

modified, expanded, or made less complicated or streamlined, to deliver resources and benefits more equitably?

5. How can USDA establish and maintain connections to a wider and more diverse set of stakeholders representing underserved communities?

6. Please describe USDA programs or interactions that have worked well for underserved communities. What successful approaches to advancing justice and equity have been undertaken by USDA that you recommend be used as a model for other programs or areas?

7. Does USDA currently collect information, use forms, or require documentation that impede access to USDA programs or are not effective to achieve program objectives? If so, what are they and how can USDA revise them to reduce confusion or frustration, and increase equity in access to USDA programs?

8. Is there information you believe USDA currently collects that it does not need to achieve statutory or regulatory objectives?

9. Are there data-sharing activities in which USDA agencies should engage, so that repetitive collections of the same data do not occur from one USDA component to the next?

10. How can USDA use technology to improve customer service? Do you have suggestions on how technology or online services can help streamline and reduce regulatory or policy requirements? What are those technological programs or processes and how can USDA use them to achieve equity for all?

11. Are there sources of external data and metrics that USDA can use to evaluate the effects on underserved communities of USDA policies or regulations? If so, please identify or describe them.

12. What suggestions do you have for how USDA can effectively assess and measure its outreach and inclusion of underserved groups and individuals?

13. How can USDA remove or reduce barriers that underserved communities and individuals face when they participate or attempt to participate in agency procurement and contracting opportunities?

14. Have you made recommendations for improvement in the past to USDA? If so, please list or attach those recommendations.

### Civil Rights Compliant

Information submitted through this document will not be processed as a civil rights complaint and will not be considered a complaint for determining whether a complaint was timely submitted.

To file a discrimination complaint on interactions with USDA, you can complete the form: [https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/Complain\\_combined\\_6\\_8\\_12\\_508.pdf](https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/Complain_combined_6_8_12_508.pdf). You may submit the discrimination complaint to USDA by any of the following methods:

*Mail:* U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Center for Civil Rights Enforcement, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250–9410.

*Fax:* (202) 690–7442; or

*Email:* [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

If you need any assistance completing the form, call the following phone numbers:

- (202) 260–1026 (Local),
- (866) 632–9992 (Toll-free Customer Service),
- (800) 877–8339 (Local or Federal relay), or
- (866) 377–8642 (Relay voice users).

### USDA Non-Discrimination Policy

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family or parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (for example, braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible agency or USDA TARGET Center at (202) 720–2600 or 844–433–2774 (toll-free nationwide). Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD–3027, found online at <https://www.usda.gov/oascr/how-to-file-a-program-discrimination-complaint> and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632–9992. Submit your completed form or letter to

USDA by mail to: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250–9410 or email: [OAC@usda.gov](mailto:OAC@usda.gov).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

**Elizabeth C. Archuleta,**

*Director, Office of Intergovernmental & External Affairs, U.S. Department of Agriculture.*

[FR Doc. 2021–12612 Filed 6–15–21; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410–90–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS–2020–0044]

### Removal of Japan From the List of Regions Declared Free of Classical Swine Fever

**AGENCY:** Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** We are advising the public that we removed Japan from the list of regions the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service recognizes as free of classical swine fever (CSF). This action follows the detection of CSF in Japan. This action is necessary in order to inform the public and to prevent the introduction of CSF into the United States.

**DATES:** This action became effective on September 10, 2018.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Ingrid Kotowski, Regionalization Evaluation Services, Veterinary Services, APHIS, 920 Main Campus Drive, Suite 200, Raleigh, NC 27606; (919) 855–7732; [AskRegionalization@usda.gov](mailto:AskRegionalization@usda.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The regulations in 9 CFR part 94 (referred to below as the regulations) govern the importation of specified animals and animal products to prevent the introduction into the United States of various animal diseases, including classical swine fever (CSF). CSF is a highly contagious disease of wild and domestic swine that can spread rapidly in swine populations with extremely high rates of morbidity and mortality. A list of regions that the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has determined are free of CSF is maintained on the APHIS website at <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-and->

*animal-product-import-information/animal-health-status-of-regions/.*

That list is referenced in §§ 94.9(a)(1) and 94.10(a)(1) of the regulations. Section 94.9 contains requirements for the importation of pork and pork products from regions where CSF exists. Section 94.10 contains requirements for the importation of live swine from such regions.

Paragraphs (a)(2) of §§ 94.9 and 94.10 provide for the adding and removal of regions to or from the list of CSF-free regions. APHIS will add a region to the list after it conducts an evaluation of the region in accordance with 9 CFR 92.2 and finds that the disease is not present. APHIS will remove a region from the list upon determining that the disease exists in the region based on reports APHIS receives of outbreaks of the disease from veterinary officials of the exporting country, from the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), or from other sources the Administrator determines to be reliable. A region that was formerly on the list but that has been removed due to an outbreak may be returned to the list in accordance with the procedures for reestablishment of a region's disease-free status in § 92.4.

