

ADDRESSES: Contact Jimmy A. Beard; Assistant to the Chief; Livestock and Grain Market News Branch, Livestock and Seed Program, AMS-USDA, Room 2619, South Building, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jimmy A. Beard, (202) 720-1050.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: *Title:* Grain Market News Reports and Molasses Market News Reports.

OMB Number: 0581-0005.

Expiration Date of Approval: 5-31-99.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: The Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1621 *et seq.*) directs and authorizes the collection and dissemination of marketing information including adequate outlook information, on a market area basis, for the purpose of anticipating and meeting consumer requirements aiding in the maintenance of farm income and to bring about a balance between production and utilization.

Under this program, USDA issues market news reports on grain and molasses. These reports are compiled, on a voluntary basis, in cooperation with the grain and feed industry. Market news reporting must be timely, accurate, unbiased and continuous if it is to be useful to producers, processors, and the trade in general. Industry traders can use market news information to make marketing decisions on when and where to buy and sell. For example, a producer could compare prices being paid at local, terminal, or export elevators to determine which location will provide the best return. Some traders might choose to chart prices over a period of time in order to determine the most advantageous day of the week to buy or sell, or to determine the most favorable season. In addition, the reports are used by other Government agencies to evaluate market conditions and calculate price levels used for their programs. Economists at most major agricultural colleges and universities use the grain and feed market news reports to make short and long-term market projections. Also, since the Government is a large purchaser of grain and related products, the reporting and use of this data is helpful.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .014 hours per response.

Respondents: Business or other for profit, individuals or households, farms, Federal Government.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 200.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 52.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 368 hours.

Comments are invited on: (1) 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; (2) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the methodology and assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments may be sent to: Jimmy A. Beard, Assistant to the Chief, Livestock and Grain Market News Branch, Livestock and Seed Program, AMS-USDA, Room 2619, South Building, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record, and will be made available at the address above during regular business hours.

Dated: February 17, 1999.

John E. Van Dyke,

Acting Deputy Administrator, Livestock and Seed Program.

[FR Doc. 99-4543 Filed 2-23-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

[No. LS-99-02]

Beef Promotion and Research: Certification and Nomination for the Cattlemen's Beef Promotion and Research Board

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is accepting applications from State cattle producer organizations or associations and general farm organizations, as well as beef importers, who desire to be certified to nominate producers or importers for appointment to vacant positions on the Cattlemen's Beef

Promotion and Research Board (Board). Organizations which have not previously been certified that are interested in submitting nominations must complete and submit an official application form to AMS. Previously certified organizations do not need to reapply. Notice is also given that vacancies will occur on the Board and that during a period to be established, nominations will be accepted from eligible organizations and individual importers.

DATES: Applications for certification must be received by close of business March 26, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Certification forms as well as copies of the certification and nomination procedures may be requested from Ralph L. Tapp, Chief; Marketing Programs Branch, LS, AMS, USDA; STOP 0251; 1400 Independence Avenue, SW.; Washington, D.C. 20250-0251.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ralph L. Tapp, Chief, Marketing Programs Branch on 202/720-1115.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Beef Promotion and Research Act of 1985 (Act) (7 U.S.C. 2901 *et seq.*), enacted December 23, 1985, authorizes the implementation of a Beef Promotion and Research Order (Order). The Order, as published in the July 18, 1986, **Federal Register** (51 FR 26132), provides for the establishment of a Board. The current Board consists of 104 cattle producers and 7 importers appointed by the Secretary. Due to reapportionment, the 2000 Board will consist of 103 producers and 7 importers. The duties and responsibilities of the Board are specified in the Order.

The Act and the Order provide that the Secretary shall either certify or otherwise determine the eligibility of State or importer organizations or associations to nominate members to the Board to ensure that nominees represent the interests of cattle producers and importers. Nominations for importer representatives may also be made by individuals who import cattle, beef, or beef products. Persons who are individual importers do not need to be certified as eligible to submit nominations. When individual importers submit nominations, they must establish to the satisfaction of the Secretary that they are in fact importers of cattle, beef, or beef products, pursuant to § 1260.143(b)(2) of the Order [7 CFR 1260.143(b)(2)]. Individual importers are encouraged to contact AMS at the above address to obtain further information concerning the nomination process, including the beginning and ending dates of the

established nomination period and required nomination forms and background information sheets. Certification and nomination procedures were promulgated in the final rule, published in the April 4, 1986, **Federal Register** (51 FR 11557) and currently appear at 7 CFR § 1260.500 through § 1260.640. Organizations which have previously been certified to nominate members to the Board do not need to reapply for certification to nominate producers and importers for the existing vacancies.

