

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

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 99-049-1]

Horse Protection Act; List of Designated Qualified Persons

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice advises the general public and the horse industry of the organizations that have a Designated Qualified Person program currently certified by the United States Department of Agriculture. This notice also lists the currently licensed Designated Qualified Persons in each organization.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Dick Watkins, Assistant Deputy Administrator, Animal Care, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 39, Riverdale, MD 20737-1234; (301) 734-7712; or e-mail: Richard.H.Watkins@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The practice known as "soring" is a painful procedure used to accentuate a horse's gait in order to enhance its performance in the show ring. In 1970, Congress passed the Horse Protection Act (15 U.S.C. 1821-1831), referred to below as the Act, to eliminate the practice of soring by prohibiting the showing or selling of sored horses. Exercising its rulemaking authority under the Act, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) enforces regulations in 9 CFR part 11, referred to below as the regulations, that prohibit devices and methods that might sore horses. In 1979, in response to an amendment to the Act, we established regulations under which show management must, to avoid liability for any sore horses that are shown, appoint

individuals trained to conduct preshow inspections to detect or diagnose sored horses. These individuals, referred to as Designated Qualified Persons (DQP's), are trained and licensed under industry-sponsored DQP programs that we certify and monitor. The requirements for DQP programs and licensing of DQP's are set forth in § 11.7 of the regulations.

Section 11.7 also requires that we publish a current list of horse industry organizations that have certified DQP programs, and a list of licensed DQP's, in the **Federal Register** at least once each year. The list reads as follows:

Spotted Saddle Horse Breeders & Exhibitors Association, P.O. Box 1046, Shelbyville, TN 37162

Licensed DQP's: Joe "Buck" Beard, Earl M. "Marty" Coleman, Danny Ray Davis, Tommy Derryberry, James "Tony" Edwards, Steven L. Johnson, Mac McGee, Boyd Melton, E.W. Murray, Larry Keith Smith, Don Woodson

Kentucky Walking Horse Association, Route 6, Box 11, Manchester, KY 40962

Licensed DQP's: Les W. Acree, Lee Arnold, Jackie Brown, Ray Burton, Eddie Ray Davis, James Floyd, Buddy L. Glasscock, John L. Goldey, James M. Goode, Grover C. Hatton, Bobby W. Helton, J. Scott Helton, Leon Hester, Dave Jividen, Paul Lasure, Ricky McCammon, Alonzo Napier, Rick O'Neal, Curtis Pittman, Ted B. Poland, John Robinson, Donald Todd, Arnold "Sarg" Walker, Johnnie Zeller

Western International Walking Horse Association, 18525 SE 346, Auburn, WA 98092

Licensed DQP's: Larry Corbett, Don Douglas, Ross Fox, Dennis Izzi, Terry Jerke, Joe Nelson, Dave Swingley, Kim Swingley, Kelly Smith, Pat Thacker

Horse Protection Commission, Inc., P.O. Box 1330, Frazier Park, CA 93225

Licensed DQP's: M. Avila, D. Benefield, D. Collins, L. Connelly, J. Hampton, K. Hester, T. Hester, J. Kendig, S. Kolbusz, R. Lauer, A. Miller, L. Mitchell, P. Mitchell, D. Moore, M. Mullrull, C. Pitts, D. Rash, C. Shepherd, J. Singleton, P. Snodgrass, V. Stamper, K. Thompson

Heart of America Walking Horse Association, 1775 DeGraffenreid Place, Nixa, MO 65714

Licensed DPQ's: Bob Blackwell, Jackie Brown, Chad Campbell, Jennifer Campbell, Larry Carriger, Ronnie D. Cousler, William H. Cox, L. Forgey, Lawanda Foust, R. Dewey Foust, Robert Foust, Betty Grooms, Floyd Hampsmire, Jim Hill, Jim Hoffman, Philip Manker, Stephen Mullins, Wendell Pigg, Linda Scrivner, Sonny Scrivner, A. Scott Skopec, Steve Skopec, Charlie Smart, Robert H. Smith, William Stotler, Jerry Williams, John Williams

