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Andrea Neugebauer,
Acting Wyoming State Conservationist,
Natural Resources Conservation Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement

Advisory Committee on Minority Farmers

AGENCY: Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), the Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement (OPPE) is announcing a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Minority Farmers (ACMF). USDA Secretary Vilsack is committed to actions that enhance minority farmers' ability to produce and thrive as businesses through USDA's customer service enhancements, expanded outreach, technical assistance, and capacity building. To that end, the ACMF will likewise recommend action-oriented strategies for maximizing the participation of minority farmers by leveraging those programs that ensure a food secure nation and effectively steward our natural resources. These principals will usher in business growth and opportunity for those minority agricultural communities plagued with fragile economies in decline.

DATES: The ACMF meeting will begin on January 18-20, 2022, from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Pacific Standard Time (PST). Time will be allotted at the end of each morning and afternoon for comments from those attending. Public participants may also view the committee proceedings and presentations via Zoom: <https://ems8.intellor.com/login/846392>. Meeting ID and passcode is not required. The call-in numbers and code for listening only access are:
US Toll Free: 888-251-2949
US Toll: 215-861-0694

Access Code: 2154 982#

All persons wishing to make comments *during* the in-person meeting must check-in each day at the registration table. If the number of registrants requesting to speak is greater than what can be reasonably accommodated during the scheduled open public hearing session timeframe, OPPE may conduct a lottery to determine the speakers for the scheduled public comment session.

Meeting Pre-Registration and Public Comments: The public is asked to pre-register for the meeting by January 17, 2023, at <https://ems8.intellor.com/?do=register&t=1&p=846389>. For pre-registrations, we request your name, organization or affiliation, and intent to give oral comments. Participants may also submit written comments for the committee's consideration via the pre-registration link (<https://ems8.intellor.com/?do=register&t=1&p=846389>). Written comments must be received by or before January 17, 2023.

Members of the public who sign up to give oral comments to the Committee will be allowed time according to the number of speakers scheduled for each morning and afternoon public comment period. Members joining virtually may also request permission to give oral comments and will be instructed by the conference moderator on when and how to make live comments. Please remember that the comments made during the meeting will be added to the committee record only. Direct engagement or exchanges with committee members is not permitted while the meeting is in session.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the University of California, at Davis' ARC Conference Center, 760 Orchard Road, Davis, CA 95616. Drivers are instructed to park in Lot 25. A searchable campus map may be accessed here: <https://campusmap.ucdavis.edu/>. Parking is available at nominal cost.

Accessibility: USDA is committed to ensuring that all persons are included in our programs and events. If you are a person with a disability and require reasonable accommodations to participate in this meeting, please contact Mr. Eston Williams at Eston.Williams@usda.gov or (202) 596-0226. 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.

Availability of Materials for the Meeting: Presentations to be delivered to

the ACMF, including the final meeting agenda, and any updates regarding the meeting announced in this notice, can be found on the ACMF website at <https://www.usda.gov/partnerships/advisory-committee-on-minority-farmers>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

General information about the committee can also be found at <https://www.usda.gov/partnerships/advisory-committee-on-minority-farmers>. Any member of the public wishing to obtain information concerning this public meeting may contact Mr. Eston Williams, Designated Federal Officer (DFO) via email Eston.Williams@usda.gov or call (202) 596-0226.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The ACMF will be pivotal in its liaison role that both informs and advises the Secretary of actions that may be taken to support minority farming growth and assist them with challenges of today, as well as those they will face in coming years. During this public meeting, the ACMF will explore and consider challenges specific to minority rural farming communities, including but not limited to: (1) infrastructure and housing (e.g., Rural Development); (2) building economically viable, ecologically sound, and climate-smart farming and ranching (e.g., planning, building, and business expansion); (3) examining barriers to enhanced minority farmer and rancher participation in USDA programs, services and partnerships (e.g., Climate-Smart Commodities Funding); (4) addressing barriers to capital access, land acquisition, debt management (e.g., Farm Service Agency); (5) adverse economic impacts of farming and ranching risk management; and (6) examining barriers to broader participation in export markets.

