

Notices

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Thursday, December 8, 2016

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

Office of Advocacy and Outreach

Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Office of Advocacy and Outreach, USDA

ACTION: Notice of Public Meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), the Office of Advocacy and Outreach (OAO) is announcing a meeting of the Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Advisory Committee (BFRAC). The committee is being convened to consider issues involving barriers for beginning farmers and ranchers, including lending and access to U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs, resources, and land. The members will continue deliberations on recommendations to be prepared for USDA Secretarial consideration as discussed during the recent in-person meeting held in Cleveland, Ohio, September 29–30, 2016.

DATES: The committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 19, 2016, 2:30–4:30 p.m., EST, via teleconference. The meeting will be open to the public. All persons wishing to make comments during this meeting will be allowed a maximum of three minutes. If the number of registrants requesting to speak is greater than what can be reasonably accommodated during the scheduled open public teleconference meeting timeframe, speakers will be scheduled on a first-come basis. Public written comments for the committee's consideration may be submitted by close of business on December 16, 2016, to Mrs. Kenya Nicholas, Designated Federal Official, USDA OAO, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Room 520–A, Washington, DC 20250–0170, Phone (202) 720–6350, Fax (202) 720–7704, Email: acbfr@osec.usda.gov. Written submissions are

encouraged to either be less than one page in length, or be accompanied by an executive summary and a summary of policy initiatives.

A listen-only line will be available during the entire meeting for all who wish to listen in on the meeting or make public comments through the following telephone number: 1 (888) 455–1685 and enter passcode 1047915#. Members of the public may also submit written comments for consideration to the committee via email at: acbfr@osec.usda.gov or fax to: (202) 720–7136.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Questions should be directed to Phyllis Morgan, Executive Assistant, OAO, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Whitten Building, Room 520–A, Washington, DC 20250, Phone: (202) 720–6350; Fax: (202) 720–7704; email: Phyllis.Morgan@osec.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The BFRAC last met in Cleveland, Ohio, on September 29–30, 2016. The Secretary tasked the BFRAC with providing recommendations on access to land, farm business transition, and land tenure. They also considered issues around lending and credit in parsing statistics generated by USDA. Please visit our Web site at: <http://www.outreach.usda.gov/smallbeginning/index.htm> for additional information on the BFRAC.

Members of the public who wish to make comments during the committee meeting are asked to pre-register for the meeting by midnight on December 16, 2016. You may pre-register for the public meeting by submitting an email to acbfr@osec.usda.gov with your name, organization or affiliation, or any comments for the committee's consideration. You may also fax this information to (202) 720–7704. The agenda is as follows: Committee discussions and public comments and continued, and continued committee deliberations. Please visit the BFRAC Web site for the full agenda. All agenda topics and documents will be made available to the public by December 16, 2016, at: <http://www.outreach.usda.gov/smallbeginning/index.htm>.

Meeting Accommodations: USDA is committed to ensuring that everyone is accommodated in our work environment, programs, and events. If you are a person with a disability and request reasonable accommodations to participate in this meeting, please

contact Mrs. Kenya Nicholas in advance of the meeting by or before noon on December 16, 2016, by phone at (202) 720–6350, fax (202) 720–7704, or email: kenya.nicholas@osec.usda.gov.

Issued in Washington, DC, this 30 day of November 2016.

Christian Obineme,

Associate Director, Office of Advocacy and Outreach.

[FR Doc. 2016–29374 Filed 12–7–16; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Tongass National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan Amendment

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Forest Plan Amendment approval.

SUMMARY: M. Earl Stewart, the Forest Supervisor for the Tongass National Forest, Alaska Region, signed the final Record of Decision (ROD) for the Tongass National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan Amendment (Forest Plan Amendment). The Final ROD documents the rationale for approving the Forest Plan Amendment and is consistent with the Reviewing Officer's response to objections and instructions.

DATES: The effective date of the Forest Plan Amendment is 30 days after publication of notice of Forest Plan Amendment approval in the newspaper of record, the *Ketchikan Daily News*. A supplemental notice will also be published in the *Juneau Empire*. To view the final ROD, final environmental impact statement (FEIS), FEIS errata, amended Forest Plan, and other related documents please visit the Tongass National Forest Plan Amendment Web site at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/R10/Tongass/PlanAmend>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Further information about the Tongass National Forest Plan can be obtained from Earl Stewart during normal office hours (weekdays, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Alaska Time) at the Tongass National Forest Supervisor's Office (Address: Tongass National Forest, 648 Mission Street, Ketchikan, AK 99901–6591); Phone/voicemail: (907) 228–6200.

Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the deaf

(TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Forest Plan Amendment lays the foundation to address and balance the need for more stable contributions to the economic and social sustainability of Southeast Alaska. It supports both transitioning to a more economically, socially and ecologically sustainable timber program on the Tongass and promoting more sustainable and diverse local economies by encouraging renewable energy production.

