

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 Research Service

Government Owned Inventions Available for Licensing

AGENCY: Agricultural Research Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Government Owned Inventions Available for Licensing.

SUMMARY: The inventions listed below are owned by the U.S. Government as represented by the Department of Agriculture, and are available for licensing in accordance with 35 U.S.C. 207 and 37 CFR 404 to achieve expeditious commercialization of results of federally funded research and development. Foreign patents are filed on selected inventions to extend market coverage for U.S. companies and may also be available for licensing.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Technical and licensing information on these inventions may be obtained by writing to Janet I. Stockhausen of the USDA Forest Service, One Gifford Pinchot Drive, Madison, Wisconsin 53705-2398; telephone: 608-231-9502 or fax: 608-231-9508. Issued patents may be obtained from the Commissioner of Patents, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The inventions available for licensing are: U.S. Patent Nos.

- 5,786,188, "Fungal Inoculum Preparation"
- 5,834,301, "Method of Removing Color From Kraft Wood Pulps"
- 5,852,909, "Localized Notch Reinforcement for Wooden Beams"
- 5,853,982, "Method of Isolating Strains of the *Lymantria dispar* Nuclear Polyhedrosis Virus"
- 5,921,388, "Quick Deployment Fire Shelter"

Patent Application Serial No. 09/246,272, "Apparatus and Method for the Measurement of Forest Duff

Moisture Content"

Richard M. Parry, Jr.,

Assistant Administrator.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Farm Service Agency

Tobacco Production and Marketing Information

AGENCY: Farm Service Agency, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to release records and opportunity to opt out of the release.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the intention of the Secretary of Agriculture, pursuant to new legislation, to release certain tobacco production and marketing records to State organizations engaged in distributing certain private funds to tobacco producers and provides notice of the method in which interested parties can opt out of that release.

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 19, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Notices should be mailed to Charles Hatcher, Farm Service Agency (FSA), Tobacco and Peanuts Division, STOP 0514, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-0514.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Misty L. Jones, telephone (202) 720-0200.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Tobacco growers are required to file various records with the Department of Agriculture in connection with the operation of the marketing quota program for tobacco operated by USDA under the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 (1938 Act). Those records are normally required to be kept confidential. Recently, however, some tobacco companies have created a \$5.15 billion national trust which would distribute funds to persons interested in growing cigarette tobacco under rules that will be developed by State trusts created for that purpose. This \$5.15 billion distribution is sometimes referred to as the "Phase II" settlement to distinguish it from the larger "Phase I" settlement in which tobacco companies have agreed to pay a large sum of money to State governments. Some of the Phase I money, in some

States may also go to tobacco producers. The rules for the distribution of monies under both Phase I and Phase II will be up to State organizations and not the Federal Government.

In order to efficiently make the monies available to interested parties, some States have sought production data collected by USDA under the 1938 Act. As a result, new legislation was recently enacted which would allow otherwise confidential information to be made available to the States.

Specifically, the new legislation (Pub. L. 106-47) provides that notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Agriculture may, subject to certain conditions, release any and all marketing information submitted by persons relating to the production and marketing of tobacco. The information may only be released to State trusts or similar organizations engaged in the distribution of national trust funds to tobacco producers and other persons with interests associated with the production of tobacco. The law provides that the information may be released only to the extent that such release is in the interest of tobacco producers, as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture. The new legislation also provides that, in advance of making a release of information, the Secretary of Agriculture shall, to the maximum extent practicable, allow, by announcement, a period of at least 15 days for parties whose consent would otherwise be required by law to effectuate such release, to elect to be exempt from such release. In addition, the new law provides that a person who obtains information under such a release shall not use the records for any other purpose not authorized by the new law; a person who knowingly violates this condition on the release of the records is subject to a fine of up to \$10,000 and imprisonment for up to 1 year, or both. Finally, the new law provides that the release allowed by the new law shall not apply to records submitted by cigarette manufacturers with respect to the production of cigarettes, or which were submitted as expected purchase intentions in connection with the establishment of national tobacco quotas, or which aggregate the purchase of particular buyers of tobacco.

Requests have already been made for producer records by State trusts which are preparing to make the multi-billion dollar "Phase II" distribution to farmers. Because these funds could provide much needed help to farmers, the Secretary intends to provide the records to the requesting organizations, consistent with the new law, except in the case of those parties who wish to opt out of the release. Those who do wish to opt out of the release should send notice in writing of that election to Charles Hatcher, FSA, Tobacco and Peanuts Division, STOP 0514, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-0514. Such notice must be received by September 7, 1999.