National Horse Show Commission, P.O. Box 167, Shelbyville, TN 37160

Licensed DQP's: Lonnie D. Adkins, Melanie Allen, Don Bell, Nolan Benton, Ray Cairnes, Ronnie Campbell, Harry Chaffin, John Cordell, Joe L. Cunningham, Sr., Jessie Davis, Jerry Eaton, William Edwards, Anthony Eubanks, Craig Evans, James Fields, Bob Flynn, Kathy Givens, Iry Gladney, Jimmy House, Ralph Lakes, Larry R. Landreth, Malcolm G. Luttrell, Earl Melton, Andy Messick, Lonnie Messick, Richard Messick, Cary C. Myers, Harlan Pennington, Dickey Reece, Ricky D. Rutledge, Vernon Shearer, Ronnie Slack, Virginia Stanley, Ricky L. Statham, J.H. Syrcle, Charles Thomas, Mark Thomas, Steven Thomas, Greg Thomason, Doug Watkins, Tommy Willet, John F. Wilson

Missouri Fox Trotting Horse Breed Association, Inc., P. O. Box 1027, Ava, MO 65608

Licensed DQP's: Julie Alford, Jack Arnold, Beverly Berry, Frank Bowman, Richard B. Carr, Everett Clamp, Kenneth Cochran, Donnie Daugherty, Rob Eagleburger, Gail Freed, Pat Harris, Deb Heggerston, Mark Landers, Edward L. Lee, Geno Middleton, Jeanie Nichols, David Ogle, Mike Osborn, Gary Pierce, Traci Scott, Danny Sublett, Shawn Sublett, Ken Williams, Lee Yates

National Walking Horse Association, P. O. Box 28, Petersburg, TN 37144

Licensed DQP's: Pat Klabusich, Murrall R. Johnson, Chris McKinney, Jeff Smith, Mike Stanley, Pamela Wisecup

Done in Washington, DC, this 23rd day of August, 1999.

Bobby R. Acord,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 99-22446 Filed 8-27-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service

Applications for FY 2000 National Research Initiative Competitive Grants Program

AGENCY: Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Availability of Program Description and Solicitation for Applications for Fiscal Year 2000 National Research Initiative Competitive Grants Program.

SUMMARY: Applications are invited for competitive grant awards in

agricultural, forest, and related environmental sciences under the National Research Initiative (NRI) Competitive Grants Program administered by the Competitive Research Grants and Awards Management Division, Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES), for fiscal year (FY) 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: USDA/CSREES/NRI, Stop 2241, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250-2241. Phone: (202) 401-5022. E-mail: nricgp@reeusda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

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Stakeholder Input

CSREES is soliciting comments regarding this solicitation of applications from any interested party. These comments will be considered in the development of the next solicitation of applications for the program. Such comments will be forwarded to the Secretary or his designee for use in meeting the requirements of section 103(c)(2) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (Pub. L. 105-185). Written comments should be submitted by first-class mail to: Office of Extramural Programs; Competitive Research Grants and Awards Management; USDA-CSREES; STOP 2299; 1400 Independence Avenue, SW.; Washington, DC 20250-2299, or via e-mail to: RFP-OEP@reeusda.gov.

In your comments, please include the name of the program and the fiscal year solicitation of applications to which you are responding. Comments are requested within six months from the issuance of the solicitation of applications. Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

Authority and Applicable Regulations

The authority for this program is contained in 7 U.S.C. 450i(b). Under this program, subject to the availability of funds, the Secretary may award competitive research grants, for periods not to exceed five years, for the support of research projects to further the

programs of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Regulations applicable to this program include the following: (a) The regulations governing the NRI, 7 CFR part 3411, which set forth procedures to be followed when submitting grant proposals, rules governing the evaluation of proposals and the awarding of grants, and regulations relating to the post-award administration of grant projects; (b) the USDA Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Agreements with Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals, and Other Non-Profit Organizations, 7 CFR part 3019; (c) the USDA Uniform Federal Assistance Regulations, 7 CFR part 3015; (d) the USDA Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements to State and Local Governments, 7 CFR part 3016; and (e) 7 U.S.C. 3103, which defines "sustainable agriculture."

Conflicts of Interest

For the purpose of determining conflicts of interest in accordance with 7 CFR part 3411.12, the academic and administrative autonomy of an institution shall be determined by reference to the February 1999 issue of the Codebook for Compatible Statistical Reporting of Federal Support to Universities, Colleges, and Nonprofit Institutions, prepared by Quantum Research Corporation for the National Science Foundation. Copies may be obtained through the Internet at <http://www.nsf.gov/sbe/srs/sfsucni/method98/codebook/codebook.htm>.

