

Greetings from the Office of Advocacy and Outreach!!
We'd like to share the following announcements and Press Releases:

1. A public meeting of the Advisory Committee on Minority Farmers will take place on Tuesday, May 10, 2016, at 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. CST; Wednesday, May 11, 2016, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. CST; and, Thursday, May 12, 2016, from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. CST. To register for the meeting, please send an email to: ACMF@osec.usda.gov and include your name, organization and contact information. The meeting address is as follows:
2. **Renaissance New Orleans Arts Hotel, 700 Tchoupitoulas Street, New Orleans, LA, 70130 (504) 613-2330**
An agenda will be made available during the meeting. For those participating remotely, the agenda will be available prior to the meeting at: <http://www.outreach.usda.gov/sdfr/FAC.htm>. Presentations on policies and programs affecting minority farmers will be made. **The Committee will deliberate on issues involving minority farmers and will deliberate on recommendations to be prepared for USDA Secretarial consideration.** Members of the public are invited to attend. The meeting will also be available via teleconference in "listen-only" mode by dialing (888) 455-1685 and enter passcode 4225205. Persons who wish to make in-person comments must sign in between **1:00-2:00 pm CST** each day. Also, any questions and written statements may be submitted in advance of the meeting to ACMF@osec.usda.gov or via fax to: (202) 720-7136. You may also mail statements to: Kenya Nicholas, Designated Federal Officer, OAO, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Whitten Bldg., Room 520-A, Mail Stop 0601, Washington, D.C. 20250. For further information, please call (202) 720-6350.
3. The 7th National Small Farm Conference will be held on September 20-22, 2016 in Virginia Beach, VA. **The deadline to submit abstracts for oral presentations, poster papers, exhibit booths, and success stories is April 15.** Exhibit booths are at no cost with paid registration to the conference. Please share the following conference website with your colleagues. <http://www.vsu.edu/nationalsmallfarmconference/index.php>
4. Help Kids Get Free Meals This Summer!!! Please contact your **State Agency** that operates the program for your state. They will provide information about the eligibility of your area and local sponsors that serve meals to sites. We encourage you to learn if sites are already nearby in your community before starting a new one. Through community outreach and promotion of the program, you can increase the number of children participating in sites that already exist. Learn about sites that may have been in your community last summer, and nearby organizations that can work with sites through **USDA's Summer Meals Capacity Builder**.
5. The Southern SARE Research and Education **Request for Applications** has been released. Please **see attached** for information on how to apply.
6. **ARS Helps Veterans Weigh a Career in Agriculture**
Check back each week as we showcase stories and news from USDA's rich science and research portfolio. For many veterans, agriculture may be a career choice worth exploring when they return to civilian life. Veterans have discipline, passion and a sense [...]
7. **USDA Seeks Nominations for the National Organic Standards Board**
The National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) is a Federal Advisory Committee that provides advice and recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture on the implementation of the Organic Foods Production Act. NOSB members are volunteers and come from across the organic community. Each member is appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture to a five-year term.
USDA and the Agricultural Marketing service (AMS) seeks nominations for the following five (5) positions to serve on the NOSB from January 2017 to January 2022:
 - Organic producer who owns or operates an organic operation;

- Individual with expertise in areas of environmental protection and resource conservation;
- Representative of a public or consumer interest group;
- Organic handler or processor who owns or operates an organic handling operation; and
- Scientist (toxicology, ecology or biochemistry).

Additionally, the USDA is seeking nominations for a pool of candidates to fill future unexpected vacancies in any of the seven position categories, should unexpected vacancies occur. A person appointed to fill a vacancy will serve for the remainder of the 5-year term of the vacant position.

Committee member duties include:

- Attending committee meetings (travel paid by USDA)
- Participating in bi-monthly subcommittee conference calls
- Reviewing materials and/or recommending changes to the National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances
- Advising the Secretary on other aspects of the USDA organic regulations

Written nominations must include a cover letter, resume, and an AD-755 Application Form, and must be postmarked on or before June 3, 2016.

More Information:

- [Call for Nominations Flyer \(PDF\)](#)
- [Press Release: USDA Seeks Nominations for the National Organic Standards Board](#)
- [Federal Register Notice: Intent to Renew Charter and Call for Nominations \(Includes Application Instructions\) \(PDF\)](#)
- [NOSB Membership AD755 Application \(PDF\)](#)
- [Criteria for NOSB Membership \(PDF\)](#)

For more information, visit [NOSB Nominations Webpage](#)

7. [**For Ethiopian Schoolchildren, McGovern-Dole Helps Mitigate Effects of Devastating Drought**](#)

With Ethiopia facing its most devastating drought in decades, a school feeding project supported by the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program is providing sustenance to vulnerable children and families in some of the country's hardest-hit areas. USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) and the United Nations World Food Program (WFP) are partnering [...]

8. [**Helping Organics Grow with Clear Livestock and Poultry Standards**](#)

9. The mission of the National Organic Program, part of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), is to protect the integrity of USDA organic products in our country and throughout the world. This means clearly defining what it means to be organic and enforcing those rules. Consumers look for and trust the organic seal because they know [...]

10. **JOBS!!!!** The following vacancy announcement is now open:

National Institute of Food and Agriculture
Office of the Director
Communications Staff

Public Affairs Specialist (Web Communication Specialist) GS-1035-09 (RECENT GRADUATE)

Promotion Potential: GS-12

Closing date: *Friday April 22, 2016*

WHO MAY APPLY: US Citizens and Nationals; no prior Federal experience is required. Recent graduates from a qualifying educational institution having completed an academic program within the preceding two years.

Note: Veterans who were precluded by their military service obligation from meeting this requirement will have up to six years to apply.

You may use the following link to view and/or apply for this position: <https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/435782100>

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # NIFA- PATH-RG-0024