U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

DEPARTMENTAL REGULATION	NUMBER: 1042-125
SUBJECT: National Agricultural Research, Extension Education, and Economics Advisory Board	DATE: September 27, 2001
	OPI: Research, Education, and Economics

1 PURPOSE

a The National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board (Board) is hereby established pursuant to Section 1048 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977, as amended by the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998.

b The Board shall advise the Department of Agriculture and its land-grant university partners on research, extension, education, and economic policies, priorities, and the results of effectiveness of those policies and priorities. In addition, it will provide customer input in forming the Research, Education, and Economics mission area's Strategic and Performance Plans.

2 SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

a This Board is a statutory committee established by the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996.

b The Board may appoint such working groups and ad hoc committees as it deems necessary to carry out the functions of the Board.

c This Charter will expire 2 years from the date of filing.

d Departmental Regulation Number 1042-125, dated November 25, 1998, is hereby superseded.

3 OFFICERS AND MEMBERSHIPS

a The Board shall be composed of 30 members appointed by the Secretary (with equal representation, to the maximum extent practicable, of public and private sector members), and the following shall serve as ex-officio members: the Secretary of Agriculture; the Under Secretary of Agriculture for Research, Education, and Economics (REE); the Administrator of the Agricultural Research Service (ARS); the Administrator of the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES); the Administrator of the Economic Research Service (ERS); and the Administrator of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS).

DISTRIBUTION

b The Board shall be composed of the following members:

(1) One member representing a national farm organization;

(2) One member representing farm cooperatives;

(3) One member actively engaged in the production of a food animal commodity;

(4) One member actively engaged in the production of a plant commodity;

(5) One member representing a national animal commodity organization;

(6) One member representing a national crop commodity organization;

(7) One member representing a national aquaculture association;

(8) One member representing a national food animal science society;

(9) One member representing a national crop, soil, agronomy, horticulture, or weed science society;

(10) One member representing a national food science organization;

(11) One member representing a national human health association;

(12) One member representing a national nutritional science society;

(13) One member representing the land-grant colleges and universities eligible to receive funds under the Act of July 2, 1862, (7 U.S.C. 321 et seq.);

(14) One member representing the land-grant colleges and universities eligible to receive funds under the Act of August 30, 1890, (7 U.S.C. 321 et seq.), including Tuskegee University;

(15) One member representing the 1994 Institutions (as defined in Section 532 of the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 [Public Law 103-382; 7 U.S.C. 301 note]);

(16) One member representing Hispanic-serving institutions;

(17) One member representing the American Colleges of Veterinary Medicine;

(18) One member representing that portion of the scientific community not closely associated with agriculture;

(19) One member engaged in the transportation of food and agricultural products to domestic and foreign markets;

(20) One member representing food retailing and marketing interests;

(21) One member representing food and fiber processors;

(22) One member actively engaged in rural economic development;

(23) One member representing a national consumer interest group;

(24) One member representing a national forestry group;

(25) One member representing a national conservation or natural resource group;

(26) One member representing private sector organizations involved in international development;

(27) One member representing an agency within the USDA that lacks research capabilities;

(28) One member representing a research agency of the Federal Government (other than USDA);

(29) One member representing a national social science association; and

(30) One member representing national organizations directly concerned with agricultural research, education, and extension.

c The Board Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and seven additional members shall be elected by the Board from its members to serve on the Executive Committee.

d Equal opportunity practices, in line with the USDA policies, will be

followed in all appointments to the Board. To ensure that the recommendations of the Board have taken into account the needs of the diverse groups served by the USDA, membership should include, to the extent practicable, individuals with demonstrated ability to represent minorities, women, and persons with disabilities.

