

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

Notice of the Advisory Committee on Biotechnology and 21st Century Agriculture Meeting

AGENCY: Agricultural Research Service, Office of the Under Secretary, Research, Education, and Economics.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. II, the United States Department of Agriculture announces a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Biotechnology and 21st Century Agriculture (AC21).

DATES: August 29–30, 2006, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on August 29 and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on August 30. Written requests to make oral presentations at the meeting must be received by the contact person identified herein at least three business days before the meeting.

ADDRESSES: Room 107A, USDA Jamie L. Whitten Building, 12th Street and Jefferson Drive, SW., Washington, DC 20250. Members of the public should enter the building through the Jefferson Drive entrance. Requests to make oral presentations at the meeting may be sent to the contact person at USDA, Office of the Deputy Secretary, 202 B Jamie L. Whitten Federal Building, 12th Street and Jefferson Drive, SW., Washington, DC 20250.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael Schechtman, Designated Federal Official, Office of the Deputy Secretary, USDA, Telephone (202) 720–3817; Fax (202) 690–4265; e-mail michael.schechtman@ars.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The thirteenth meeting of the AC21 has been scheduled for August 29–30, 2006. The AC21 consists of 19 members representing the biotechnology industry, international plant genetics research,

farmers, food manufacturers, commodity processors and shippers, environmental and consumer groups, and academic researchers. In addition, representatives from the Departments of Commerce, Health and Human Services, and State, and the Environmental Protection Agency, the Council on Environmental Quality, the Office of the United States Trade Representative, and the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture serve as “ex officio” members. At this meeting, the Committee plans to: transmit its latest consensus report, entitled, “Opportunities and Challenges for Agricultural Biotechnology: The Decade Ahead” to the Office of the Secretary, USDA; and consider outside presentations, organize, and begin work on the effects (in terms of planting decisions, markets, and rural communities) of coexistence issues on the development and use of new crops derived through modern biotechnology.

Background information regarding the work of the AC21 will be available on the USDA Web site at http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/_s.7_0_A/7_0_1OB?navid=BIOTECH&parent_nav=AGRICULTURE&navtype=RT.

On August 29, 2006, if time permits, reasonable provision will be made for oral presentations of no more than five minutes each in duration. The meeting will be open to the public, but space is limited. If you would like to attend the meetings, you must register by contacting Ms. Debra Lindsay at (202) 720–4074, by fax at (202) 720–3191 or by E-mail at debra.lindsay@ars.usda.gov at least 5 days prior to the meeting. Please provide your name, title, business affiliation, address, and telephone and fax numbers when you register. If you require a sign language interpreter or other special accommodation due to disability, please indicate those needs at the time of registration.

Michael Schechtman,

Acting Special Assistant for Biotechnology, Office of the Secretary, Biotechnology Coordinator, Agricultural Research Service.
[FR Doc. E6–12071 Filed 7–27–06; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS–2006–0030]

National Animal Identification System (NAIS); Availability of a Revised Cooperative Agreement for Private Animal Tracking Databases

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the availability of a revised cooperative agreement that organizations may enter into with the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service in order to participate in the animal tracking database component of the National Animal Identification System (NAIS). This revised cooperative agreement is intended to facilitate the integration of private and State animal tracking databases into the NAIS, which remains a voluntary program.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Neil Hammerschmidt, National Coordinator, National Animal Identification System, VS, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 200, Riverdale, MD 20737–1231; (301) 734–5571.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

As part of its ongoing efforts to safeguard animal health, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) initiated implementation of the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) in 2004. The NAIS is a cooperative State-Federal-industry program administered by USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). The main objective of the NAIS is to develop and implement a comprehensive information system which will support ongoing animal disease programs and enable State and Federal animal health officials to respond rapidly and effectively to animal health emergencies such as foreign animal disease outbreaks or emerging domestic diseases.

NAIS is a voluntary program and is being established through a phased-in approach by implementing three key components: Premises registration, animal identification, and animal tracking. The USDA has already developed information systems to