

in nursery production areas. For the development of new regulatory treatments, about \$350,000 is allocated annually to our plant protection station in Gulfport, MS. To our knowledge, the Gulfport Plant Protection Station is the only facility in the country that is developing regulatory treatments for the imported fire ant.

In response to public support for increased funding for our imported fire ant program, Congress restored about \$2.1 million for the imported fire ant program in Fiscal Year 2001. The majority of this appropriation will be distributed to States for enforcement and regulatory activities. We will retain a small percentage for administrative costs.

Done in Washington, DC, this 28th day of February 2001.

Bobby R. Acord,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. 01-011N]

Codex Alimentarius: Meeting of the Codex *ad hoc* Intergovernmental Task Force on Animal Feeding

AGENCY: Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), are sponsoring a public meeting, on Tuesday, March 6, 2001. The purpose of this meeting is to provide information and receive public comments on agenda items that will be discussed at the 2nd Session of the Codex *ad hoc* Intergovernmental Task Force on Animal Feeding, which will be held in Copenhagen, Denmark, on March 19-21, 2001. USDA and FDA recognize the importance of providing interested parties the opportunity to obtain background information on the 2nd Session of the Codex *ad hoc* Intergovernmental Task Force on Animal Feeding and to address items on the Agenda.

DATES: The public meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 6, 2001, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will be held in the Conference Room M of the

Parklawn Building, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, Maryland 20855 (Twinbrook Metro Station on the Red Line).

Reference documents will be available for review in the FSIS Docket Room, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Room 102 Cotton Annex, 300 12th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20250-3700. The documents will also be accessible via the World Wide Web at the following address: http://www.fao.org/waicent/faoinfo/economic/esn/codex/ccaf02/af01_01e.htm.

Submit one original and two copies of written comments to the FSIS Docket Room and at the address above and reference docket number 01-011N. All comments submitted in response to this notice will be available for public inspection in the FSIS Docket Room between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Patrick J. Clerkin, Associate U.S. Manager for Codex, U.S. Codex Office, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Room 4861, South Building, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250. Telephone (202) 205-7760, Fax: (202) 720-3157. Persons requiring a sign language interpreter or other special accommodations should notify Mr. Clerkin at the above number.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Codex Alimentarius Commission was established in 1962 by two United Nations organizations, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO). Codex is the major international organization for encouraging fair international trade in food and protecting the health and economic interests of consumers. Through adoption of food standards, codes of practice, and other guidelines developed by its committees, and by promoting their adoption and implementation by governments, Codex seeks to ensure that the world's food supply is sound, wholesome, free from adulteration, and correctly labeled. In the United States, USDA, FDA, and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) manage and carry out U.S. Codex activities.

The Codex *ad hoc* Intergovernmental Task Force on Animal Feeding was established by the 23rd Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission to develop Guidelines or Standards as appropriate on Good Animal Feeding practices with the aim of ensuring the safety and quality of foods of animal

origin. The *ad hoc* Task Force is chaired by Denmark.

Issues To Be Discussed at the Public Meeting

The provisional agenda items to be discussed during the public meeting:

1. Information paper compiling a list of internationally available standards and validated methods for the examination of animal feed.

2. Information paper on lists established by different governments to control the use of prohibited and undesirable substances in animal feed or other approaches.

3. Consideration of the Revised Draft Code of Practice on Good Animal Feeding at Step 4.

Public Meeting

At the March 6th public meeting, the agenda items will be described, discussed, and attendees will have the opportunity to pose questions and offer comments. Comments may be sent to the FSIS Docket Room (see **ADDRESSES**). Written comments should state that they relate to activities of the 2nd *ad hoc* International Task Force on Animal Feeding.

Additional Public Notification

Public awareness of all segments of rulemaking and policy development is important. Consequently, in an effort to better ensure that minorities, women, and persons with disabilities are aware of this notice, FSIS will announce it and provide copies of this **Federal Register** publication in the FSIS Constituent Update. FSIS provides a weekly FSIS Constituent Update, which is communicated via fax to over 300 organizations and individuals. In addition, the update is available on-line through the FSIS web page located at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov>. The update is used to provide information regarding FSIS policies, procedures, regulations, **Federal Register** notices, FSIS public meetings, recalls, and any other types of information that could affect or would be of interest to our constituents/stakeholders. The constituent fax list consists of industry, trade, and farm groups, consumer interest groups, allied health professionals, scientific professionals, and other individuals that have requested to be included. Through these various channels, FSIS is able to provide information to a much broader, more diverse audience. For more information and to be added to the constituent fax list, fax your request to the Congressional and Public Affairs Office, at (202) 720-5704.