Project Types and Eligibility Requirements

The project types for which proposals are solicited include:

I. Conventional Projects

(a) Standard Research Grants: Research will be supported that is fundamental or mission-linked, and that is conducted by individual investigators, co-investigators within the same discipline, or multidisciplinary teams. Any State agricultural experiment station, college, university, other research institution or organization, Federal agency, national laboratory, private organization, corporation, or individual may apply. Proposals submitted by non-United States organizations will not be considered for support.

(b) Conferences: Scientific meetings that bring together scientists to identify research needs, update information, or advance an area of research are recognized as integral parts of research

efforts. Any State agricultural experiment station, college, university, other research institution or organization, Federal agency, national laboratory, private organization, corporation, or individual is an eligible applicant in this area. Proposals submitted by non-United States organizations will not be considered for support.

II. Agricultural Research Enhancement Awards

To contribute to the enhancement of research capabilities in the research program areas described herein, applications are solicited for Agricultural Research Enhancement Awards. Such applications may be submitted by any State agricultural experiment station, college, university, other research institution or organization, Federal agency, national laboratory, private organization, corporation, or individual; however, further eligibility requirements are defined in 7 CFR part 3411.3(d) and restated in the FY 2000 NRI Program Description. Applications submitted by non-United States organizations will not be considered for support. However, United States citizens applying as individuals for Postdoctoral Fellowships may perform all or part of the proposed work at a non-United States organization. Agricultural Research Enhancement Awards are available in the following categories:

(a) Postdoctoral Fellowships
 (b) New Investigator Awards
 (c) Strengthening Awards: Institutions in USDA EPSCoR entities are eligible for strengthening awards. For FY 2000, USDA EPSCoR states consist of the following:

Alaska
 Arkansas
 Connecticut
 Delaware
 Hawaii
 Idaho
 Kentucky
 Maine
 Mississippi
 Montana
 Nevada
 New Hampshire
 New Mexico
 North Dakota
 Rhode Island
 South Carolina
 South Dakota
 Vermont
 West Virginia
 Wyoming

For FY 2000, other USDA-EPSCoR entities consist of the following:

American Samoa
 District of Columbia
 Guam

Micronesia
Northern Marianas
Puerto Rico
Virgin Islands

Investigators at small and mid-sized institutions (total enrollment of 15,000 or less) may also be eligible for Strengthening Awards. An institution in this instance is an organization that possesses a significant degree of autonomy. Significant degree of autonomy is defined by being independently accredited as determined by reference to the 1999 Higher Education Directory, published by Higher Education Publications, Inc., 6400 Arlington Boulevard, Suite 648, Falls Church, Virginia 22042. Phone: (703) 532-2305.

Institutions which are among the most successful universities and colleges for receiving Federal funds for science and engineering research, except those in USDA EPSCoR entities, are ineligible for strengthening awards. The top 100 institutions excluding those in USDA EPSCoR entities are as follows:

Baylor College of Medicine
Boston University
California Institute of Technology
Carnegie-Mellon University
Case Western Reserve University
Colorado State University
Columbia University
Cornell University
CUNY Mount Sinai School of Medicine
Duke University
Emory University
Florida State University
Georgia Institute of Technology
Harvard University
Indiana University
Iowa State University of Science and Technology
Johns Hopkins University
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Medical College of Wisconsin
Michigan State University
New York University
North Carolina State University
Northwestern University
Ohio State University
Oregon Health Sciences University
Oregon State University
Pennsylvania State University
Princeton University
Purdue University
Rockefeller University
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
Scripps Research Institute
Stanford University
State University of New York at Stony Brook
State University of New York at Buffalo
Texas A&M University College Park
Thomas Jefferson University
Tufts University
Tulane University
University of Alabama Birmingham
University of Arizona
University of California Berkeley
University of California Davis
University of California Irvine
University of California Los Angeles

