

Dated: April 1, 2009.

Ray Porter,

District Ranger.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. FSIS-2009-0010]

Codex Alimentarius Commission: Meeting of the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Food

AGENCY: Office of the Acting Deputy Under Secretary for Food Safety, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Office of the Acting Deputy Under Secretary for Food Safety, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Center for Veterinary Medicine, are sponsoring a public meeting on April 29, 2009. The objective of the public meeting is to provide information and receive public comments on agenda items and draft U.S. positions that will be discussed at the 18th Session of the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (CCRVDF) which will be held in Natal, Brazil from May 11-15, 2009. The Acting Deputy Under Secretary for Food Safety and the FDA recognize the importance of providing interested parties the opportunity to obtain background information on the 18th CCRVDF session and to address items on the agenda.

DATES: The public meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 29, 2009, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will be held at the USDA, J.L. Whitten Building, Room 107-A, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250.

Documents related to the 18th session of the CCRVDF will be accessible via the World Wide Web at the following address: <http://www.codexalimentarius.net/current.asp>.

The U.S. Delegate to the 18th Session of the CCRVDF, Dr. Steven Vaughn, and the FDA invite U.S. interested parties to submit their comments electronically to the following e-mail address:

Brandi.Robinson@fda.hhs.gov.

For Further Information About the 18th Session of the CCRVDF Contact: Steven Vaughn, D.V.M., Director, Office of New Animal Drug Evaluation, Center for Veterinary Medicine, FDA, 7500 Standish Place, Rockville, MD 20855

Telephone: (240) 276-8300, Fax: (240) 276-8242, e-mail:

Steven.Vaughn@fda.hhs.gov.

For Further Information About the Public Meeting Contact: Jasmine Matthews, Program Analyst, USDA, Food Safety and Inspection Service, U.S. Codex Office, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Room 4861, Washington, DC 20250. Telephone: (202) 690-1124, Fax: (202) 720-3157, e-mail: jasmine.matthews@fsis.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Codex Alimentarius (Codex) was established in 1963 by two United Nations organizations, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO.) Through adoption of food standards, codes of practice, and other guidelines developed by its committees, and by promoting their adoption and implementation by governments, Codex seeks to protect the health of consumers and ensure that fair practices are used in trade.

The CCRVDF is responsible for determining priorities for the consideration of residues of veterinary drugs in foods; to recommend maximum levels of such substances; to develop codes of practice as may be required; and to consider methods of sampling and analysis for the determination of veterinary drug residues in foods.

The Committee is hosted by the United States.

Issues To Be Discussed at the Public Meeting

The following items on the agenda for the 18th Session of the CCRVDF will be discussed during the public meeting:

- Matters Referred by the Codex Alimentarius Commission and Other Codex Committees and Task Forces.
- Matters Arising from FAO and WHO and from the 70th Meeting of the Joint FAO and WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA).
- Report of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) Activities, Including the Harmonization of Technical Requirements for Registration of Veterinary Medicinal Products.
 - Draft Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) for Veterinary Drugs (at Step 7).
 - Proposed draft MRLs for Veterinary Drugs (at Step 3).
 - Draft Guidelines for the Design and Implementation of National Regulatory Food Safety Assurance Programs Associated with the Use of Veterinary Drugs in Food Producing Animals.
 - Discussion Paper on Consideration of Methods of Analysis and Sampling in

the CCRVDF (Report of the Electronic Working Group on Methods of Analysis and Sampling).

- Draft Priority List of Veterinary Drugs Requiring Evaluation or Re-Evaluation by JECFA and the Working Document Listing Veterinary Drugs of Potential Interest (Report of the Electronic Working Group on the Priority List of Veterinary Drugs Requiring Evaluation or Re-evaluation).
- Discussion Paper on Current Practices and Needs for Further Work by the Committee (Report of the Electronic Working Group on Risk Management Topics and Options).

Each issue listed will be fully described in documents distributed, or to be distributed, by the Secretariat prior to the meeting. Members of the public may access copies of these documents (*see ADDRESSES*).

Public Meeting

At the April 29, 2009, public meeting, draft U.S. positions on the agenda items will be described and discussed, and attendees will have the opportunity to pose questions and offer comments. Written comments may be offered at the meeting or sent to the U.S. Delegate for the 18th Session of the CCRVDF, Dr. Steven Vaughn (*see ADDRESSES*). Written comments should state that they relate to activities of the 18th session of the CCRVDF.

Additional Public Notification

Public awareness of all segments of rulemaking and policy development is important. Consequently, in an effort to ensure that minorities, women, and persons with disabilities are aware of this notice, FSIS will announce it online through the FSIS Web page located at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations/2009_Notices_Index/. FSIS will also make copies of this **Federal Register** publication available through the FSIS Constituent Update, which is used to provide information regarding FSIS policies, procedures, regulations, **Federal Register** notices, FSIS public meetings, and other types of information that could affect or would be of interest to constituents and stakeholders. The Update is communicated via Listserv, a free electronic mail subscription service for industry, trade groups, consumer interest groups, health professionals, and other individuals who have asked to be included. The Update is also available on the FSIS Web page. Through the Listserv and Web page, FSIS is able to provide information to a much broader and more diverse audience. In addition, FSIS offers an electronic mail subscription service which provides automatic and

customized access to selected food safety news and information. This service is available at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/news_and_events/e-mail_subscription/. Options range from recalls to export information to regulations, directives and notices. Customers can add or delete subscriptions themselves, and have the option to password protect their accounts.

