

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 Secretary

Notice of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board Executive Committee Conference Call Meeting

AGENCY: Research, Education, and Economics, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of conference call meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App., the United States Department of Agriculture announces a Conference Call Meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board, which represents 30 constituent categories, as specified in section 1408 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977, as amended by section 802 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (Pub. L. 104-127), will have a conference call meeting of the Advisory Board's Executive Committee on January 14, 1999. Several agenda items will be discussed, which will include forming initial recommendations on the USDA merit review procedures for education and extension competitive grants for subsequent transmission to the Secretary of Agriculture, as required under the new Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998. This conference call will be open for full Advisory Board participation.

Dates: January 14, 1999, at 10:00-11:00 a.m., e.s.t.

Place: USDA, Research, Education, and Economics Advisory Board Office, Room

3918, South Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-2255.

Type of Meeting: Open to the public. To assure space and available access to phone lines, the public must request to join the conference call by contacting the phone number below by January 12, 1999.

Comments: The public may also file written comments before or within 2 weeks after the meeting with the Research, Education, and Economics (REE) Advisory Board Office. All statements will become a part of the official records of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board and will be kept on file for public review in the Office of the Advisory Board; Research, Education, and Economics; U.S. Department of Agriculture; Washington, DC 20250-2255.

For Further Information Contact: Deborah Hanfman, Executive Director, National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board Office, Room 3918 South Building, U.S. Department of Agriculture, STOP: 2255, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-2255. Telephone: 202-720-3684, Fax: 202-720-6199, or E-mail: lshea@reeusda.gov.

Done at Washington, D.C. this 31st day of December, 1998.

I. Miley Gonzalez,

Under Secretary, Research, Education, and Economics.

[FR Doc. 99-534 Filed 1-8-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Office of the Secretary

Onondaga County Priority Watersheds Agricultural Environmental Management Program; (AEMP) Determination of Primary Purpose of Program payments for consideration as Excludable From Income Under Section 126 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, USDA.
ACTION: Notice of determination.

SUMMARY: The Secretary of Agriculture has determined that all County cost share payments made to individuals as a part of an Agriculture Environmental Management Plan are made primarily for the purpose of conserving water and protecting or restoring the environment in the priority watersheds of Onondaga County. This determination is made in accordance with section 126 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended (26 U.S.C. 126). The

determination permits recipients of these cost-share payments to exclude them from gross income to the extent allowed by the Internal Revenue Service.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Walter G. Neuhauser, Executive Director of the Onondaga County Soil & Water Conservation District, 25.

Walter G. Neuhauser, Executive Director, Onondaga County SWCD, 2571 US Rt. 11, Suite #1, Lafayette, NY 13084-9641

or
Director, Conservation Operations Division, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, PO Box 2890, Washington, DC 20013

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION: Section 126 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended (26 U.S.C. 126), provides that certain payments made to persons under state conservation programs may be excluded from the recipient's gross income for Federal income tax purposes, if the Secretary of Agriculture determines that payments are made "primarily for the purpose of conserving soil and water resources, protecting or restoring the environment, improving forests, or providing a habitat for wildlife." The Secretary of Agriculture evaluates these conservation programs on the basis of criteria set forth in 7 CFR part 14, and makes a "primary purpose" determination for the payments made under each program. Before there may be an exclusion, the Secretary of the Treasury must determine that payments made under these conservation programs do not substantially increase the annual income derived from the property benefited by the payments.

Procedural Matters

The authorizing legislation, regulations and operating procedures regarding the Onondaga County Priority Watersheds Agricultural Environmental Management Program have been examined using the criteria set forth in 7 CFR part 14. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has concluded that the cost-share payments made for implementation of best management practices under this program are made to provide financial assistance to eligible persons primarily for the purpose of conserving water resources and protecting or restoring the environment in the priority watersheds of Onondaga County.