

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 Marketing Service

[Docket No. AMS-CN-21-0059]

Determination for Conducting a Continuance Referendum Regarding Amendments to the Cotton Research and Promotion Act

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) determination not to conduct a continuance referendum regarding the 1991 amendments to the Cotton Research and Promotion Order provided for in the Cotton Research and Promotion Act amendments of 1990. This determination is based on the results of a sign-up period conducted June 21, 2021, through July 2, 2021, and October 18, 2021, through October 29, 2021, during which eligible cotton producers and importers were provided an opportunity to request a continuance referendum.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Shethir M. Riva, Director, Research and Promotion, Cotton and Tobacco Program, AMS, USDA, 100 Riverside Parkway, Suite 101, Fredericksburg, Virginia 22406; Telephone (540) 361-2726, Email at CottonRP@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The 1991 amendments to the Cotton Research and Promotion Order (Order) (7 CFR part 1205) were implemented following the July 1991 referendum. The amendments were provided for in the 1990 amendments to the Cotton Research and Promotion Act (Act) (7 U.S.C. 2101-2118). These amendments provided for: (1) Importer representation on the Cotton Board by an appropriate number of persons, to be determined by USDA, who import cotton or cotton products into the U.S., and whom USDA selects

from nominations submitted by importer organizations certified by USDA; (2) assessments levied on imported cotton and cotton products at a rate determined in the same manner as for U.S. cotton; (3) increasing the amount USDA can be reimbursed for the conduct of a referendum from \$200,000 to \$300,000; (4) reimbursing government agencies that assist in administering the collection of assessments on imported cotton and cotton products; and (5) terminating the right of producers to demand a refund of assessments.

On December 18, 2020, USDA issued a determination based on its review not to conduct a referendum regarding the 1991 amendments to the Order (85 FR 82426); however, the Act provides that USDA shall nevertheless conduct a referendum at the request of 10 percent or more of the total number of eligible producers and importers that voted in the most recent referendum.

Pursuant to section 8(c) of the Act, USDA provided all eligible Upland cotton producers and importers of cotton and cotton-containing products an opportunity to sign up and request a continuance referendum regarding the 1991 amendments to the Order from June 21, 2021, until July 2, 2021 (86 FR 20255). During the counting and verification of sign-up requests, the AMS learned that the United States Postal Service (USPS) erroneously closed the Post Office Box AMS used to receive sign-up requests, and USPS returned mail contained within the box. Given this error by the USPS and not knowing how many pieces of mail were contained in the box, AMS believed it was necessary to reopen the sign-up period to allow for any eligible importers and producers to submit a request in the event any sign-ups submitted during the original sign-up were not received by AMS.

On September 21, 2021, USDA issued a direct final rule indicating that the sign-up period would be reopened October 18, 2021 through October 29, 2021. (86 FR 52397).

During the period of June 21, 2021, through July 2, 2021, and October 18, 2021, through October 29, 2021, USDA provided an opportunity for eligible cotton producers and importers to request a continuance referendum regarding the 1991 amendments to the Order provided for in the Act. Sign-up

requests from both sign-up periods were considered.

Sign-up period results showed that USDA received 3 valid requests from eligible producers and importers. The following table depicts the number of requests for a continuance referendum.

Farm service agency state office	Total sign-up requests
Alabama	0
Arizona	0
Arkansas	0
California	0
Florida	0
Georgia	0
Illinois	0
Kansas	0
Kentucky	0
Louisiana	0
Mississippi	0
Missouri	0
Nevada	0
New Mexico	0
North Carolina	2
Oklahoma	0
South Carolina	0
Tennessee	0
Texas	0
Virginia	0
Importers	1
Total	3

Section 8(c)(2) of the Act, provides that following a sign-up period, USDA shall conduct a referendum upon the request of 10 percent or more of the number of cotton producers and importers voting in the most recent referendum (1991). This would require 10 percent or 4,622 (46,220 × .10 = 4,622) of the 46,220 valid ballots cast by cotton producers and importers in the July 1991 referendum. It is further provided that, in counting such request not more than 20 percent may be from producers from any one state or importers of cotton.

The results of this sign-up period did not meet the criteria as established by the Act for a continuance referendum, and, therefore, a referendum will not be conducted. USDA bases this determination on the fact that the three valid requests received during the sign-up period is less than the 4,622 required.

