

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

Agricultural Marketing Service

[TM-98-00-3]

Notice of Meeting of the National Organic Standards Board

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) announces a forthcoming meeting of the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB).

DATES: March 16, 1998, at 12:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.; March 17, 1998, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; March 18, 1998, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; and March 19, 1998, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for the NOSB.

PLACE: Doubletree Hotel Ontario Airport, 222 N. Vineyard, Ontario, California 91764. Phone: (909) 983-0909.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael I. Hankin, Senior Marketing Specialist, Room 2510 South Building, U.S. Department of Agriculture, AMS, Transportation and Marketing, National Organic Program Staff, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456. Phone (202) 720-3252.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 2119 (7 U.S.C. 6518) of the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (OFPA), as amended (7 U.S.C. Section 6501 *et seq.*) requires the establishment of the NOSB. The purpose of the NOSB is to assist in the development of standards for substances to be used in organic production and to advise the Secretary on any other aspects of the implementation of OFPA. The NOSB met for the first time in Washington, D.C., in March 1992 and currently has six committees working on various aspects of the program. The committees

are: Crops Standards; Processing, Labeling and Packaging; Livestock Standards; Accreditation; Materials; and International Issues. In August 1994, the NOSB provided its initial recommendations for the National Organic Program (NOP) to the Secretary of Agriculture and since that time has submitted 30 addenda to the recommendations and reviewed more than 170 substances for inclusion on the National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances. The last meeting of the NOSB was held in September 1996, in Indianapolis, Indiana. The Department of Agriculture (USDA) published its proposed rule for the NOP in the **Federal Register** (62 FR 65849) on December 16, 1997. An extension of the comment period on the proposed rule was published in the **Federal Register** (63 FR 6498-6499) on February 9, 1998. The comment period has been extended until April 30, 1998.

PURPOSE AND AGENDA: The main purposes of this meeting are to provide an opportunity for the NOSB to listen to comments from interested persons regarding the proposed rule for the NOP, for the NOSB to review its Committee reports on the proposed rule, and for the NOSB to prepare comments on the proposed rule to be submitted to USDA. Minutes of the NOSB meeting, including minutes of oral presentations to the NOSB, will be included in the public record of comments for the proposed rule.

A final agenda for this meeting will be available on March 2, 1998. Persons requesting copies of the final agenda should contact Ms. Karen Thomas at the above address or phone (202) 720-3252.

TYPE OF MEETING: All meetings will be open to the public. Individuals and organizations wishing to provide oral presentations to the NOSB on issues related to the proposed rule should forward the request to Ms. Karen Thomas at the above address or by FAX to (202) 690-3924 by March 10, 1998, in order to be scheduled. The NOSB has scheduled time for public input on March 16, 1998, beginning at 1:00 p.m. and continuing until 5:00 p.m. While persons wishing to make a presentation may sign up at the door, advance registration will ensure an opportunity to speak during the allotted time period and will help the NOSB better manage the meeting and accomplish the agenda. It is our intention to give each

individual or organization approximately 5 minutes to present orally their views on the key issues of concern. All persons making an oral presentation are asked also to provide their views in writing. Such written submissions may of course supplement the oral presentation with additional material. Attendees who do not wish to make an oral presentation are invited to submit written comments to the NOSB at this meeting. Those persons submitting written comments should provide 20 copies to the NOSB. All such comments will be included in the minutes of the meeting and placed in the rulemaking record.

Dated: February 9, 1998.

Eileen S. Stommes,

Deputy Administrator, Transportation and Marketing.

[FR Doc. 98-3864 Filed 2-1-98; 12:37 pm]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food and Consumer Service

Agency Information Collection

Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request—Coordination Best Practices Project

AGENCY: Food and Consumer Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Food and Consumer Service's intention to request Office of Management and Budget approval of the Coordination Best Practices Project.

DATES: Written comments on this notice must be received by April 14, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be sent to: Barbara Hallman, Acting Director, Supplemental Food Programs Division, Food and Consumer Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, VA 22302.

Comments are invited on: (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c)