

Secretary of Agriculture regarding program operations and measures to suppress, control, or eradicate an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease, or other destructive foreign animal or poultry diseases, in the event these diseases should enter the United States. The Committee also advises the Secretary of Agriculture of means to prevent these diseases.

Done in Washington, DC, this 4th day of September, 2003.

Peter Fernandez,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 03-23126 Filed 9-10-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 03-028-1]

National Wildlife Services Advisory Committee; Notice of Renewal

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of renewal.

SUMMARY: We are giving notice that the Secretary of Agriculture has renewed the National Wildlife Services Advisory Committee for a 2-year period. The Secretary has determined that the Committee is necessary and in the public interest.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Joanne Garrett, Director, Operational Support Staff, WS, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 87, Riverdale, MD 20737-1234; (301) 734-5149.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the National Wildlife Services Advisory Committee (the Committee) is to advise the Secretary of Agriculture on policies, program issues, and research needed to conduct the Wildlife Services program. The Committee also serves as a public forum enabling those affected by the Wildlife Services program to have a voice in the program's policies.

Done in Washington, DC, this 3rd day of September 2003 .

Peter Fernandez,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 03-23127 Filed 9-10-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Notice of Resource Advisory Committee Meeting

AGENCY: North Central Idaho Resource Advisory Committee, Kamiah, Idaho, USDA, Forest Service.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the authorities in the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Public Law 92-463) and under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (Pub. L. 106-393) the Nez Perce and Clearwater National Forests' North Central Idaho Resource Advisory Committee will meet Thursday, October 2, 2003 in Kooskia, Idaho for a business meeting. The meeting is open to the public.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The business meeting on October 2, begins at 10 a.m. (pst), at the Clearwater National Forest, Supervisor's Office, 12730 Highway 12, Orofino, Idaho. Agenda topics will include discussion of potential projects. A public forum will begin at 2:30 p.m. (pst).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT. Ihor Mereszczak, Staff Officer and Designated Federal Officer, at (208) 935-2513.

Dated: September 4, 2003.

Ihor Mereszczak,

Acting Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 03-23195 Filed 9-10-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Notice of Funding Availability and Invitation To Apply for Agriculture Innovation Center Demonstration Program Grants

AGENCY: Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS or Agency) provides notice of the availability of \$10,000,000 in fiscal year (FY) 2003 funds (NOFA) to fund the establishment of agriculture innovation centers that are to provide assistance to agriculture producers in the development of value-added businesses. This NOFA lists the information needed to submit an application for these grants.

DATES: The deadline for receipt of an application is 4 p.m. eastern time on September 16, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Hand-delivered applications or applications submitted using an express mail or overnight courier service should be sent to: Marc Warman, USDA Rural Business-Cooperative Service, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Room 4016, Washington, DC 20250; Telephone: (202) 720-8460. Applications sent via the U.S. Postal Service must be sent to: Marc Warman, USDA Rural Business-Cooperative Service, STOP 3252, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250-3252. Applications sent via email attachment must be sent to: marc.warman@usda.gov. Please note that due to recent security concerns, packages sent to the Agency have suffered significant delays. Entities wishing to apply for assistance should contact Marc Warman to receive further information and copies of the application package.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jim Haskell, Acting Deputy Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA, Stop 3250, Room 4016, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250-3250, telephone: (202) 720-8460, or email: james.haskell@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Paperwork Reduction Act

The Agency published a notice requesting comments on the collection requirements contained in this NOFA concurrent with the publication of the related proposed rule on June 13, 2003 (68 FR 35321). No comments were received on the paperwork burden. OMB granted a standard approval of the paperwork burden under control number 0570-0045 for this program.

Background

Section 6402 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Pub. L. 107-171) (2002 Farm Bill) authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to establish up to 10 agriculture innovation demonstration centers (Agriculture Innovation Centers or AICs) in Fiscal Year 2003. The purpose of these centers is to foster the ability of agricultural producers to reap the benefits of producing and marketing value-added products.

Relationship between this NOFA and the earlier published Advance RFP Recognizing that the time requirements for publishing the final rule were very tight, the Agency published a notice on August 1, 2003 (Advance RFP) outlining all of the requirements for applying for FY 2003 grants that were then known. While the Advance RFP anticipated the publication of a final rule implementing the AIC grant program before the end of