

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.

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

AGENCY: Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation will meet on Friday, March 22, 1996. The meeting will be held in the Abrams & Chaffee Room, Fort Myer Officers' Club, 214 Jackson Avenue, Fort Myer, Virginia, beginning at 10:00 a.m.

The Council was established by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. Section 470) to advise the President and the Congress on matters relating to historic preservation and to comment upon Federal, federally assisted, and federally licensed undertakings having an effect upon properties listed in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. The Council's members are the Architect of the Capitol; the Secretaries of the Interior, Agriculture, Housing and Urban Development, and Transportation; the Administrators of the Environmental Protection Agency and General Services Administration; the Chairman of the National Trust for Historic Preservation; the President of the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers; a Governor; a Mayor; a Native American; and eight non-Federal members appointed by the President.

The agenda for the meeting includes the following:

- I. Chairman's Welcome/Opening
- II. Report of the Chairman
- III. Building Partnerships with Federal Agencies
- IV. Policy Development
- V. Report of the Task Force on Regulations
- VI. New Business
- VII. Adjourn

Note: The meetings of the Council are open to the public. If you need special

accommodations due to a disability, please contact the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, 1100 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Room 809, Washington, D.C., 202-606-8503, at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Additional information concerning the meeting is available from the Executive Director, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, 1100 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., #809, Washington, DC 20004.

Dated: March 14, 1996.
John M. Fowler,
Deputy Executive Director.
[FR Doc. 96-6605 Filed 3-19-96; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4310-10-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

[CN-96-005]

Cotton Research and Promotion Program: Request for comments To Be Used in a Review of 1990 Amendments to Authorizing Legislation

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is announcing its intentions to conduct a review to ascertain whether a referendum is needed to determine whether producers and importers favor continuation of amendments to the Cotton Research and Promotion Order as provided for by the Cotton Research Promotion Act Amendments of 1990. This notice invites all interested parties to submit written comments to the Department of Agriculture (USDA). These comments will be considered by USDA in determining whether a referendum is warranted. USDA should announce review results some time during the latter part of September 1996.

DATES: Comments must be received by May 6, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Comments and inquiries should be addressed to Craig Shackelford, Chief, Cotton Division, AMS, USDA, Research and Promotion Staff, P.O. Box 96456, Room 2641-S., Washington, D.C. 20090-6456. Comments will be available for public inspection during regular business hours at the above office in Room 2641-

S., 14th & Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Craig Shackelford on (202) 720-2259.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Cotton Research and Promotion Act of 1966 authorized a national free-standing Cotton Research and Promotion Program which is both industry operated and funded, with oversight by USDA. The program's objective is to enable cotton growers and importers to establish, finance, and carry out a coordinated program of research and promotion to improve the competitive position of, and to expand markets for, cotton.

The program became effective on December 31, 1966, when the Cotton Research and Promotion Order was issued. Assessments began with the 1967 cotton crop. The Order was amended and a supplemental assessment initiated, not to exceed one percent of the value of each bale, effective January 26, 1977.

The program is currently financed through assessments levied on domestic and imported cotton and cotton-containing products. Assessments under this program are used to fund promotional campaigns and to conduct research in the areas of U.S. marketing, international marketing, cotton production and processing, and textile research and implementation.

The program is administered by the Cotton Board, which has 25 members. The Cotton Board is composed of representatives of cotton producers and cotton importers, each of whom has an alternate selected by the Secretary, from nominations submitted by eligible producer and importer organizations. All members and their alternates serve terms of three years. The Cotton Board's responsibility is to administer the provisions of the Cotton Research and Promotion Order issued pursuant to the Act. These responsibilities include collecting, holding, and safeguarding funds; making refunds when refunds are a provision of the Order; contracting with an organization for the development and implementation of programs of research and promotion; reviewing and making recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture on proposed programs and budgets; and making funds available for such programs when approved. The objective of the Cotton Research and Promotion Program is to strengthen

cotton's competitive position and to maintain and expand domestic and foreign markets and uses for U.S. cotton. The Cotton Board is prohibited from participating in any matters influencing governmental policies or action except recommendations for amendments to the Order.

Amendments to the Act were enacted on November 28, 1990, by Congress under subtitle G of title XIX of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990. These amendments provided for: (1) importer representation on the Cotton Board; (2) the assessment of imported cotton and cotton products; (3) increasing the amount the Secretary of Agriculture can be reimbursed for conduct of a referendum from \$200,000 to \$300,000; (4) reimbursing government agencies who assist in administering the collection of assessments on imported cotton and cotton products; and (5) terminating the right of producers to demand a refund of assessments. The Act Amendments of 1990 were approved by a majority (60 percent) of importers and producers of cotton voting in a referendum conducted July 17-26, 1991, as required by the Act. Results of this referendum were announced in a nationally distributed press release dated August 2, 1991.

