

# 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.

## JOINT BOARD FOR THE ENROLLMENT OF ACTUARIES

### Meeting of the Advisory Committee; Meeting

**AGENCY:** Joint Board for the Enrollment of Actuaries.

**ACTION:** Notice of Federal Advisory Committee meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Executive Director of the Joint Board for the Enrollment of Actuaries gives notice of a closed meeting of the Advisory Committee on Actuarial Examinations.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on April 28, 2003, from 8:30 am to 5 pm.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Mercer Human Resource Consulting, at 1166 Avenue of the Americas, Conference Room, 30th Floor, New York, NY.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Patrick W. McDonough, Executive Director of the Joint Board for the Enrollment of Actuaries, 202-694-1891.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Notice is hereby given that the Advisory Committee on Actuarial Examinations will meet at the Mercer Human Resource Consulting, 1166 Avenue of the Americas, Conference Room, 30th Floor, New York, NY on Monday, April 28, 2003, from 8:30 am to 5 pm.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss topics and questions that may be recommended for inclusion on future Joint Board examinations in actuarial mathematics, pension law and methodology referred to in 29 U.S.C. 1242(a)(1)(B).

A determination has been made as required by section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App., that the subject of the meeting falls within the exception to the open meeting requirement set forth in Title 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(9)(B), and that the public interest requires that such meeting be closed to public participation.

Dated: March 25, 2003.

**Patrick W. McDonough,**  
*Executive Director, Joint Board for the Enrollment of Actuaries.*

[FR Doc. 03-8028 Filed 4-2-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4830-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Commodity Credit Corporation

#### Farmland Protection Program

**AGENCY:** Commodity Credit Corporation, Department of Agriculture (USDA).

**ACTION:** Notice of request for proposals.

**SUMMARY:** Section 2503 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Pub. L. 107-171) amended the Food Security Act of 1985 to include the Farmland Protection Program (FPP), providing up to \$100 million in financial assistance in fiscal year 2003, for the purposes described in FPP. Congress delegated authority for FPP to the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). NRCS, on behalf of the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) and using its authorities, requests proposals from Federally recognized Indian tribes, States, units of local government, and nongovernmental organizations to cooperate in the acquisition of conservation easements on farms and ranches. Eligible land includes farm and ranch land that has prime, unique, or other productive soil, or that contains historical or archaeological resources. These lands must also be subject to a pending offer from eligible entities for the purpose of protecting topsoil by limiting conversion of that land to nonagricultural uses.

**DATES:** Proposals must be received in the NRCS State Office within May 19, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** Written proposals should be sent to the appropriate NRCS State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA. The telephone numbers and addresses of the NRCS State Conservationists are in the appendix of this notice.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Denise Coleman, NRCS; phone: (202) 720-9476; fax: (202) 720-0745; or e-mail: [denise.coleman@usda.gov](mailto:denise.coleman@usda.gov); Subject: FPP or consult the NRCS Web

site at: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/farmland/2002/PubNotc.html>.

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### Background

Urban sprawl continues to threaten the Nation's farm and ranch land, as social and economic changes over the past three decades have influenced the rate at which land is converted to non-agricultural uses. Population growth, demographic changes, preferences for larger lots, expansion of transportation systems, and economic prosperity have contributed to increases in agricultural land conversion rates.

The amount of farm and ranch land lost to development and the quality of farmland being converted are significant concerns. In most States, prime farmland is being converted at two to four times the rate of other, less-productive agricultural land.

There continues to be an important national interest in the protection of farmland. Land use devoted to agriculture provides an important contribution to environmental quality, protection of the Nation's historical and archaeological resources, and scenic beauty.

#### Availability of Funding

Effective on the publication date of this notice, NRCS announces the availability of up to \$100 million for FPP, until September 30, 2003. The NRCS State Conservationist must receive proposals for participation within 45 days of the date of this notice. State, Tribal, and local government entities and nongovernmental organizations may apply. Selection will be based on the criteria established in this notice, and additional criteria developed by the applicable State Conservationist. Pending offers by an eligible entity must be for acquiring an easement for perpetuity, except where State law prohibits a permanent easement.

Under the Farmland Protection Program, NRCS may provide up to 50 percent of the appraised fair market value of the conservation easement. Landowner donations up to 25 percent of the appraised fair market value of the conservation easement may be considered part of the entity's matching offer. For the entity, two cost-share options are available when providing its matching offer. One option is for the