University of California San Diego
University of California San Francisco
University of California Santa Barbara
University of Chicago
University of Cincinnati
University of Colorado
University of Florida
University of Georgia
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
University of Illinois Chicago
University of Iowa
University of Kansas
University of Maryland Baltimore Prof Sch
University of Maryland College Park
University of Massachusetts Amherst
University of Massachusetts Medical School Worcester
University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey
University of Miami
University of Michigan Ann Arbor
University of Minnesota Twin Cities
University of Missouri Columbia
University of North Carolina Chapel Hill
University of Pennsylvania
University of Pittsburgh
University of Rochester
University of Southern California
University of Texas at Austin
University of Texas Health Science Center Houston
University of Texas Health Sci. Center San Antonio
University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
University of Texas Medical Branch Galveston
University of Texas SW Medical Center Dallas
University of Utah
University of Virginia
University of Washington
University of Wisconsin Madison
Vanderbilt University
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Virginia Commonwealth University
Wake Forest University
Washington University
Wayne State University
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute
Yeshiva University, New York

See the FY 2000 NRI Program Description for complete details on programs and eligibility.

Funding Categories for FY 2000

CSREES is soliciting proposals, subject to the availability of funds, for support of high priority research of importance to agriculture, forestry, and related environmental sciences, in the following research categories (ANTICIPATED FY 2000 (FY00) funding and ACTUAL FY 1999 (FY99) funding, rounded to the \$0.1M, follows in parentheses):

- Natural Resources and the Environment (FY00: \$19.1M, FY99: \$19.1M).
- Nutrition, Food Quality, and Health (FY00: \$14.9M, FY99: \$14.9M).
- Plant Systems (FY00: \$38.2M, FY99: \$38.2M).

- Animal Systems (FY00: \$27.0M, FY99: \$27.0M).
- Markets, Trade, and Policy (FY00: \$4.3M, FY99: \$4.3M).
- New Products and Processes (FY00: \$7.6M, FY99: \$7.6M).

Support for research opportunities listed below may be derived from one or more of the above funding categories based on the nature of the scientific topic to be supported.

Pursuant to 7 U.S.C. 450i(b)(10), no less than 10 percent (FY00: \$11.1M, FY99: \$11.1M) of the available funds listed above will be made available for Agricultural Research Enhancement Awards (excluding New Investigator Awards), and no more than 2 percent (FY00: \$2.2M, FY99: \$2.2M) of the available funds listed above will be made available for equipment grants. Further, no less than 30 percent (FY00: \$33.4M, FY99: \$33.4M) of the funds listed above shall be made available for grants for research to be conducted by multidisciplinary teams, and no less than 40 percent (FY00: \$44.5M, FY99: \$44.5M) of the funds listed above shall be made available for grants for mission-linked systems research.

CSREES is prohibited from paying indirect costs exceeding 19 percent of the total Federal funds provided under each award on competitively awarded research grants (7 U.S.C. 3310).

Research Opportunities

The funds appropriated as listed above will be used to support research grants in the following areas:

- NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE ENVIRONMENT
- Plant Responses to the Environment
 - Ecosystem Science
 - Soils and Soil Biology
 - Watershed Processes and Water Resources
- NUTRITION, FOOD SAFETY, AND HEALTH
- Improving Human Nutrition for Optimal Health
 - Food Safety
 - Epidemiological Approaches for Food Safety
- ANIMALS
- Animal Reproductive Efficiency
 - Animal Growth, Development, and Nutrient Utilization
 - Animal Genome and Genetic Mechanisms
 - Animal Health and Well-Being
- BIOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT OF PESTS AND BENEFICIAL ORGANISMS.
- Entomology and Nematology
 - Biologically Based Pest Management.
 - Biology of Plant-Microbe Associations
 - Biology of Weedy and Invasive Plants
- PLANTS

Plant Genome
 Plant Genetic Mechanisms
 Plant Growth and Development
 Agricultural Plant Biochemistry
 MARKETS, TRADE, AND RURAL
 DEVELOPMENT
 Markets and Trade
 Rural Development
 ENHANCING VALUE AND USE OF
 AGRICULTURAL AND FOREST
 PRODUCTS
 Value-Added Products Research
 Food Characterization/Process/
 Product Research
 Non-Food Characterization/Process/
 Product Research
 Improved Utilization of Wood and
 Wood Fiber
 AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS
 RESEARCH (integrated,
 multidisciplinary research on
 agricultural systems)

