

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

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Doc. No. AMS-SC-19-0010; SC19-996-1]

Peanut Standards Board; Request for Nominations

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice; request for nominations.

SUMMARY: The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (2002 Farm Bill) requires the Secretary of Agriculture (Secretary) to establish a Peanut Standards Board (Board) for the purpose of advising the Secretary on quality and handling standards for domestically produced and imported peanuts. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is seeking nominations for individuals to be considered for selection as Board members for a term of office ending June 30, 2022.

DATES: Written nominations must be received on or before May 3, 2019.

ADDRESSES: Nominations should be sent to Steven W. Kauffman of the Southeast Marketing Field Office, Marketing Order and Agreement Division, Specialty Crops Program, AMS, USDA, 1124 1st Street South, Winter Haven, FL 33880; Telephone: (863) 324-3375; Fax: (863) 291-8614; Email: Steven.Kauffman@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 1308 of the 2002 Farm Bill requires the Secretary establish and consult with the Board for the purpose of advising the Secretary regarding the establishment of quality and handling standards for all domestic and imported peanuts marketed in the United States.

The 2002 Farm Bill, as amended by § 12502 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, provides the Board's makeup will include three producers and three peanut industry representatives from States specified in each of the following producing regions:

Southeast (Alabama, Georgia, and Florida); Southwest (Texas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico); and Virginia/Carolina (Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina). The Board consists of 18 members with representation equally divided between peanut producers and industry representatives. Each term of office is for a period of three years. The terms of office are staggered in order to replace one third of the Board each year.

The term "peanut industry representatives" includes, but is not limited to, representatives of shellers, manufacturers, buying points, marketing associations and marketing cooperatives. The 2002 Farm Bill exempted the appointment of the Board from the requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

USDA invites individuals, organizations, and groups affiliated with the categories listed above to nominate individuals for membership on the Board. All qualified nominees are forwarded for consideration as the Farm Bill does not provide for any voting. Appointees sought by this action will fill two positions in the Southeast region, two positions in the Southwest region, and two positions in the Virginia/Carolina region.

Nominees should complete an Advisory Committee or Research and Promotion Background Information form (AD-755) and submit it to Steven W. Kauffman at the address provided in the **ADDRESSES** section above. Copies of this form may be obtained at the internet site <http://www.ams.usda.gov/about-ams/facas-advisory-councils/peanut-board>, or from the Southeast Marketing Field Office. USDA seeks a diverse group of members representing the peanut industry.

Equal opportunity practices will be followed in all appointments to the Board in accordance with USDA policies. To ensure the recommendations of the Board have considered the needs of the diverse groups within the peanut industry, membership shall include, to the extent practicable, individuals with demonstrated abilities to represent minorities, women, persons with disabilities, and limited resource agriculture producers.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 7958.

Dated: March 13, 2019.

Bruce Summers,
Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 2019-05074 Filed 3-18-19; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Doc. No. AMS-NOP-18-0098; NOP-18-04]

National Organic Standards Board (NOSB): Call for Nominations

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice: call for nominations.

SUMMARY: The National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) was established to assist in the development of standards for substances to be used in organic production and to advise the Secretary on the implementation of the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (OFPA). Through this Notice, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is announcing its call for nominations to fill five vacancies. Descriptions of the five positions are listed below under supplementary information. Appointees will serve a five-year term beginning January 24, 2020 and ending January 23, 2025. Additionally, the USDA seeks nominations for a pool of candidates that the Secretary of Agriculture can draw upon as replacement appointees if unexpected vacancies occur.

DATES: Written nominations must be postmarked on or before May 20, 2019.

ADDRESSES: Applications can be sent via email to Michelle Arsenault at Michelle.Arsenault@ams.usda.gov, or mailed to: USDA-AMS-NOP, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Room 2642-S., Ag Stop 0268, Washington, DC 20250-0268. Electronic submittals are preferred.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michelle Arsenault, (202) 720-0081; Email: Michelle.Arsenault@ams.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The OFPA, as amended (7 U.S.C. 6501 *et seq.*), requires the Secretary to establish the NOSB in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) (5 U.S.C. App. 2 *et seq.*). The NOSB is composed of 15 members: Four

individuals who own or operate an organic farming operation, or employees of such individuals (as amended by the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018); two individuals who own or operate an organic handling operation, or employees of such individuals (as amended by the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018); one individual who owns or operates a retail establishment with significant trade in organic products, or employees of such individuals (as amended by the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018); three individuals with expertise in areas of environmental protection and resource conservation; three individuals who represent public interest or consumer interest groups; one scientist with expertise in the fields of toxicology, ecology, or biochemistry; and one individual who is a certifying agent.

