

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

Advisory Committee on Biotechnology and 21st Century Agriculture Meeting

AGENCY: Office of the Under Secretary, Research, Education, and Economics, Agricultural Research Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. 2, the United States Department of Agriculture announces a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Biotechnology and 21st Century Agriculture (AC21).

DATES: The meeting dates are May 29–30, 2012, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day.

ADDRESSES: U.S. Access Board Conference Room, 1331 F Street NW., Suite 800, Washington, DC 20004–1111.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael Schechtman, Designated Federal Official, Office of the Deputy Secretary, USDA, 202B Jamie L. Whitten Federal Building, 12th and Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250; Telephone (202) 720–3817; Fax (202) 690–4265; Email AC21@ars.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The next meeting of the AC21 has been scheduled for May 29–30, 2012. The AC21 consists of members representing the biotechnology industry, the organic food industry, farming communities, the seed industry, food manufacturers, state government, consumer and community development groups, as well as academic researchers and a medical doctor. In addition, representatives from the Department of Commerce, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of State, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Council on Environmental Quality, and the Office of the United States Trade Representative have been invited to serve as “*ex officio*” members. The Committee meeting will be held from

8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on each day. The topics to be discussed will include: final reports from the four AC21 working groups on analyses relevant to the overall AC21 charge; potential economic impacts on farmers from the escape of certain genetically engineered crops with functional traits; and further analysis of committee members’ views related to the Committee charge in order to identify areas of agreement as well as differences and to prepare for development of a draft report.

Background information regarding the work and membership of the AC21 is available on the USDA Web site at <http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentid=AC21Main.xml&contentidonly=true>. Members of the public who wish to make oral statements should also inform Dr. Schechtman in writing or via Email at the indicated addresses at least three business days before the meeting. On May 29, 2012, if time permits, reasonable provision will be made for oral presentations of no more than five minutes each in duration.

The meeting will be open to the public, but space is limited. If you would like to attend the meetings, you must register by contacting Ms. Dianne Fowler at (202) 720–4074 or by Email at Dianne.fowler@ars.usda.gov at least 5 days prior to the meeting. Please provide your name, title, business affiliation, address, telephone, and fax number when you register. If you are a person with a disability and request reasonable accommodations to participate in this meeting, please note the request in your registration. All reasonable accommodation requests are managed on a case by case basis.

Dated: April 18, 2012.

Ann Bartuska,

Deputy Under Secretary, Research, Education and Economics.

[FR Doc. 2012–10264 Filed 5–3–12; 4:15 pm]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. FSIS–2011–0009]

Changes to FSIS Traceback, Recall Procedures for *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 Positive Raw Beef Product, and Availability of Compliance Guidelines

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is announcing proposed new procedures that it intends to implement when FSIS or other Federal or State agencies find raw ground beef presumptive positive for *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) O157:H7. This methodology will enable FSIS to better determine whether the establishments that produced the source materials for contaminated product have produced other product that may not be microbiologically independent from the contaminated product. The Agency is also announcing its intention to now, as a matter of routine policy, request a recall if an establishment was the sole supplier of beef trim source materials for ground product that FSIS or other Federal or State agencies find positive for *E. coli* O157:H7, evidence suggests that contamination most likely occurred at the supplier establishment, and a portion of the product from the originating source lot was sent to other establishments. This notice also explains that FSIS intends to determine whether it can make better use of establishment results and also intends to conduct a study to help it identify the source of *E. coli* O157:H7 positive ground beef when the material from multiple suppliers was used to produce positive product. Finally, this notice announces the availability of compliance guidelines concerning establishment sampling and testing for shiga toxin-producing *E. coli* (STEC) organisms or virulence markers and compliance guidelines for *E. coli* O157:H7 sampled and tested labeling claims.

DATES: FSIS requests comments on policies and procedures in this notice by July 6, 2012. FSIS intends to evaluate comments, make any necessary changes to policies and procedures based on