

Written Comments: Any member of the public may file written comments with the Committee before or within 15 days after the date on which the meeting concludes. Comments should be submitted via email to Anthony.T.Goodeman@usda.gov. The Committee will consider comments submitted on or before 11:59 p.m. ET on January 9, 2026, prior to the meeting. Comments submitted after this date will be provided to the Committee, but the Committee may not have adequate time to consider those comments prior to the meeting. Comments submitted after the conclusion of the meeting will be posted on the public website.

Oral Comments: The Committee is providing the public an opportunity to present oral comments and will accommodate as many individuals and organizations as time permits. Persons or organizations wishing to make oral comments must pre-register by 11:59 p.m. ET, January 9, 2026, and may only register for one speaking slot. Instructions for registering and participating in the meeting can be obtained by contacting the person listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section by or before the deadline.

ADDRESSES: *Meeting Location:* The Committee meeting will take place at the AMS National Grain Center, 10383 N. Ambassador Drive, Kansas City, Missouri 64153. A virtual option will be offered, and the online meeting details can be found at the Advisory Committee website at <https://www.ams.usda.gov/about-ams/facas-advisory-councils/giac>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Anthony Goodeman by phone at (202) 720-0291 or by email at Anthony.T.Goodeman@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the Committee is to provide advice to AMS with respect to the implementation of the U.S. Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 71-87k). Information about the Committee is available on the AMS website at <https://www.ams.usda.gov/about-ams/facas-advisory-councils/giac>.

The agenda for the upcoming meeting will focus on grain inspection matters including, but not limited to, regulatory updates; technology modernization initiatives; inspection policies; operational updates; and a presentation on how the agency uses technology for grading other commodities.

The meeting will be open to the public. Public participation will be limited to written statements and interested parties who have registered to present comments orally to the Committee.

Equal opportunity practices, in accordance with USDA policies, will be followed in all membership appointments to the Committee.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and USDA civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language) should contact the State or local Agency that administers the program or contact USDA through the Telecommunications Relay Service at 711 (voice and TTY). Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

Dated: December 10, 2025.

Cikena Reid,

USDA Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 2025-22769 Filed 12-12-25; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Doc. No. AMS-ST-25-0650]

Plant Variety Protection Board Meeting

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is announcing a meeting of the Plant Variety Protection Board (Board). The meeting is being held to discuss a variety of topics including, but not limited to, program activities and measures to improve program efficiency and effectiveness. The meeting is open to the public. This notice sets forth the schedule and location for the meeting.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Monday, February 16, 2026, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Tuesday, February 17, 2026, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Registration: Those wishing to participate are encouraged to pre-

register by January 23, 2026, by contacting Timothy Williams, Plant Variety Examiner, at telephone: (202) 720-1124 or email: timothy.r.williams@usda.gov.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Hilton San Diego Bayfront, 1 Park Boulevard, San Diego, CA 92101; telephone: (619) 564-3333.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Timothy Williams, Plant Variety Examiner, Plant Variety Protection Office, USDA, AMS, Science and Technology Program, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250; telephone: (202) 720-1124 or email: timothy.r.williams@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to the provisions of section 10(a) of the FACA (5 U.S.C., Appendix 2), this notice informs the public that the Plant Variety Protection Office (PVP Office) is sponsoring a meeting of the Board on February 16-17, 2026. The Plant Variety Protection Act (PVP Act) (7 U.S.C. 2321 *et seq.*) provides legal protection in the form of intellectual property rights to developers of new varieties of plants. A certificate of Plant Variety Protection is awarded to an owner of a crop variety after an examination shows that it is new, distinct from other varieties, genetically uniform and stable through successive generations. The term of protection is 20 years for most crops and 25 years for trees, shrubs, and vines. The PVP Act also provides for a statutory Board (7 U.S.C. 2327). The Board is composed of 14 individuals who are experts in various areas of development and represent the seed industry sector, academia, farmers, and government. The duties of the Board are to: (1) advise the Secretary of Agriculture (Secretary) concerning the adoption of rules and regulations to facilitate the proper administration of the PVP Act; (2) provide advisory counsel to the Secretary on appeals concerning decisions on applications by the PVP Office and on requests for emergency public-interest compulsory licenses; and (3) advise the Secretary on any other matters under the regulations and rules of practice and on all questions under section 44 of the PVP Act, "Public interest in wide usage" (7 U.S.C. 2404).

Meeting Agenda: The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss PVP Office program activities and initiatives; improvements to make the program more efficient and effective; and strategies to continue to promote plant breeding, enhance innovation, and increase the competitiveness of U.S. agriculture. The meeting will be open to the public. Those wishing to participate

are encouraged to pre-register by January 23, 2026, by contacting Timothy Williams, Plant Variety Examiner, at telephone: (202) 720-1124 or email: timothy.r.williams@usda.gov.

