DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Office of Tribal Relations; Council for Native American Farming and Ranching

AGENCY: Office of Tribal Relations, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a forthcoming meeting of The Council for Native American Farming and Ranching (CNAFR) a public advisory committee of the Office of Tribal Relations (OTR). Notice of the meetings are provided in accordance with section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, (5 U.S.C. Appendix 2). This will be the third meeting of the 2014–2016 CNAFR term and will consist of, but is not limited to: a public comment period; updates on USDA programs and activities; and discussion of committee priorities. This meeting will be open to the public.

DATES: The meeting will be held on March 25th from 2:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. and March 26th from 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. and March 27th from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The meeting will be open to the public. Note that a period for public comment will be held on March 25, 2015, from 2:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting and public comment period will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn Oklahoma City Bricktown, 328 East Sheridan Avenue, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73104 in the Cimarron-Red River Combo Room.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Questions should be directed to John Lowery, Designated Federal Officer, Office of Tribal Relations (OTR), 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Whitten Bldg., 500–A, Washington, DC 20250; by Fax: (202) 720–1058; or email: John.Lowery@osec.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) as amended (5 U.S.C. App. 2), USDA established an advisory council for Native American farmers and ranchers. The CNAFR is a discretionary advisory committee established under the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture, in furtherance of the settlement agreement in Keepeesogle v. Vilsack that was granted final approval by the District Court for the District of Columbia on April 28, 2011. The CNAFR will operate under the provisions of the FACA and report to the Secretary of Agriculture. The purpose of the CNAFR is (1) to advise the Secretary of Agriculture on issues related to the participation of Native American farmers and ranchers in USDA farm loan programs; (2) to transmit recommendations concerning any changes to FSA regulations or internal guidance or other measures that would eliminate barriers to program participation for Native American farmers and ranchers; (3) to examine methods of maximizing the number of new farming and ranching opportunities created through the farm loan program through enhanced extension and financial literacy services; (4) to examine methods of encouraging intergovernmental cooperation to mitigate the effects of land tenure and probate issues on the delivery of USDA farm loan programs; (5) to evaluate other methods of creating new farming or ranching opportunities for Native American producers; and (6) to address other related issues as deemed appropriate.

The Secretary of Agriculture selected a diverse group of members representing a broad spectrum of persons interested in providing solutions to the challenges of the aforementioned purposes. Equal opportunity practices were considered in all appointments to the CNAFR in accordance with USDA policies. The Secretary selected the members in September 2014. Interested persons may present views, orally or in writing, on issues relating to agenda topics before the CNAFR.

Written Comments: Written comments may be submitted to: John Lowery, Designated Federal Officer, Office of Tribal Relations (OTR), 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Whitten Bldg., 500–A, Washington, DC 20250; by Fax: (202) 720–1058; or by email: John.Lowery@osec.usda.gov.

The meeting will take place at the San Diego Marriott La Jolla, 4240 La Jolla Village Drive, La Jolla, CA 92037–1407, (858) 587–1414. Information and instructions pertaining to the meeting are posted at the following web address: http://www.ams.usda.gov/NOSBMeetings.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For printed materials or additional information, write to Ms. Michelle Arsenault, Special Assistant, National Organic Standards Board, USDA–AMS—NOP, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Room 2648–So., Mail Stop 0266, Washington, DC 20250–0268; Phone: (202) 720–3252; Email: nosb@ams.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The NOSB makes recommendations about whether substances should be allowed or prohibited in organic production and/or handling, assists in the development of standards for organic production, and at the CNAFR meetings and will make every effort to accommodate persons with physical disabilities or special needs. If you require special accommodations due to a disability, please contact John Lowery, at least 10 business days in advance of the meeting.

Leslie Wheelock.
Director, Office of Tribal Relations.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service


Notice of Meeting of the National Organic Standards Board

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, (5 U.S.C. App.), the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is announcing an upcoming meeting of the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB). Written public comments are invited in advance of the meeting, and the meeting will include scheduled time for oral comments from the public.

