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 Secretary

Meeting Notice of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board

AGENCY: Research, Education, and Economics, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App 2, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) announces a meeting of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board.

DATES: The National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board will meet May 28–30, 2013. The public may file written comments before or up to two weeks after the meeting with the contact person.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will take place at The Liaison Capitol Hill Hotel, 415 New Jersey Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20001. Written comments from the public may be sent to the Contact Person identified in this notice at: The National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board Office, Room 3901 South Building, United States Department of Agriculture, STOP 0321, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250-0321.


SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Honorable Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, and the Under Secretary of Research, Education, and Economics Dr. Catherine Woteki have been invited to provide brief remarks and welcome the new Board members during the meeting.

On Tuesday, May 28, 2013, an orientation session for all members will be held from 1:00 p.m.–5:30 p.m. Specific topics of discussion will include a briefing on ethical behavior for federal advisory committee members, briefings regarding the USDA’s Research, Education, and Economics Mission Area, a discussion on the role of the Board in advising the Secretary of Agriculture, Land Grant Institutions and Congress, and a discussion on how to most effectively organize the work of the Board and its Committees.

On Wednesday, May 29, 2013 the full Advisory Board will convene at 8:00 a.m. followed shortly thereafter with the appointment of a new Chair of the Advisory Board. The meeting will also include: brief introductions of new Board members, incumbents, and guests; the election of the Vice-Chair of the Advisory Board; comments from a variety of distinguished leaders, experts, and departmental personnel; and items of board business. Specific items on the agenda will include a discussion related to the international programs related to the Research, Education, and Economics Mission Area, and updates from each of the agencies of the Mission Area. The afternoon session will end by 5:00 p.m. An evening session will convene at 6:00 p.m. and include a vote for the fiscal year 2013 executive committee members of the Board. The meeting will adjourn for the day by 8:00 p.m.

On Thursday, May 30, 2013, the Board will reconvene at 8:00 a.m. to discuss initial recommendations resulting from the meeting and future planning for the Board; to organize the membership of the committees, and working groups of the Advisory Board; and to finalize Board business for the meeting. The Board Meeting will adjourn at 12:00 p.m. (noon).

This meeting is open to the public and any interested individuals wishing to attend. Opportunity for public comment will be offered each day of the meeting. Written comments by attendees or other interested stakeholders will be welcomed for the public record before and up to two weeks following the Board meeting (by close of business Thursday, June 13, 2013). All statements will become a part of the official record of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board and will be kept on file for public review in the Research, Education, and Economics Advisory Board Office.

Done at Washington, DC, this 16th day of April 2013.

Catherine Woteki,
Under Secretary, Research, Education, and Economics.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Office of the Secretary

Request for Nominations of Members for the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board

AGENCY: Research, Education, and Economics, USDA.

ACTION: Solicitation for membership.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App., the United States Department of Agriculture announces the solicitation for nominations to fill 8 vacancies on the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board.

DATES: All nomination materials should be mailed in a single, complete package and postmarked by June 28, 2013.

ADDRESSES: The nominee’s name, resume, and completed Form AD–755 must be sent to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board Office, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Room 3901, South Building, Washington, DC 20250–2255.


SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 1408 of the National Agricultural
Nominations for one individual who fits several of the categories listed above, or for more than one person who fits one category, will be accepted. In your nomination letter, please indicate the specific membership category for each nominee. Each nominee must fill out a form AD–755, “Advisory Committee Membership Background Information.” All nominees will be vetted before selection.

Nominations are open to all individuals without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, mental or physical handicap, marital status, or sexual orientation. To ensure that recommendations of the Advisory Board take into account the needs of the diverse groups served by the Department, membership shall include, to the extent practicable, individuals with demonstrated ability to represent all racial and ethnic groups, women and men, and person with disabilities.

Appointments to the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board will be made by the Secretary of Agriculture.

Done at Washington, DC, this 16th day of April 2013.

Catherine Woteki,
Under Secretary, Research, Education, and Economics.

For Further Information Contact: Mr. Marc Phillips, Senior Regulatory Policy Specialist, Regulatory Coordination and Compliance, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road, Unit 156, Riverdale, MD 20737–1236; (301) 851–2114.

Supplementary Information: Under the regulations in “Subpart—Fruits and Vegetables” (7 CFR 319.56–1 through 319.56–58, referred to below as the regulations), the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture prohibits or restricts the importation of fruits and vegetables into the United States from certain parts of the world to prevent plant pests from being introduced into and spread within the United States.

Section 319.56–4 of the regulations contains a performance-based process for approving the importation of commodities that, based on the findings of a pest risk analysis (PRA), can be safely imported subject to one or more of the designated phytosanitary measures listed in paragraph (b) of that section. Under that process, APHIS publishes a notice in the Federal Register announcing the availability of the PRA that evaluates the risks associated with the importation of a particular fruit or vegetable. Following the close of the 60-day comment period, APHIS may authorize the importation of the fruit or vegetable subject to the identified designated measures if: (1) No comments were received on the PRA; (2) the comments on the PRA revealed that no changes to the PRA were necessary; or (3) changes to the PRA were made in response to public comments, but the changes did not affect the overall conclusions of the analysis and the Administrator’s determination of risk.

In accordance with that process, we published a notice in the Federal Register on January 9, 2013 (78 FR 1825–1826, Docket No. APHIS–2012–0004), in which we announced the availability, for review and comment, of a PRA that evaluates the risks associated with the importation into the United States of fresh dates (Phoenix dactylifera L.) of the cultivar Barhi (referred to below as Barhi dates) from Israel.

To view the notice, supporting documents, and the comment we received, go to http://www.regulations.gov/#/docketDetail?D=APHIS-2012-0004.

www.usda.gov/advisory_committees.xml