Through this Notice, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) seeks to fill the following five positions: one individual with expertise in areas of environmental protection and resource conservation; one individual who owns or operates an organic farming operation or employees of such individuals; two individuals who own or operate an organic handling operation or employees of such individuals; and one individual who owns or operates a retail establishment with significant trade in organic products or an employee of such individuals.

As per the OFPA, individuals seeking appointment to the NOSB must meet the definition of the position that they seek as identified under 7 U.S.C. 6518, as well as satisfy the selection criteria for an NOSB member. Selection criteria include the following: An understanding of organic principles and practical experience in the organic community; demonstrated experience and interest in organic production and organic certification; demonstrated experience with respect to agricultural products produced and handled on certified organic farms; a commitment to the integrity of the organic food and fiber industry; demonstrated experience in the development of public policy such as participation on public or private advisory boards, boards of directors or other comparable organizations; support of consumer and public interest organizations; participation in standards development or involvement in educational outreach activities; the ability to evaluate technical information and to fully participate in Board deliberation and recommendations; the willingness to commit the time and energy necessary to assume Board duties; and other such

factors as may be appropriate for specific positions.

All appointees will serve a five-year term beginning January 24, 2020 and ending January 23, 2025. Due to an unexpected member vacancy for one of the organic handling positions, one of the five appointed members will fill this seat. Historically, a candidate filling an unexpected vacancy completed the remaining term of that appointment. However, to promote greater efficiency and continuity of NOSB operations, a candidate filling an unexpected vacancy will now begin a new five-year term.

To nominate yourself or someone else, please submit the following: A resume (required), Form AD-755 (required), which can be accessed at: <https://www.ocio.usda.gov/document/ad-755>, a cover letter (optional), and a list of endorsements or letters of recommendation (optional). Resumes should be no longer than 5 pages and should include a summary of the following information: Current and past organization affiliations; areas of expertise; education; career positions held; any other notable positions held. Previous applicants who wish to be considered must reapply.

If USDA receives a request under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (5 U.S.C. 552) for records relating to NOSB nominations, your application materials may be released to the requester. Prior to the release of the information, personally identifiable information protected by the Privacy Act, 5 U.S.C. 552a, will be redacted.

Nominations are open to all individuals without regard to race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, mental or physical disability, marital status, or sexual orientation. To ensure that the recommendations of the NOSB take into account the needs of the diverse groups that are served by the Department, membership on the NOSB shall include, to the extent practicable, individuals with demonstrated ability to represent minorities, women, and persons with disabilities.

The information collection requirements concerning the nomination process have been previously cleared by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under OMB Control No. 0505-0001.

Dated: March 13, 2019.

Bruce Summers,

Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 2019-05075 Filed 3-18-19; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Research Service

Economic Research Service

National Agricultural Statistics Service

National Institute of Food and Agriculture

2018 Research, Education, and Economics Farm Bill Implementation Listening Session

AGENCY: Agricultural Research Service, Economic Research Service, National Agricultural Statistics Service, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Office of the Chief Scientist, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In preparing to implement the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (commonly referred to as the 2018 Farm Bill), USDA's Research, Education, and Economics (REE) mission area will host a listening session for public input regarding new programs and changes to existing programs implemented by the Agricultural Research Service (ARS), Economic Research Service (ERS), National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), and the Office of the Chief Scientist (OCS).

DATES: *Listening session:* The listening session will be held on March 21, 2019 between the hours of 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. Eastern. Exact times to be announced upon registering.

Registration: You must register by 5 p.m. Eastern on March 20, 2019, to attend the listening session in person. If you are attending the listening session there is an expectation that the organization you are representing will be presenting oral comments. Attendance is limited to three individuals per organization; all individuals must register, but all three are not required to speak. In addition to presenting orally, you are also encouraged to submit one page of written comments by 5 p.m. Eastern on March 29, 2019. While we recommend written submissions be no more than one page or 500 words, we will accept materials that exceed those lengths.

Comments: If you are unable to attend the listening session in-person, written comments are welcome and are due by 5pm Eastern on March 29, 2019 to <http://www.regulations.gov>. Stakeholders attending the listening session in-person are welcome to submit comments to the **Federal Register**, but are not required. Stakeholder input received orally and in writing will be