Equal opportunity practices, in accordance with USDA policies, will be followed in all membership appointments to the Committee.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and USDA civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Meeting Accommodation: The meeting at USDA will provide reasonable accommodation to individuals with disabilities where appropriate. If you need reasonable accommodation to participate in this public meeting, please notify Timothy Williams at telephone: (202) 720-1124 or email: timothy.r.williams@usda.gov. Determinations for reasonable accommodation will be made on a case-by-case basis.

Minutes of the meeting will be available for public review for 30 days following the meeting on the internet at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/PVPO>.

Dated: December 10, 2025.

Cikena Reid,

USDA Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 2025-22774 Filed 12-12-25; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. FSIS-2025-0179]

Exploring Practical Strategies To Reduce Salmonella in Poultry Products

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: On December 2, 2025, FSIS announced that it will hold a public meeting on January 14, 2026, to discuss practical strategies for reducing *Salmonella* illnesses attributed to poultry products. FSIS is now changing

the meeting time to accommodate logistical needs. This meeting supports USDA's broader food safety initiative and follows the withdrawal of the previous *Salmonella* framework proposed rule in response to issues raised in the public comments. FSIS is seeking input on how to address *Salmonella* through better use of data, alternative performance standard parameters, and policy options that reflect both public health goals and industry realities, especially for small and very small producers.

DATES: The public meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 14, 2026, from 12:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. EST. All attendees, whether attending in person or virtually, must register for the meeting by January 7, 2026. Attendees planning to share public comments during the meeting must register by January 5, 2026.

Submit comments on or before February 2, 2026.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will be held in person at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, South Building, Jefferson Auditorium, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250. Attendees must enter through Wing 3 on Independence Avenue and pass through USDA security screening. The South Building is a Federal facility and attendees should allow adequate time to pass through the security screening system. A valid photo ID is required to enter the building. FSIS will also provide a virtual option for individuals who wish to participate and provide comments to the meeting remotely. Registration instructions and meeting materials will be available on the FSIS website at: <https://www.fsis.usda.gov/registration-2026-salmonella-meeting>. The agenda and transcripts will be available on the FSIS website at: <https://www.fsis.usda.gov/news-events/events-meetings>. Sign language interpreter services will be provided.

Comments on this notice may be made by one of the following methods:

- **Federal eRulemaking Portal:** This website provides the ability to type short comments directly into the comment field on this web page or attach a file for lengthier comments. Go to <https://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the on-line instructions at that site for submitting comments.

- **Mail:** Send to Docket Clerk, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Mailstop 3758, Washington, DC 20250-3700.

- **Hand- or Courier-Delivered Submittals:** Deliver to 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Jamie L.

Whitten Building, Room 350-E, Washington, DC 20250-3700.

Instructions: All items submitted by mail or electronic mail must include the Agency name and docket number FSIS-2025-0179. Comments received in response to this docket will be made available for public inspection and posted without change, including any personal information, to <https://www.regulations.gov>.

Docket: For access to background documents or comments received, email docketclerk@usda.gov or call 202-286-2255 to schedule a time to visit the FSIS Docket Room at 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250-3700.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For questions related to the public meeting, please contact the FSIS Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education at 202-853-6166 or FRN@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

FSIS is the public health agency in USDA whose mission is to ensure that meat, poultry, and egg products are safe, wholesome, and properly labeled. *Salmonella* remains a leading cause of foodborne illness in the United States, and poultry products continue to be a leading source of exposure among products under FSIS jurisdiction.

Between 2017 to 2021, the number of chicken samples in which FSIS detected *Salmonella* decreased by more than 50%. However, from 2021 to 2024, no further significant reductions in *Salmonella* contamination have been observed for any type of poultry products sampled by FSIS. Given this plateau in contamination levels, FSIS is exploring how to further drive reductions in *Salmonella* contamination. Modern laboratory technologies, including methods to serotype and rapidly enumerate *Salmonella*, provide FSIS with opportunities to refine its current performance standard approach.

According to the most recent report from the Interagency Food Safety Analytics Collaboration (2022), approximately 25% of foodborne *Salmonella* illnesses are attributable to poultry—about 20% from chicken and just over 5% from turkey.¹ While poultry remains a significant source of *Salmonella* illnesses, a separate analysis of reported illnesses found that illnesses caused by poultry-associated *Salmonella* serotypes declined between 1996 and 2019, whereas those linked to

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/ifsac/php/data-research/annual-reports/index.html>.