On September 9, 2018, the veterinary authority of Japan reported to the OIE the occurrence of CSF in that country. On September 10, 2018, APHIS removed Japan's CSF-free status on a provisional basis pending an epidemiological investigation and remedial measures. Due to the failure to control and eradicate the disease in Japan, on November 20, 2019, APHIS determined that this removal would not be reversible without a formal re-evaluation pursuant to § 92.4.

As a result of these determinations, the importation of pork and pork products and live swine from Japan is subject to the APHIS import restrictions in §§ 94.9 and 94.10, which are designed to mitigate risk of CSF introduction into the United States.

### Congressional Review Act

Pursuant to the Congressional Review Act (5 U.S.C. 801 *et seq.*), the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs designated this action as a non-major rule, as defined by 5 U.S.C. 804(2).

**Authority:** 7 U.S.C. 1633, 7701–7772, 7781–7786, and 8301–8317; 21 U.S.C. 136 and 136a; 31 U.S.C. 9701; 7 CFR 2.22, 2.80, and 371.4.

Done in Washington, DC, this 9th day of June 2021.

**Mark Davidson,**

*Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.*

[FR Doc. 2021–12595 Filed 6–15–21; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410–34–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Rural Business-Cooperative Service

[Docket #RBS–21–Business–0012]

#### Inviting Applications for the Rural Innovation Stronger Economy (RISE) Grant Program

**AGENCY:** Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of funding availability.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces that the Rural Business-Cooperative Service (Agency) is accepting fiscal year (FY) 2021 applications for the Rural Innovation Stronger Economy (RISE) program. The program funding level for FY 2021 is a total of \$10 million. The purpose of this program is to provide financial assistance to support job accelerator partnerships that improve the ability of distressed rural and energy communities to create high wage jobs, accelerate the formation of new businesses, and help rural communities identify and maximize local assets.

**DATES:** Completed applications must be submitted electronically by no later than 11:59 p.m. Eastern time, August 2, 2021, through *Grants.gov*, to be eligible for grant funding. Please review the *Grants.gov* website at [http://grants.gov/applicants/organization\\_registration.jsp](http://grants.gov/applicants/organization_registration.jsp) for instructions on the process of registering your organization as soon as possible to ensure that you are able to meet the electronic application deadline. Late applications are not eligible for funding under this notice and will not be evaluated.

**ADDRESSES:** You are encouraged to contact your USDA Rural Development State Office well in advance of the application deadline to discuss your project and ask any questions about the RISE program or application process. Contact information for State Offices can be found at <http://www.rd.usda.gov/contact-us/state-offices>.

Program guidance as well as an application template may be obtained at <http://www.rd.usda.gov/RISEgrant-program>. To submit an electronic application, follow the instructions for the RISE funding announcement located at <http://www.grants.gov>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Will Dodson, Rural Business-Cooperative

Service, United States Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Mail Stop-3226, Room 5160-South, Washington, DC 20250–3226, (202) 720–1400 or email [will.dodson@usda.gov](mailto:will.dodson@usda.gov).

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### Preface

As outlined in the Initial Report to the President on Empowering Workers Through Revitalizing Energy Communities, available at <https://netl.doe.gov/IWGInitialReport>, the Agency encourages energy communities to utilize the RISE program to support workforce development; identify and maximize local assets; spur job creation; and connect to regional opportunities, networks, and industry clusters.

To focus investments to areas for the largest opportunity for growth in prosperity, the Agency encourages applications that serve the smallest communities with the lowest incomes, with an emphasis on areas where at least 20 percent of the population is living in poverty, according to the American Community Survey data by census tracts.

#### Overview

*Federal Agency:* Rural Business-Cooperative Service.

*Funding Opportunity Title:* Rural Innovation Stronger Economy Grant Program.

*Announcement Type:* Initial Notice.

*Catalog of Federal Domestic*

*Assistance Number:* 10.755

*Date:* Application Deadline.

Electronic applications must be received and accepted by <http://www.grants.gov> no later than 11:59 p.m. Eastern time, August 2, 2021, or it will not be considered for funding.

The Application Template provides specific, detailed instructions for each item of a complete application. The Agency emphasizes the importance of including every item and strongly encourages applicants to follow the instructions carefully, using the examples and illustrations in the Application Template. Prior to official submission of applications, applicants may request technical assistance or other application guidance from the Agency, as long as such requests are made prior to July 16, 2021. Agency contact information can be found in Section D of this document.

*Hemp related projects:* Please note that no assistance or funding from this grant can be provided to a hemp producer unless they have a valid license issued from an approved State, Tribal or Federal plan as defined by the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018,