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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Minority Farmers and Ranchers Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Office of Advocacy and Outreach, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Public Meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), the Office of Advocacy and Outreach (OAO) is announcing a meeting of the Minority Farmers and Ranchers Advisory Committee's (MFAC). The committee is being convened to consider issues involving minorities. The members will deliberate on recommendations to be prepared for the U. S. Department of Agriculture Secretarial consideration.

DATES: The committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 22 through Thursday, September 24, 2015, from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. EST. The meeting will be open to the public.

All persons wishing to make comments during this meeting must check in between 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. EST, each day, at the registration table. All public commenters will be allowed a maximum of 5 minutes. If the number of registrants requesting to speak is greater than what can be reasonably accommodated during the scheduled open public meeting timeframe, speakers will be scheduled on a first-come basis. Public written comments for the committee's consideration may be submitted by close of business on September 17, 2015, to Mrs. Kenya Nicholas, Designated Federal Official, USDA OAO, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Room 520-A, Washington, D.C. 20250-0170, Phone (202) 720-6350, Fax (202) 720-7704, Email: acmf@osec.usda.gov. A listen-only line will be available during the entire meeting for all who wish to listen in on the meeting or make public comments through the following telephone

number: (888) 455-1685 and enter passcode 6105699. Members of the public may also submit written comments for consideration to the committee.

ADDRESSES:

This public advisory committee meeting will be held at the Courtyard Savannah Downtown/Historic District, 415 West Liberty Street, Savannah, Georgia, 31401. There will be signs directing attendees to the USDA meeting rooms.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Questions should be directed to Phyllis Morgan, Executive Assistant, OAO, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Whitten Bldg., 520–A, Washington, DC 20250, Phone: (202) 720–6350, Fax: (202) 720–7136, email: Phyllis.Morgan@osec.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

The Secretary tasked the MFAC with providing recommendations on access to USDA programs and services by minority farmers and ranchers. Please visit our website at:

<http://www.outreach.usda.gov/sdfr/FAC.htm> for additional information on the MFAC.

The public is asked to pre-register for the meeting by September 17, 2015. You may pre-register for the public meeting by submitting an email to acmf@osec.usda.gov with your name, organization or affiliation, or any comments for the committee’s consideration. You may also fax this information to (202) 720–7704. Members of the public who wish to make comments during the committee meeting must register at the check-in table.

The agenda is as follows: Day 1: USDA presentations and public comments; Day 2: Committee discussions, public comments. Day 3: Committee deliberations and public comment. Please

visit the Minority Farmers and Ranchers Advisory Committee website for the full agenda. All agenda topics and documents will be made available to the public at:

<http://www.outreach.usda.gov/sdfr/FAC.htm>. Copies of the agenda will also be distributed at the meeting.

Meeting Accommodations: USDA is committed to ensuring that everyone is accommodated in our work environment, programs, and events. If you are a person with a disability and request reasonable accommodations to participate in this meeting, please note the request in your registration and you may contact Mrs. Kenya Nicholas in advance of the meeting by or before close of business on September 15, 2015, by phone at (202) 720-6350, fax (202) 720-7704, or email: kenya.nicholas@osec.usda.gov.

Issued in Washington, D.C., this 1st day of September 2015.

Christian Obineme,

Associate Director,

Office of Advocacy and Outreach.

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