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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Document No. AMS-ST-15-0060]

Plant Variety Protection Board; Open Meeting

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is announcing a meeting of the Plant Variety Protection Board (Board). The meeting is being held to discuss a variety of topics including, but not limited to, work and outreach plans, subcommittee activities, and proposals for procedure changes. The meeting is open to the public. This notice sets forth the schedule and location for the meeting.

DATES: Monday, December 7, 2015, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Tuesday, December 8, 2015, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Hyatt Regency Chicago Hotel at the Ogden Room, at 151 East Wacker Drive, Chicago, IL, 60601.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Maria Pratt, Program Analyst, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), AMS, Science and Technology Programs, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250. Telephone number (202) 720-1104, fax (202) 260-8976, or email: maria.pratt@ams.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to the provisions of section 10(a) of the FACA (5 U.S.C. Appendix 2), this notice informs the public that the Plant Variety Protection Office (PVPO) is having a Board meeting within the 15 day requirement of the FACA. The Plant Variety Protection Act (PVPA) (7 U.S.C. 2321 et seq.) provides legal protection in the form of intellectual property rights to developers of new varieties of plants, which are reproduced sexually by seed or are tuber-propagated. A certificate of Plant Variety Protection (PVP) is awarded to an owner of a crop variety after an examination shows that it is new, distinct from other varieties, genetically uniform and stable through successive generations. The term of protection is 20 years for most crops and 25 years for trees, shrubs, and vines. The PVPA also provides for a statutory Board (7 U.S.C. 2327). The PVPA Board is composed of 14 individuals who are experts in various areas of development and represent the private or seed industry sector, academia and government. The duties of the Board are to: (1) advise the Secretary concerning the adoption of rules and regulations to facilitate the proper administration of the FACA; (2) provide advisory counsel to the Secretary on appeals concerning decisions on applications by the PVP office and on requests for emergency public-interest compulsory licenses; and (3) advise the Secretary on any other matters under the Regulations and Rules of Practice and on all questions under Section 44 of the FACA, “Public Interest in Wide Usage” (7 U.S.C. 2404).

The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss the PVPO 2015 achievements, the electronic application system, reports of the outreach and molecular techniques subcommittees, PVP cooperation with other countries, and PVPO 2016 business plan.

Agenda Items: The agenda will include, welcome and introductions, discussions on program activities that encourage the development of new plant varieties and also address appeals to the Secretary. There will be presentations on 2015 accomplishments, the electronic PVP application system, PVP outreach activities, the use of molecular markers for PVP applications, PVP cooperation with other countries, and the 2016 business plan. The meeting will be open to the public. Those wishing to participate are encouraged to pre-register by November 30, 2015 by contacting Maria Pratt, Program Analyst; Telephone: (202) 720-1104; Email: maria.pratt@ams.usda.gov.

Meeting Accommodation: The meeting hotel is ADA compliant, and the USDA provides reasonable accommodations to individuals with disabilities where appropriate. If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this public meeting, please notify Maria Pratt at: Email: maria.pratt@ams.usda.gov or (202) 720-1104.

Determinations for reasonable accommodation will be made on a case-by- case basis.

Minutes of the meeting will be available for public review at the internet Web site

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/PVPO>.

Dated: October 13, 2015

Rex A. Barnes
Associate Administrator
Agricultural Marketing Service

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