

## Amendments For Honey Research, Promotion, And Consumer Information Order

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. Department of Agriculture is amending its honey research and promotion program to incorporate similar changes made in 1998 to the Honey Research, Promotion, and Consumer Information Act.

The amendments authorize the National Honey Board to develop a voluntary quality assurance program. The amendments eliminate the requirement for small companies to file for an exemption, add a requirement for producers to maintain certain records, and make several ad-

ministrative changes to the program.

Research and promotion programs help to expand, maintain, and develop markets for individual agricultural commodities in the United States and abroad.

The secretary of agriculture appoints national boards to carry out these programs. The National Honey Board administers the honey program under the supervision of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service.

The final rule implementing the amendments appeared in the May 1 Federal Register.

The final rule and amended order are posted at: [www.ams.usda.gov/fv/rpdocketlist.htm](http://www.ams.usda.gov/fv/rpdocketlist.htm). The amendments will become effective on May 31.

For additional information, contact Kathie Birdsell, USDA/AMS Stop 0244, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington DC 20250-0244; telephone 202-720-4835; fax 202-205-2800; or e-mail: [kathie.birdsell@usda.gov](mailto:kathie.birdsell@usda.gov).






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### Nutrient Management Act Oversight Hearing Offered Comprehensive, Balanced Review, Bunt Says

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Testimony provided to the House Agricultural and Rural Affairs Committee at a public oversight hearing on Act 6 of 1993, the Nutrient Management Act, offered lawmakers and the public a balanced and comprehensive review of the act, Rep. Raymond Bunt Jr. (R-147), who chairs the committee, said recently.

"The farm, conservation, and environmental organizations that testified today presented the committee with a great deal of information and suggestions on Pennsylvania's nutrient management program," Bunt said.

"We determined that the most effective and informative approach would be to invite spokespersons for the various recognized groups and agencies.

"These include the groups that have been involved with the nutrient management issue from its onset more than a decade ago, the officials who administer the Nutrient Management Act, those who are directly impacted by compliance with the act and its regulations, and public groups with environmental concerns.

"This format gave the hearing balance and allowed each invited organization to add its recommendations and concerns to the committee's consideration of the act. We were pleased to find many areas of agreement between those parties."

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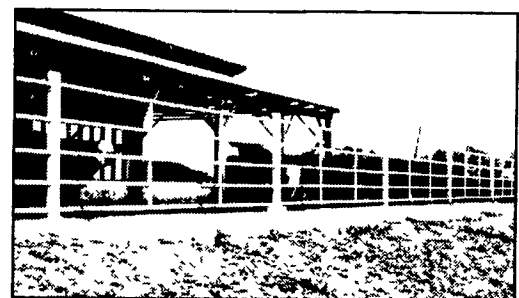
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