As the release only affects farm records, warehouses and buyers of tobacco need not file any exemption elections. With respect to producers and other parties involved in the growing of tobacco, those producers should be advised that a request for an exemption from the disclosure could result in a delay in receiving a distribution from the State trust, or, depending on the eligibility criteria created by the State organizations, an ineligibility to share in the distribution. It is therefore not expected that there will be many exemption requests filed. Accordingly, it appears that the record collections can be made at one location for re-routing to the national record center for processing.

Signed at Washington, DC, on August 18, 1999.

Keith Kelly,

Administrator, Farm Service Agency.

[FR Doc. 99-21870 Filed 8-19-99; 9:43 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-05-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

Solicitation of Nominations for Members of the Grain Inspection Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, USDA.

ACTION: Notice to solicit nominees.

SUMMARY: The Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) is announcing that nominations are being sought for persons to serve on GIPSA's Grain Inspection Advisory Committee.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under authority of section 20 of the United States Grain Standards Act (Act), Pub. L. 97-35, the Secretary of Agriculture

established the Grain Inspection Advisory Committee (Advisory Committee) on September 29, 1981, to provide advice to the Administrator on implementation of the Act. Section 14 of the United States Grain Standards Act Amendments of 1993, Pub. L. 103-156, extended the authority for the Advisory Committee through September 30, 2000.

The Advisory Committee presently consists of 15 members, appointed by the Secretary, who represent the interests of grain producers, processors, handlers, merchandisers, consumers, and exporters, including scientists with expertise in research related to the policies in section 2 of the Act. Members of the Committee serve without compensation. They are reimbursed for travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, for travel away from their homes or regular places of business in performance of Advisory Committee service, as authorized under section 5703 of title 5, United States Code. Alternatively, travel expenses may be paid by Committee members.

Nominations are being sought for persons to serve on the Advisory Committee to replace the five members whose terms expire in March 2000. Nominations are also being sought for three alternate members to replace the alternates whose terms expire in March 2000 as well as to bring the total number of alternates back up to fifteen.

Persons interested in serving on the Advisory Committee, or in nominating individuals to serve, should contact GIPSA, by telephone (202-720-0219), fax (202-205-9237), or electronic mail (mplaus@gipsadc.usda.gov) and request Form AD-755, which must be completed and submitted to GIPSA by fax or at the following address: GIPSA, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Stop 3601, Washington, DC 20250-3601. Form AD-755 must be received not later than October 22, 1999.

Nominations are open to all individuals without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, mental or physical handicap, marital status, or sexual orientation. To ensure that recommendations of the Committee take into account the needs of the diverse groups served by the Department, membership shall include, to the extent practicable, individuals with demonstrated ability to represent minorities, women, and persons with disabilities.

The final selection of Advisory Committee members and alternates will be made by the Secretary.

Dated: August 16, 1999.

James R. Baker,

Administrator.

[FR Doc. 99-21742 Filed 8-20-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Notice of Proposed Changes to Section IV of the Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) of the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Oklahoma

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Oklahoma, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

ACTION: Notice of availability of a proposed change in Section IV of the FOTG of the NRCS in Oklahoma for review and comment.

SUMMARY: It is the intention of NRCS in Oklahoma to issue revised conservation practice standards in Section IV of the FOTG. The revised standards are Contour Buffer Strips (Code 332), Cross Wind Trap Strips (Code 589C), Field Border (Code 386), Filter Strip (Code 393), Residue Management, Mulch Till (Code 329B), Residue Management, No Till and Strip Till (Code 329A), Pasture and Hayland Planting (Code 512), and Conservation Crop Rotation (Code 328). These practices may be used in conservation systems that treat highly erodible land.

DATES: Comments will be received until September 22, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Inquire in writing to Keith Vaughan, ASTC (Ecological Sciences), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), 100 USDA, Suite 206, Stillwater, OK 74074-2655. Copies of these standards will be made available upon written request. You may submit electronic requests and comments to Keith.Vaughan@ok.usda.gov. Telephone 405-742-1240.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 343 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 states that revisions made after enactment of the law, to NRCS state technical guides used to carry out highly erodible land and wetland provisions of the law, shall be made available for public review and comment. For the next 30 days, the NRCS in Oklahoma will receive comments relative to the proposed change. Following that period, a determination will be made by the NRCS in Oklahoma regarding