DATES: The meeting will be held April 27–30, 2015, from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day. The deadline to submit written public comments and sign up for oral public comments is Tuesday, April 7, 2015.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will take place at the San Diego Marriott La Jolla, 4240 La Jolla Village Drive, La Jolla, CA 92037–1407, (858) 587–1414. Information and instructions pertaining to the meeting are posted at the following web address: http://www.ams.usda.gov/NOSBMeetings.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For printed materials or additional information, write to Ms. Michelle Arsenault, Special Assistant, National Organic Standards Board, USDA–AMS–NOP, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Room 2648–So., Mail Stop 0266, Washington, DC 20250–0268; Phone: (202) 720–3252; Email: nosb@ams.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The NOSB makes recommendations about whether substances should be allowed or prohibited in organic production and/or handling, assists in the development of standards for organic production, and
advises the Secretary on other aspects of the implementation of the Organic Foods Production Act (7 U.S.C. 6501–6522). The NOSB currently has six subcommittees working on various aspects of the Organic Program. The subcommittees are: Compliance, Accreditation, and Certification; Crops; Handling; Livestock; Materials/Genetically Modified Organisms; and Policy Development. The primary purpose of NOSB meetings is to provide an opportunity for the organic community to give input on proposed NOSB recommendations and discussion items. The meetings also allow the NOSB to receive updates from the USDA AMS National Organic Program (NOP) on issues pertaining to organic agriculture. The meeting will be open to the public. The meeting agenda, NOSB proposals and discussion documents, instructions for submitting and viewing public comments, and instructions for requesting a time slot for oral comments are available on the AMS Web site at http://www.ams.usda.gov/NOSBMeetings. The discussion documents and proposals encompass a wide range of topics, including substances petitioned to the National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances (National List), substances on the National List that require NOP review before their 2016 and 2017 sunset dates, updates from working groups on technical issues, and amendments to guidance on organic policies. This meeting will serve as the NOSB’s final review of substances that have a sunset date in 2016. This review will fulfill the NOSB’s responsibilities described in the Organic Foods Production Act’s sunset provision (section 2118(e)).

Public Comments: Written public comments will be accepted through Tuesday, April 7, 2015 via www.regulations.gov. Comments received after that date may not be reviewed by the NOSB before the meeting. AMS strongly prefers comments to be submitted electronically; however, written comments may also be submitted by Tuesday, April 7, 2014 via mail to Ms. Michelle Arsenault, Special Assistant, National Organic Standards Board, USDA—AMS—NOP, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Room 2648–S, Mail Stop 0268, Washington, DC 20250–0268. Instructions for viewing all comments are posted at www.regulations.gov and http://www.ams.usda.gov/NOSBMeetings.

The NOSB has scheduled time for oral comments from the public, and will accommodate as many individuals and organizations as possible during these sessions. Individuals and organizations wishing to make oral presentations at the meeting must pre-register to request one time slot by visiting http://www.ams.usda.gov/NOSBMeetings or by calling (202) 720–0081. The deadline to sign up for an oral public comment slot is Tuesday, April 7, 2014. All persons making oral presentations should also provide their comments in advance through the written comment process. Written submissions may contain supplemental information other than that presented in the oral presentation. Persons submitting written comments at the meeting are asked to provide two hard copies.

Meeting Accommodations: The meeting hotel is ADA Compliant, and the USDA provides reasonable accommodation to individuals with disabilities where appropriate. If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this public meeting, please notify Michelle Arsenault at michelle.arsenault@ams.usda.gov or (202) 720–0081. Determinations for reasonable accommodation will be made on a case-by-case basis.

Dated: March 9, 2015.

Rex A. Barnes,
Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

BILLING CODE 3410–02–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS–2015–0001]

Notice of Availability of a Pest Risk Analysis for the Importation of Fresh Cranberries From Chile Into the Continental United States

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: We are advising the public that we have prepared a pest risk analysis that evaluates the risks associated with importation of fresh cranberry fruit from Chile into the continental United States. Based on the analysis, we have determined that the application of one or more designated phytosanitary measures will be sufficient to mitigate the risks of introducing or disseminating plant pests or noxious weeds via the importation of fresh cranberries from Chile. We are making the pest risk analysis available to the public for review and comment.

DATES: We will consider all comments that we receive on or before May 11, 2015.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by either of the following methods:


• Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery: Send your comment to Docket No. APHIS–2015–0001, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3A–03.8, 4700 River Road, Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737–1238.

Supporting documents and any comments we receive on this docket may be viewed at http://www.regulations.gov/#docketDetail=D=APHIS-2015-0001 or in our reading room, which is located in room 1141 of the USDA South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC. Normal reading room hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. To be sure someone is there to help you, please call (202) 779–7039 before coming.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Nick Van Gorden, Regulatory Policy Specialist, Regulatory Coordination and Compliance, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road, Unit 133, Riverdale, MD 20737–1231; (301) 851–2326.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the regulations in “Subpart–Fruits and Vegetables” (7 CFR 319.56–1 through 319.56–71, referred to below as the regulations), the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) prohibits or restricts the importation of fruits and vegetables into the United States from certain parts of the world to prevent plant pests from being introduced into or disseminated within the United States.

Section 319.56–4 contains a performance-based process for approving the importation of certain fruits and vegetables that, based on the findings of a pest risk analysis, can be safely imported subject to one or more of the five designated phytosanitary measures listed in paragraph (b) of that section.

APHIS received a request from the national plant protection organization (NPPO) of Chile to allow the importation of fresh cranberry fruit into the continental United States. As part of our evaluation of Chile’s request, we have prepared a pest risk assessment (PRA) to identify pests of quarantine significance that could follow the pathway of importation into the continental United States from Chile. Based on the PRA, a risk management document (RMD) was prepared to...