Done at Washington, DC on: April 6, 2009.

Paulo Almeida,

Acting U.S. Manager for Codex Alimentarius.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Newspapers To Be Used for Publication of Legal Notice of Appealable Decisions and Publication of Notice of Proposed Actions for Southern Region; Alabama, Kentucky, Georgia, Tennessee, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, Virginia, West Virginia, Arkansas, Oklahoma, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas, Puerto Rico

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Deciding Officers in the Southern Region will publish notice of decisions subject to administrative appeal under 36 CFR parts 215 and 217 in the legal notice section of the newspapers listed in the Supplementary Information section of this notice. As provided in 36 CFR 215.5 and 36 CFR 217.5(d), the public shall be advised through **Federal Register** notice, of the newspaper of record to be utilized for publishing legal notice of decisions. Newspaper publication of notice of decisions is in addition to direct notice of decisions to those who have requested it and to those who have participated in project planning. Responsible Officials in the Southern Region will also publish notice of proposed actions under 36 CFR part 215 in the newspapers that are listed in the Supplementary Information section of this notice. As provided in 36 CFR 215.5, the public shall be advised, through **Federal Register** notice, of the newspaper of record to be utilized for publishing notices on proposed actions. Additionally, the Deciding Officers in the Southern Region will publish notice of the opportunity to object to a proposed authorized hazardous fuel reduction project under 36 CFR 218.4 or developing, amending or revising land

management plans under 36 CFR 219.9 in the legal notice section of the newspapers listed in the Supplementary Information section of this notice.

DATES: Use of these newspapers for purposes of publishing legal notice of decisions subject to appeal under 36 CFR parts 215 and 217, notices of proposed actions under 36 CFR part 215, and notices of the opportunity to object under 36 CFR part 218 and 36 CFR part 219 shall begin the first day after the date of this publication.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

James W. Bennett, Regional Appeal Review Team Manager, Southern Region, Planning, 1720 Peachtree Road, NW., Atlanta, Georgia 30309, Phone: 404/347-2788.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Deciding Officers in the Southern Region will give legal notice of decisions subject to appeal under 36 CFR part 217, the Responsible Officials in the Southern Region will give notice of decisions subject to appeal under 36 CFR part 215 and opportunity to object to a proposed authorized hazardous fuel reduction project under 36 CFR part 218 or developing, amending or revising land management plans under 36 CFR 219.9 in the following newspapers which are listed by Forest Service administrative unit. Responsible Officials in the Southern Region will also give notice of proposed actions under 36 CFR part 215 in the following newspapers of record which are listed by Forest Service administrative unit. The timeframe for comment on a proposed action shall be based on the date of publication of the notice of the proposed action in the newspaper of record. The timeframe for appeal shall be based on the date of publication of the legal notice of the decision in the newspaper of record for 36 CFR parts 215 and 217. The timeframe for an objection shall be based on the date of publication of the legal notice of the opportunity to object for projects subject to 36 CFR part 218 or 36 CFR part 219.

Where more than one newspaper is listed for any unit, the first newspaper listed is the newspaper of record that will be utilized for publishing the legal notice of decisions and calculating timeframes. Secondary newspapers listed for a particular unit are those newspapers the Deciding Officer/Responsible Official expects to use for purposes of providing additional notice.

The following newspapers will be used to provide notice.

Southern Region

Regional Forester Decisions

Affecting National Forest System lands in more than one Administrative unit of the 15 in the Southern Region, Atlanta Journal-Constitution, published daily in Atlanta, GA. Affecting National Forest System lands in only one Administrative unit or only one Ranger District will appear in the newspaper of record elected by the National Forest, National Grassland, National Recreation Area, or Ranger District as listed below.

National Forests in Alabama, Alabama

Forest Supervisor Decisions

Affecting National Forest System lands in more than one Ranger District of the 6 in the National Forests in Alabama, Montgomery Advertiser, published daily in Montgomery, AL. Affecting National Forest System lands in only one Ranger District will appear in the newspaper of record elected by the Ranger District as listed below.

District Ranger Decisions

Bankhead Ranger District: Northwest Alabamian, published bi-weekly (Wednesday & Saturday) in Haleyville, AL.

Concuh Ranger District: The Andalusia Star News, published daily (Tuesday through Saturday) in Andalusia, AL.

Oakmulgee Ranger District: The Tuscaloosa News, published daily in Tuscaloosa, AL.

Shoal Creek Ranger District: The Anniston Star, published daily in Anniston, AL.

Talladega Ranger District: The Daily Home, published daily in Talladega, AL.

Tuskegee Ranger District: Tuskegee News, published weekly (Thursday) in Tuskegee, AL.

Chattahoochee—Oconee National Forest, Georgia

Forest Supervisor Decisions

The Times, published daily in Gainesville, GA.

District Ranger Decisions

Blue Ridge Ranger District: The News Observer (newspaper of record) published bi-weekly (Tuesday & Friday) in Blue Ridge, GA.

North Georgia News, (newspaper of record) published weekly (Wednesday) in Blairsville, GA.

The Dahlonega Nuggett, (secondary) published weekly (Wednesday) in Dahlonega, GA.

Towns County Herald, (secondary) published weekly (Thursday) in Hiawassee, GA.