The Act and the Order provide that the members of the Board shall serve for terms of 3 years. The Order also requires USDA to announce when a Board vacancy does or will exist. The following States have one or more members whose terms will expire in early 2000:

State or unit	Number of vacancies
Alabama	1
Arkansas	1
California	1
Colorado	1
Florida	1
Idaho	1
Illinois	1
Kansas	3
Kentucky	2
Minnesota	1
Missouri	1
Montana	2
Nebraska	3
New York	1
North Dakota	1
Oklahoma	2
Pennsylvania	1
South Dakota	1
Texas	5
Virginia	1
Wisconsin	1
Importer Unit	4

Since there are no anticipated vacancies on the Board for the remaining States' positions, or for the positions of the Northeast, Northwest, and Mid-Atlantic units, nominations will not be solicited from certified organizations or associations in those States or units.

Uncertified eligible producer organizations in all States that are interested in being certified as eligible to nominate cattle producers for appointment to the listed producer positions, must complete and submit an official "Application for Certification of Organization or Association," which must be received by close of business March 26, 1999. Uncertified eligible importer organizations that are interested in being certified as eligible to nominate importers for appointment to the listed importer positions must

apply by the same date. Importers should not use the application form but should provide the requested information by letter as provided for in 7 CFR 1260.540(b). Applications from States or units without vacant positions on the Board and other applications not received within the 30-day period after publication of this Notice in the **Federal Register** will be considered for eligibility to nominate producers or importers for subsequent vacancies on the Board.

Only those organizations or associations which meet the criteria for certification of eligibility promulgated at 7 CFR 1260.530 are eligible for certification. Those criteria are:

(a) For State organizations or associations:

(1) Total paid membership must be comprised of at least a majority of cattle producers or represent at least a majority of cattle producers in a State or unit,

(2) Membership must represent a substantial number of producers who produce a substantial number of cattle in such State or unit,

(3) There must be a history of stability and permanency, and

(4) There must be a primary or overriding purpose of promoting the economic welfare of cattle producers.

(b) For organizations or associations representing importers, the determination by the Secretary as to the eligibility of importer organizations or associations to nominate members to the Board shall be based on applications containing the following information:

(1) The number and type of members represented (i.e., beef or cattle importers, etc.),

(2) Annual import volume in pounds of beef and beef products and/or the number of head of cattle,

(3) The stability and permanency of the importer organization or association,

(4) The number of years in existence, and

(5) The names of the countries of origin for cattle, beef, or beef products imported.

All certified organizations and associations, including those which were previously certified in the States or units having vacant positions on the Board, will be notified simultaneously in writing of the beginning and ending dates of the established nomination period and will be provided with required nomination forms and background information sheets.

The names of qualified nominees received by the established due date will be submitted to the Secretary of Agriculture for consideration as appointees to the Board.

The information collection requirements referenced in this notice have been previously approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under the provisions of 44 U.S.C., Chapter 35 and have been assigned OMB No. 0581-0093, except Board member nominee information sheets are assigned OMB No. 0505-0001.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 2901 *et seq.*

Dated: February 17, 1999.

Barry L. Carpenter,

Deputy Administrator, Livestock and Seed Program.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Lake Tahoe Basin Federal Advisory Committee; Meeting

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Lake Tahoe Basin Federal Advisory Committee will hold a meeting on February 26, 1999, in North Lake Tahoe, California. This Committee, established by the Secretary of Agriculture on December 15, 1998, (64 FR 2876) is chartered to provide advice to the Secretary on implementing the terms of the Federal Interagency Partnership on the Lake Tahoe Region and other matters raised by the Secretary.

DATES: The meeting will be held February 26, 1999, beginning at 9:00 a.m. and ending at 4:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the North Tahoe Conference Center, 8318 North Lake Boulevard, Kings Beach, California.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Juan Palma or Sherry Hazelhurst, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, Forest Service, 870 Emerald Bay Road Suite 1, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150, (530) 573-2642.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The committee will meet jointly with the Tahoe Regional Executives and Lake Tahoe Basin Executives Committees. Items to be covered on the agenda include: (1) Overview of the Environmental Improvement Program (EIP); (2) Review Draft Presidential Commitments Update; (3) Federal Budget Requests; (4) Agency Briefings; (5) Further Refine Role of Committee; (6) Expectations of Committee Members; (7) Recommend a Committee Chair; (8) Schedule Future Meetings; and (9) Open