Done at Washington, DC on March 1, 2001.
F. Edward Scarbrough,
U.S. Manager for Codex Alimentarius.
 [FR Doc. 01-5420 Filed 3-5-01; 8:45 am]
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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) Invitation for Applications for the Value-Added Agricultural Product Market Development Grant Program (VADG) (Information Resource Center)

AGENCY: Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS) announces the availability of up to \$5,000,000 in competitive grant funds for the establishment of a value-added technical resource center. RBS hereby requests proposals from eligible institutions to establish a single pilot project to be known as the Agricultural Marketing Resource Center. This Center will have the capabilities, including electronic, to coordinate and provide information regarding research, business, legal, financial, and logistical assistance to independent producers and processors of value-added agricultural commodities and products of agricultural commodities. The Center will also develop a nationwide market information and coordination system.

DATES: The deadline for receipt of an application is 4:00 p.m. eastern time on April 30, 2001. The application deadline is firm as to date and hour and applies to submission of the original application and two copies to the National Office in Washington, DC. The agency will not consider any application received after the deadline. Comments regarding the information collection requirements under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 must be received on or before May 7, 2001 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Send proposals and other required materials to Dr. Thomas H. Stafford, Director, Cooperative Marketing Division, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA, Stop 3252, Room 4204, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250-3252. Telephone: (202) 690-0368, E-Mail: thomas.stafford@usda.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Thomas H. Stafford, Director, Cooperative Marketing Division, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA, STOP 3252, Room 4202, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Washington,

DC 20250-3252. Telephone (202) 690-0368, Facsimile (202) 690-2723, E-mail: thomas.stafford@usda.gov. You may also obtain information from the RBS website at: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/coops/vadg.htm>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

This solicitation is issued pursuant to section 231 of the Agriculture Risk Protection Act of 2000 authorizing the establishment of the Value-Added Agricultural Product Market Development grants. The Secretary of Agriculture has delegated the program's administration to USDA's Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS) for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001. The Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS) was established by the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994. The mission of RBS is to improve the quality of life in rural America by financing businesses, providing technical assistance, and creating effective strategies for rural development.

The primary objective of this program is to establish a pilot project to be known as the Agricultural Marketing Resource Center. This Center will have the capabilities, including electronic capabilities, to collect, disseminate, coordinate, and provide information on value-added processing to independent producers and processors of value-added agricultural commodities and products of agricultural commodities. This includes information on value-added research, business operations, legal issues, financial issues, and logistical assistance. The Center will also develop a strategy to establish a nationwide market information and coordination system.

A single grant will be awarded on a competitive basis to an eligible institution as defined in this NOFA based on specific selection criteria. Parts 3015 and 3019 of 7 CFR will be applicable to this program.

This grant program has a matching funds requirement. Applicants must provide matching funds at least equal to the grant. Grant funds will be disbursed pursuant to relevant provisions of 7 CFR parts 3015 and 3019, as applicable. Matching funds must be used to support the overall purpose of the VADG program.

All forms required to apply are available from the Cooperative Services Program web-site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/coops/vadg.htm>, by calling (202) 690-0368, or faxing (202) 690-2723. Forms may also be requested via the internet by sending a message with your name, mailing address (not e-mail), and phone number

to thomas.stafford@usda.gov. When calling or e-mailing, please indicate you are requesting forms for fiscal year FY 2001 (FY 2001) Value-Added Product Market Development Grant Program. Forms will be mailed to you (not e-mailed or faxed) as quickly as possible.

Definitions

Agency—The Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS) or its successor.

Agricultural Product—Plant and animal products and their by-products, including aquaculturally produced fish and seafood products and forestry products.

Business Plan—A description of economic activities that will lead to a potential viable value-added venture including feasibility studies, marketing plans, business operations plans, and legal evaluations.

Center—The Agricultural Marketing Resource Center which is to be established and operated by the grantee to work with independent producers and processors on value-added ventures.

Independent Producers—Agricultural producers, including associations of producers and producer-owned corporations, who do not produce the agricultural product under contract or joint ownership with any other organization.

Matching Funds—Cash or confirmed funding commitments from non-Federal sources. Matching funds must be at least equal to the grant amount. In-kind contributions as defined in 7 CFR part 3015, subpart G and 7 CFR section 3019.23 can be used as matching funds. Examples of in-kind contributions include volunteer services furnished by professional and technical personnel, donated supplies and equipment, and donated office space.

Non-Profit Corporation or Institution—Any organization or institution, including an accredited institution of higher education, no part of the net earnings of which inures, or may lawfully inure, to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual.

Public Body—Any state, county, city, township, incorporated town or village, borough, authority, district, economic development authority, or Indian tribe on Federal or state reservations or other federally recognized tribe.

Technical Assistance—Development activities to ensure that a successful value-added venture is organized. These activities include, but are not limited to, conducting feasibility, environmental, and other essential studies, or preparing