From these topics, the ACMF will deliberate and form its next set of recommendations for the current term. The ACMF specifically seeks to engage and hear directly from a broad geographical cross-section of minority farmers on their experiences, pathways, and challenges as they contend with severe weather events or continued barriers of entry and economically sustainable farming. The USDA will also want to hear about personal experiences and encourage all to participate, including those organizations that support farmers from a large cross-section of farm type or size and ethnic diversity.

The Committee was established pursuant to section 14008 of the Food Conservation and Energy Act of 2008, Public Law 110-246, 122 Stat. 1651,

2008 (7 U.S.C. 2279), to ensure that socially disadvantaged farmers have equal access to USDA programs. The Secretary selected a diverse group of members representing a broad spectrum of persons chosen to recommend solutions to the challenges of minority farmers and ranchers, generally. The members also advise the Secretary on implementation of section 2501 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (the 2501 Program); maximizing the participation of minority farmers and ranchers in USDA programs; and civil rights activities within the Department relative to participants in its programs.

Dated: December 21, 2022.

Cikena Reid,

USDA Committee Management Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Office of the Secretary

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Generic Clearance for Requests for Meetings and Registrations for Events and Conferences

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of information collection, request for comment.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on proposed, and continuing information collections, which helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. The purpose of this notice is to allow for 60 days of public comment preceding submission of the collection to OMB.

DATES: To ensure consideration, comments regarding this proposed information collection must be received on or before February 27, 2023.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments to the Department Paperwork Reduction Act Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6616, 14th and Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20230 or via the internet at PRAComments@doc.gov. All comments received are part of the public record.

Comments will generally be posted without change. Please reference OMB Control Number 0690–0030 in the subject line of your comments. Do not submit Confidential Business Information or otherwise sensitive or protected information.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to S. Dumas, DOC PRA Clearance Officer, Office of Policy and Governance, 14th and Constitution Avenue NW, Room 6616, Washington, DC 20230 (202) 482–3306 or at PRAComments@doc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

This is a request for a new information collection.

This collection of information is needed to obtain information from the respondents who request meetings or appearances with Senior Officials or those who register to participate in DOC events, and conferences. The information is collected by the DOC employees who host the conferences and events, and those who manage calendars for Senior personnel. DOC is collecting common elements from interested respondents such as name, organization, address, country, phone number, email address, state, city or town, special accommodations requests and how the respondent learned of the event or conference. The information collection element may also include race, ethnicity, gender and veteran status, and other relevant information. The information is primarily used to assess attendance and assist DOC staff in preparations to serve individuals registering for online or in person events. If applicable, the information collection may be used to collect payment from the respondents and make hotel reservations and other special arrangements as necessary. Race, ethnicity, gender, and other demographic information obtained through registration is voluntary, and is used to monitor DOC's outreach and engagement of equity and support for underserved communities. This information is not used to evaluate any DOC program application and choosing not to provide this information will not affect the application process for any individual applying to a DOC program.

II. Method of Collection

Information on this form will be collected using a paper format or electronically and requires the victim's signature either by ink pen or CAC.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0690–XXXX.

Form Number(s): None.

Type of Review: Regular submission, new information collection.

Affected Public: Individuals, Business or other for-profit, non-for-profit institutions, Federal Government, State, Local, or Tribal Government.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 300,000.

Estimated Time per Response: 5 to 30 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 90,000.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: nominal.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

IV. Request for Comments

We are soliciting public comments to permit the Department/Bureau to: (a) Evaluate whether the proposed information collection is necessary for the proper functions of the Department, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the time and cost burden for this proposed collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) Evaluate ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) Minimize the reporting burden on those who are to respond, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of public record. We will include or summarize each comment in our request to OMB to approve this ICR. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Sheleen Dumas,

Department PRA Clearance Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Commerce Department.

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