

USDA Announces Aquaculture Meeting

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) plans to conduct a public meeting to discuss APHIS' activities in regard to aquatic species.

The meeting will be in the Community Meeting Room of the Twin Falls County Office Building, 246 Third Avenue East, Twin Falls, Idaho, in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Idaho Aquaculture Association. The meeting will take place on Friday, June 8, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

The purpose of the meeting is to offer industry representatives, producers, consumers, and members of the public an opportunity to exchange information on issues of importance to the aquaculture industry.

Anyone wishing to speak at the meeting should register in advance by calling the Regulatory Analysis and Development voice mail at (301) 734-4339. Leave a message with your name, telephone number, organization, if any, and an estimate of the time needed to speak. Registration will also take place at the meeting site between 1:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Starting with the advance registrants, speakers will be called upon in the order in which they registered.

For more information, contact Otis Miller Jr., national aquaculture coordinator, center of planning, certification, and monitoring staff, veterinary services, APHIS, 4700 River Road, Unit 46, Riverdale, Md. 20737-1231, (301) 734-6188. Refer to Docket No. 98-085-4.

Ridge Administration Encourages Nonprofit Commodity-Promotion Groups To Apply For Promotion Grants

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) - State Agriculture Secretary Sam Hayes encouraged Pennsylvania's nonprofit commodity-promotion and marketing organizations to apply for the Pennsylvania Agricultural Product Promotion Matching Grant Program.

"Through this marketing effort, public and private funds work together to develop promotional and educational programs to help market our bountiful supply of food and fiber," Hayes said. "Pennsylvania is a leader in agriculture and, to keep our industry strong, we need to promote the use of our many high-quality products."

The grant program provides funds to help nonprofit commodity-promotion agencies to increase consumer awareness of

Pennsylvania's agricultural products. The application deadline for the grants is June 30 at the Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Market Development.

Hayes also noted that, since the beginning of the matching grant program, the Department of Agriculture has provided more than \$3 million to 43 nonprofit-organization promotion projects. Some projects funded by this grant program include a Pennsylvania Egg Quality Assurance Program; the "Pennsylvania Pro-

duce Simply Delicious" fruit and vegetable promotion; and dairy, apple, and mushroom promotion.

For more information or to receive a grant application for the Pennsylvania Agricultural Product Matching Grant Program, contact the department's Bureau of Market Development at (717) 787-6041, or visit the Department of Agriculture through the PA PowerPort at www.state.pa.us or directly at www.pda.state.pa.us.



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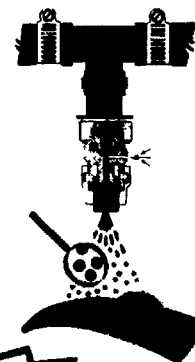


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