The Forest Plan Amendment amends the 2008 Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan (2008 Forest Plan) and describes resource management practices, levels of resource production and management, and the availability and suitability of lands for different kinds of resource management. The Forest Plan Amendment guides all natural resource management projects and activities and establishes management direction for the Tongass National Forest. The Forest Plan Amendment was developed using the current Planning Rule, issued in 2012 and embodies the provisions of the National Forest Management Act, the implementing regulations, and other guiding documents.

The Forest Plan Amendment was shaped by best available science, current laws, and public participation including participation of a cooperating agency (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service); consultation with Alaska Native tribes and Alaska Native Corporations; advice and recommendations from the Tongass Advisory Committee, a Federal Advisory Committee established by the U.S. Department of Agriculture; and significant public contributions from nine open house meetings, nine subsistence hearings, and the receipt of over 165,000 public comments.

Dated: November 30, 2016.

M. Earl Stewart,

Forest Supervisor, Tongass National Forest.

[FR Doc. 2016-29188 Filed 12-7-16; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

National Institute of Food and Agriculture

Solicitation of Veterinary Shortage Situation Nominations for the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)

AGENCY: National Institute of Food and Agriculture, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and solicitation for nominations.

SUMMARY: The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) is soliciting nominations of veterinary service shortage situations for the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP) for fiscal year (FY) 2017, as authorized under the National Veterinary Medical Services Act (NVMSA), 7 U.S.C. 3151a. This notice initiates the nomination period and prescribes the procedures and criteria to be used by States, Insular Areas, DC and Federal Lands to nominate veterinary shortage situations. Each year all eligible nominating entities may submit nominations, up to the maximum indicated for each entity in this notice. NIFA is conducting this solicitation of veterinary shortage situation nominations under a previously approved information collection (OMB Control Number 0524-0046).

DATES: Shortage situation nominations must be submitted on or before February 8, 2017.

ADDRESSES: Submissions must be made by clicking the submit button on the Veterinarian Shortage Situation nomination form provided in the VMLRP Shortage Situations section at www.nifa.usda.gov/vmlrp.

This form is sent as a data file directly to the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program; National Institute of Food and Agriculture; U.S. Department of Agriculture.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Danielle Tack; Program Coordinator, Veterinary Science; National Institute of Food and Agriculture; U.S. Department of Agriculture; STOP 2220; 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250-2220; Voice: 202-401-6802; Fax: 202-401-6156; Email: vmlrp@nifa.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background and Purpose

Food supply veterinary medicine embraces a broad array of veterinary professional activities, specialties and responsibilities, and is defined as the full range of veterinary medical practices contributing to the production

of a safe and wholesome food supply and to animal, human, and environmental health. A series of studies and reports¹⁻⁶ have drawn attention to maldistributions in the veterinary workforce leaving some communities, especially rural areas, with insufficient access to food supply veterinary services.

Two programs, born out of this concern, aim to mitigate the maldistribution of the veterinary workforce: The Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP) and Veterinary Services Grant Program (VSGP), both administered by USDA—NIFA. VMLRP addresses increasing veterinary school debt by offering veterinary school debt payments in exchange for service in shortage situations, while VSGP addresses other factors contributing to the maldistribution of veterinarians serving the agricultural sector. Specifically, the VSGP promotes availability and access to (1) specialized education and training which will enable veterinarians and veterinary technicians to provide services in designated veterinarian shortage situations, and (2) practice-enhancing equipment and personnel resources to enable veterinary practices to expand or improve access to veterinary services.

Paperwork Reduction Act

In accordance with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations (5 CFR part 1320) that implement the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), the information collection and recordkeeping requirements imposed by the implementation of these guidelines have been approved by OMB Control Number 0524-0046.

¹ Government Accountability Office, *Veterinary Workforce: Actions Are Needed to Ensure Sufficient Capacity for Protecting Public and Animal Health*, GAO-09-178: Feb 18, 2009).

² National Academies of Science, *Workforce Needs in Veterinary Medicine*, 2013.

³ Andrus DM, Gwinner KP, Prince, JB. *Food Supply Veterinary Medicine Coalition Report: Estimating FSM Demand and Maintaining the Availability of Veterinarians in Food Supply Related Disciplines in the United States and Canada*, 2016. <https://www.avma.org/KB/Resources/Reference/Pages/Food-Supply-Veterinary-Medicine-Coalition-Report.aspx>.

⁴ Andrus DM, Gwinner KP, Prince, JB. *Future demand, probable shortages and strategies for creating a better future in food supply veterinary medicine*. 2006, *JAVMA* 229(1):57-69.

⁵ Andrus DM, Gwinner KP, Prince, JB. *Attracting students to careers in food supply veterinary medicine*. 2006, *JAVMA* 228(1):1693-1704.

⁶ Andrus DM, Gwinner KP, Prince, JB. *Job satisfaction, changes in occupational area and commitment to a career in food supply veterinary medicine*. 2006, *JAVMA* 228(12):1884-1893.