The Cotton Research and Promotion Act Amendment of 1990, Section 8(c) provides that once every five years after the July 1991, referendum, the Secretary of Agriculture shall conduct a review to ascertain whether a referendum is needed. In this referendum, producers and importers would determine whether they favor continuation of the amendments to the Order provided for in the Cotton Research and Promotion Act Amendments of 1990. In accordance with the provisions of the Act, the Secretary of Agriculture should make a public announcement of the results of the review on September 24, 1996, (60 days after each fifth anniversary date of the referendum). If the Secretary of Agriculture determines that a referendum is needed, the Secretary of Agriculture should conduct the referendum by September 24, 1997, (within 12 months after a public announcement of the determination to conduct the referendum).

If the Secretary determines that a referendum is not warranted, a sign-up period to request such a referendum will be made available to cotton producers and importers. A referendum will be held if requested by 10 percent or more of those voting in the most recent referendum as long as not more than 20 percent are from any one State or importers of cotton. This sign-up period would begin approximately

November 25, 1996. A separate Federal Register notice addressing the sign-up period's exact date, time frame, and instructions will be provided. If a referendum is requested by the requisite number of persons, the referendum would be held by approximately February 23, 1998.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 2101-2118.

Dated: March 13, 1996.

Lon Hatamiya,

Administrator.

[FR Doc. 96-6697 Filed 3-19-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Inviting Preapplications for Rural Technology and Cooperative Development Grants

AGENCY: Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS) announces the availability of approximately \$1.33 million in competing Rural Technology and Cooperative Development Grant (RTCDG) funds for fiscal year (FY) 1996. The intended effect of this notice is to solicit preapplications for FY 1996, notify applicants of RBS objectives and scoring system for FY 1996, and award grants before August 15, 1996.

DATES: The deadline for receipt of a preapplication is May 10, 1996. Preapplications received after that date will not be considered for FY 1996 funding.

ADDRESSES: Entities wishing to apply for assistance should contact Rural Economic and Community Development mission area (RECD) State Offices to receive further information and copies of the preapplication package. The program will be operated primarily by RECD at the State level.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Aurora Argueta, Acting Director, Specialty Lenders Division, Room 2245, South Agriculture Building, Ag Box 1521, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-1521, Telephone (202) 720-1400.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Refer to 7 CFR part 4284, subpart F, published in the Federal Register on February 2, 1996 (61 FR 3779-87), for the information collection requirements of the RTCDG program. This subpart provides details on what information must be contained in the preapplication package and eligibility information. It is essential that prospective applicants

refer to this information before developing a proposal.

The RTCDG program is authorized by section 310B(f) through (h) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932). The primary objective of the program is to improve the economic condition of rural areas. The RTCDG program will achieve this objective by enabling program recipients to establish and operate centers for rural technology or cooperative development for promoting the development and commercialization of:

- (i) new services and products that can be produced or provided in rural areas;
- (ii) new processes that can be utilized in the production of products in rural areas; and
- (iii) new enterprises that can add value to on-farm production through processing or marketing.

The program is administered through RECD State Offices acting on behalf of RBS. RBS, formerly known as the Rural Business and Cooperative Development Service, is one of the successor agencies to the Rural Development Administration pursuant to the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-354).

RTCDG grants are competitive and will be awarded to nonprofit institutions and public bodies based on specific selection criteria, as required by law. Consistent with public comment, RBS has decided to emphasize certain policy themes each funding cycle. For FY 1996 funds, RBS desires to select projects that promote the theme of improved telecommunications capability in rural America. Administrator's points will be used for projects reflecting this policy theme as well as geographical distribution and interagency cooperation. Any project meeting the intent of the law and regulations for RTCDG will be considered, however.

The selection criteria, as outlined in 7 CFR part 4284, subpart F, and assigned weights for FY 1996 are as follows:

- a. Likelihood of project being effective in achieving one or more of the following: technological innovation, adaptation of existing technology, cooperative development, commercialization of new services and products, and promotion of new processes and enterprises. (15 Points)
- b. Innovativeness or originality of project in addressing authorized grant purposes. (15 Points)
- c. Experience, organizational skill, and background that are needed for