4 DUTIES

a The specific responsibilities of the Board are to:

(1) Review and provide consultation to the Secretary of Agriculture and land-grant colleges and universities on the long-term and short-term national policies and priorities, as set forth in Section 1402 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 as amended (7 U.S.C. 3101), relating to agricultural research, extension, education, and economics;

(2) Evaluate the results and effectiveness of agricultural research, extension, education, and economics with respect to the policies and priorities;

(3) Review and make recommendations to the Under Secretary of Agriculture for REE on the research, extension, education, and economics portion of the strategic and performance plans required under Section 306 of Title 5, United States Code;

(4) Review the mechanisms of USDA for technology assessment (which should be conducted by qualified professionals) for the purposes of:

(1) Performance measurement and evaluation of the implementation by the Secretary of the strategic plan required under Section 306 of Title 5, United States Code;

(2) Implementations of the national research policies and priorities set forth in Section 1402 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy of 1977; and

(3) The development of mechanisms for the assessment

of emerging public and private agricultural research and technology transfer initiatives.

(2) Provide consultation to the Secretary of Agriculture in establishing the merit review procedures required by Section 103(a)(2) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 for the agricultural extension or education grants administered on a competitive basis by the CSREES, USDA;

(3) On an annual basis, review a) the relevance to the priorities established under Section 102(a) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act (AREERA) of 1998 for agricultural research, extension, and education activities conducted or funded by the USDA; and b) the adequacy of the funding;

(4) Advise the Secretary of Agriculture, in accordance with Section 401(c)(2) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998, in making research, extension, and education grants to address critical emerging issues under the "Initiative for Future Agriculture and Food Systems," which are related to: a) agricultural genome; b) food safety, food technology, and human nutrition; c) new and alternative uses and production of agricultural commodities and products; d) agricultural biotechnology; e) natural resource management including precision agriculture; and f) farm efficiency and profitability;

(5) Provide consultation to the Secretary of Agriculture in developing evaluation protocols for multi-state, multi-institutional, and multi-disciplinary extension and research activities, and joint research and extension activities that address critical agricultural issues as identified in the State Plans of Work (Section 202(d) and (f) of AREERA); and

(6) Receive results of panel reviews of all research activities conducted under each research program of the Department for scientific merit and relevance (Section 103(d) of AREERA).

b The Executive Committee is to work with the Secretary of Agriculture and officers of the USDA to summarize and disseminate the recommendations of the Advisory Board. The Executive Committee carries out activities approved by the Advisory Board at the public meetings.

5 ESTIMATED ANNUAL OPERATING COSTS

a Members of the Board shall serve without compensation if they are not otherwise officers or employees of the Federal Government. Reimbursement will be provided to members or their respective sit in alternates for their travel and per diem expenses at authorized Board meetings called by the Chairperson.

b Estimated annual operating costs for the Board are not more than $350,000, including at least two full-time employees (Executive Director of the Advisory Board, Administrative Support Coordinator) and other necessary expenses of the Board for each fiscal year.

6 NUMBER AND FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS

It is estimated that 2-3 meetings of the Board will be held each fiscal year, which would include one national Stakeholder Symposium for the purpose of stakeholder input. In addition, at least one regional Listening Session or special Focus Session will be held at appropriate locations. Other special meetings may be scheduled by the Board or Executive Committee each year to carry out the Board's responsibilities.

7 REPORTS/SUPPORT

a Administrative support of the Board is provided by the CSREES, USDA. The Board is funded by the agencies of the mission area (CSREES, ARS, ERS, NASS).

b The Executive Director provides the Advisory Board and its subunits with administrative assistance necessary to carry out their mandated responsibilities and relevant activities, and facilitates and coordinates all of the Board's activities to ensure that proper planning, programs, and reports are carried out effectively and efficiently.

c The Board advises the Secretary of Agriculture and land-grant colleges and universities.

-END-

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Office of the
General
Counsel

Washington,
D.C.
20250-1400

AUG 06 2001

NOTE TO REVIEWERS

Section 802(a) of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996, 7 U.S.C. 2123(f), provides that "the [National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics] Advisory Board shall be deemed to have filed a charter for the purpose of section 9(c) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.)." Since this committee is specifically exempt from the chartering requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the proposed charter is unnecessary.

If you have any questions, please contact me on (202) 720-4916.

Sean Kelly
Attorney
General Law Division