With this announcement of the results of the sign-up period, USDA has completed all requirements set forth in Section 8(c)(1) and (2) of the Act regarding the review of the Cotton Research and Promotion Program to

determine if a continuance referendum is warranted. A referendum will not be conducted, and no further actions are planned in connection with this review. (Authority: 7 U.S.C. 2101–2118.)

Melissa Bailey,

Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 2021–27577 Filed 12–20–21; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–02–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Office of the Secretary

Meeting Notice of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board, Specialty Crop Committee

AGENCY: Research, Education, and Economics, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act, and the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) announces a meeting of the Specialty Crop Committee.

DATES: The National Agricultural Research Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board, Specialty Crop Committee will meet virtually via Zoom on January 19–20, 2022. The public may file written comments by to January 3, 2022.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will take place virtually via the Zoom meeting application at this link: [SCC Jan 2022 Meeting Link](#).

Web Preregistration: Participants wishing to participate should preregister by email at nareee@usda.gov to the attention of Ms. Shirley Morgan-Jordan. A meeting link will be sent out to pre-registered guests.

Written comments may be sent to The National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board Office, Room 6019, The South Building, United States Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250–0321. We recommend you email comments to nareee@usda.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kate Lewis, Executive Director/Designated Federal Official, or Shirley Morgan-Jordan, Program Support Coordinator, National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board; telephone: (202) 380–5373 or email: nareee@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Purpose of the meeting: To hear feedback on USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) Specialty Crop Research Initiative (SCRI) grant projects awarded in 2021. Project Directors will present their projects that address the critical needs of the specialty crop industry supporting research and extension issues by addressing key challenges of national, regional, and multi-state importance in sustaining all components of food and agriculture, including conventional and organic food production systems. An agenda for this two-day meeting may be received from Shirley Morgan-Jordan or at <https://nareeeab.ree.usda.gov>.

Public Participation: This meeting is open to the public via Zoom meeting application and via phone for any interested individuals wishing to attend. Opportunity for public comment will be offered. To attend the virtual meeting and/or make oral statements regarding any items on the agenda, you must contact USDA by email at: nareee@usda.gov. at least 5 business days prior to the meeting. Members of the public will be heard in the order in which they sign up at the beginning of the meeting. The Chair will conduct the meeting to facilitate the orderly conduct of business. Written comments by attendees and other interested stakeholders will be welcomed for the public record before and up to two weeks following the Board meeting (no later than close of business on Thursday, February 3, 2022). All written statements must be sent to Shirley Morgan-Jordan, Program Coordinator, National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 6019, The South Building, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250–0321; or by email: nareee@usda.gov. All statements will become a part of the official record of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board and will be kept on file for public review in the Research, Education, and Economics Advisory Board Office.

Dated: December 14, 2021.

Cikena Reid,

USDA Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 2021–27634 Filed 12–20–21; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–03–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Shasta County Resource Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, (Agriculture) USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Shasta County Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) will hold a virtual meeting by phone and/or video conference. The committee is authorized under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (the Act) and operates in compliance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The purpose of the committee is to improve collaborative relationships and to provide advice and recommendations to the Forest Service concerning projects and funding consistent with Title II of the Act, as well as make recommendations on recreation fee proposals for sites on the Shasta-Trinity National Forest within Shasta County. RAC information can be found at the following website: https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/stnf/working_together/advisorycommittees.

DATES: The virtual meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 2, 2022, 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Pacific Standard Time.

All RAC meetings are subject to cancellation. For status of the meetings prior to attendance, please contact the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held virtually via Microsoft Teams. Details for how to join the meeting are listed in the above website link under **SUMMARY**.

Written comments may be submitted as described under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**. All comments, including names and addresses when provided, are placed in the record and are available for public inspection and copying. The public may inspect comments received at the Shasta Lake Ranger Station. Please call ahead at 530–275–1587 to facilitate entry into the building.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lejon Hamann, RAC Coordinator, by phone at 530–410–1935 or via email at lejon.hamann@usda.gov.

Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the deaf/hard-of-hearing (TDD) may call the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1–800–877–8339, 24 hours per day, every day of the year, including holidays.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the meeting is to review the following: