 15, 2011, from 10:30 a.m. until 12 noon.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be conducted in Webinar format entirely by telephone and Internet.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael Schechtman, Designated Federal Official, Office of the Deputy Secretary, USDA, 202B Jamie L. Whitten Federal Building, 12th and Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250; Telephone (202) 720-3817; Fax (202) 690-4265; Email AC21@ars.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The AC21 provides information and advice to the Secretary of Agriculture on topics related to the use of biotechnology in agriculture. Background information regarding the work and membership of the AC21 is available on the USDA Web site at <http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentid=AC21Main.xml&contentidonly=true>.

The immediate work of the AC21 is to address the following two questions: (1) What types of compensation mechanisms, if any, would be appropriate to address economic losses by farmers in which the value of their

crops is reduced by the unintended presence of GE material(s)? and (2) What would be necessary to implement such mechanisms? That is, what would be the eligibility standard for a loss and what tools and triggers (e.g., tolerances, testing protocols, etc.) would be needed to verify and measure such losses and determine if claims are compensable?

The purpose of the two meetings is to provide background information in a Webinar format to AC21 members on existing USDA programs that may serve as examples to help in the development of potential compensation mechanisms for the committee to consider, should it deem compensation mechanisms appropriate to recommend. During the November 14, 2011, conference call, AC21 members will be briefed on, and have the opportunity to discuss, background information on USDA's crop insurance programs under the Risk Management Agency. During the November 15, 2011, conference call members will be briefed on, and have the opportunity to discuss, background information on the indemnification programs for perishable agricultural commodities under the Agricultural Marketing Service and for diseased livestock under the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

Members of the public who wish to listen in to the November 14, 2011, meeting may view the presentations and listen to audio at <https://cc.readytalk.com/r/2bcp67fidhqq> or to dial in at Area Code (800) 705-8289. Members of the public who wish to listen in to the November 15, 2011, meeting may view the presentations and listen to audio at <https://cc.readytalk.com/r/jq96hzop0sp4> or dial in at Area Code (800) 698-5986. There will be an opportunity for the public to comment on this background material at the next in-person meeting of the AC21, which will be scheduled later. This notice of meeting agendas is given pursuant to section 10 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App. 2 10).

Dated: October 26, 2011.

Yeshimebet Abebe,

Chief of Staff.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

National Institute of Food and Agriculture

RIN 0524-AA43

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

AGENCY: National Institute of Food and Agriculture, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of request for stakeholder input.

SUMMARY: The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) is soliciting stakeholder input on the administration 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 inviting comments regarding the current procedures and processes in place for the VMLRP. Input collected will be used to modify and improve processes for subsequent calls of shortage situation nominations and request for applications.

DATES: Written comments are invited from interested individuals and organizations. All comments must be received by close of business on December 5, 2011, to be considered.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by NIFA-2012-0001, by any of the following methods:

Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

Email: vmlrp@nifa.usda.gov. Include NIFA-2012-0001 in the subject line of the message.

Fax: (202) 720-6486.

Mail: Paper, disk or CD-ROM submissions should be submitted to VMLRP, Policy and Oversight Division, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture; STOP 2299, 1400