Application Materials

The FY 2000 NRI Program Description, which contains research topic descriptions, and the NRI Application Kit, which contains detailed instructions on how to apply and the requisite forms, are available through the NRI home page, www.reeusda.gov/nri. Paper copies of these application materials may be obtained by sending an e-mail with your name, complete mailing address (not e-mail address), phone number, and materials that you are requesting to psb@reeusda.gov. Materials will be mailed to you (not e-mailed) as quickly as possible. Alternatively, paper copies may be obtained by writing or calling the office indicated below. Proposal Services Unit, Office of Extramural Programs, Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, STOP 2245, 1400 Independence Ave., SW,

Washington, DC 20250-2245,
 Telephone: (202) 401-5048.

Materials Available on Internet

The following are among the materials available on the NRI home page (www.reeusda.gov/nri).

NRI Program Description

This document is available for the current fiscal year, and describes all of the NRI funding programs. To apply for a grant, it is also necessary to obtain the NRI Application Kit.

NRI Application Kit

This document contains guidelines for proposal preparation and the requisite forms.

NRI Abstracts of Funded Research

The abstracts available on this searchable database are nontechnical abstracts written by the principal investigator of each individual grant, starting with FY 1993. Each entry also includes the title, principal investigator(s), awardee institution, dollar amount, and proposal number for each grant. The first two digits of the proposal number indicate the fiscal year in which the proposal was submitted.

NRI Annual Report

The NRI Annual Reports starting with FY 1995 are available. These reports include descriptions of the program concept, the authorization, policy, inputs to establish research needs, program execution, and outcomes, including relevant statistics. Also included are examples of recent research funded by the NRI.

Electronic Subscription to NRI Documents

The NRI has set up a mailserver which will notify subscribers when

publications such as its Program Description or Abstracts of Funded Research are available electronically on the World Wide Web. Subscribers will not receive the document itself, but instead will receive an e-mail containing an announcement regarding the document's availability on the NRI home page.

To subscribe:

Send an e-mail message to: majordomo@reeusda.gov

In the body of the message, include only the words: *subscribe nri-epubs*

To unsubscribe:

Send an e-mail message to: majordomo@reeusda.gov

In the body of the message, include only the words: *unsubscribe nri-epubs*

Please note that this is not a forum. Messages, other than those related to subscription, can not be posted to this address.

NRI Deadline Dates

The following fixed dates have been established for proposal submission deadlines within the NRI. To be considered for funding in any fiscal year, proposals must be transmitted by the date listed below (as indicated by postmark or date on courier bill of lading). When the deadline date falls on a weekend or Federal holiday, transmission must be made by the following business day.

Programs offered in any fiscal year depend on availability of funds and deadlines may be delayed due to unforeseen circumstances. Consult the pertinent NRI solicitation in the **Federal Register**, the NRI Program Description, or the NRI home page (www.reeusda.gov/nri) for up-to-date information.

Postmarked dates	Program codes	Program areas
November 15	22.1	Plant Responses to the Environment.
	23.0	Ecosystem Science.
	25.0	Soils and Soil Biology.
	26.0	Watershed Processes and Water Resources.
	31.0	Improving Human Nutrition for Optimal Health.
	51.9	Biology of Weedy and Invasive Plants.
	80.1	Research Career Enhancement Awards.
	80.2	Equipment Grants.
	80.3	Seed Grants.
	December 15	52.1
52.2		Plant Genetic Mechanisms.
53.0		Plant Growth and Development.
61.0		Markets and Trade.
62.0		Rural Development.
71.1		Food Characterization/Process/Product Research.
71.2		Non-Food Characterization/Process/Product Research.
January 15	32.0	Food Safety.
	32.1	Epidemiological Approaches for Food Safety.

Postmarked dates	Program codes	Program areas
February 15	41.0	Animal Reproductive Efficiency.
	44.0	Animal Health and Well-Being.
	51.2	Entomology and Nematology.
	51.7	Biologically Based Pest Management.
	51.8	Biology of Plant-Microbe Associations.
	73.0	Improved Utilization of Wood and Wood Fiber.
	42.0	Animal Growth, Development, and Nutrient Utilization.
	43.0	Animal Genome and Genetic Mechanisms.
	54.3	Agricultural Plant Biochemistry.
	100.0	Agricultural Systems Research.

Please note: Starting in fiscal year 2001, the submission deadline for the Agricultural Systems Research (100.0) will be November 15.

Done at Washington, DC, this 19th day of August 1999.

Charles W. Laughlin,

Administrator, Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service.

[FR Doc. 99-22381 Filed 8-27-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety Inspection Service

[Docket No. 99-042N]

National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods (NACMCF) will hold a public meeting on September 21-24, 1999, to review and discuss ongoing work on *Listeria monocytogenes* (*Lm*) and *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* (*V. parahaemolyticus*) risk assessments and to address the issue of bare-hand contact with ready-to-eat foods at retail.

DATES: The full committee will hold a public meeting on bare-hand contact of ready-to-eat foods at retail, on Tuesday and Wednesday, September 21-22, 1999, beginning at 8:00 a.m. On Wednesday afternoon, September 22, beginning at 1:30 p.m. there will be an update on performance criteria for fresh juice. The full committee will reconvene on Thursday and Friday, September 23-24, 1999, beginning at 8:00 a.m. to discuss *Lm* and *V. parahaemolyticus* risk assessments. Also, on Friday, September 24, 1999, beginning at 3:15 p.m., the full committee will review for adoption the Small Plant Hazard Analysis Guidelines.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Washington Plaza Hotel, #10 Thomas Circle NW, at Massachusetts Avenue & 14th Street, Washington, DC 20005, telephone number (202) 842-1300.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Persons wishing to register for the meeting, should contact Ms. Mary Harris, (202) 501-7315, Fax (202) 501-7615, e-mail address: mary.harris@usda.gov or mailing address: Food Safety and Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, Room 6904E—Franklin Court, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-3700. Persons requiring a sign language interpreter or other special accommodations should notify Ms. Harris, by September 10, 1999.

If you wish to make an oral presentation on any of the meeting topics you must contact Ms. Catherine M. DeRoeve at (202) 205-4251, fax: (202) 205-4970, or e-mail address: cderoeve@bangate.fda.gov and submit (1) a brief written statement regarding the general nature of comments and (2) the name, address, and telephone number, of the person who will be giving the presentation. Because of the anticipated number of individuals who may wish to make a public statement, it is likely that the committee will limit the time allotted for the presentations. Reservations to make a public statement will be taken on a first come, first served basis. All requests to make a presentation must be received no later than 4:30 p.m., September 8, 1999. Any documents submitted become part of the Committee records.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The NACMCF provides advice and recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Health and Human Services, regarding the microbiological safety of foods. The Committee also provides advice to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Departments of

Commerce and Defense. Dr. I. Kaye Wachsmuth, Deputy Administrator, Office of Public Health and Science, FSIS, is the Committee Chair.

During the full committee meeting on bare-hand contact with ready-to-eat foods at retail, the committee will discuss the many scientific issues having to do with food worker hand contact of ready-to-eat foods. They will evaluate the risk of transmitting bacterial, viral, and parasitic pathogens from food workers, via ready-to-eat foods, to consumers, and the effectiveness of interventions.

During the full committee meeting on *Lm*, the preliminary risk assessment that addresses the presence of *Lm* in specific food groups, the consumption of these foods by various subpopulations including their total intake and health response, will be reviewed. Comments will be requested on the methodology used, the interpretation of data, and any additional assessments that should be made. At the *V. parahaemolyticus* risk assessment session, an update on the information, data, and parameters, will be given along with a summation of the risk assessment findings to date. Again, comments will be requested on the methodology used, the interpretation of data, and any additional assessments that should be made.

The Meat and Poultry Subcommittee will submit the Small Plant Hazard Analysis Guidelines for adoption by the full committee.

Additional Public Notification

Pursuant to Departmental Regulation 4300-4, "Civil Rights Impact Analysis," dated September 22, 1993, FSIS has considered the potential civil rights impact of this notice on minorities, women, and persons with disabilities. Therefore, to better ensure that these groups and others are made aware of this meeting, FSIS will announce it and provide copies of the **Federal Register** publication in the FSIS Constituent Update.

The Agency provides a weekly FSIS Constituent Update, which is communicated via fax to over 300