

National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board

Executive Director
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MINUTES

Executive Committee Conference Call

October 5, 2005

12:00-1:00 p.m., eastern daylight time

Executive Committee members present today: Martin Massengale, Chair; Walter Armbruster, Cornelia Flora; Tom Fretz; Carol Keiser; Joseph Jen, Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics (REE), Ex-Officio; Merle Pierson, Deputy Under Secretary for REE; Deborah Hanfman, Executive Director; Shirley Morgan-Jordan, Program Support Coordinator; and Terry Van Doren, Director, Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, REE.

Executive Committee members unable to attend were: Tonya Antle; George Hoffman; and Jeff Armstrong.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- **The Secretary is planning to attend the Board Meeting on October 19th, unless he has a last minute change in schedule.**
- **Nominations:** Dr. Jen reported that the Secretary appointed 8 new members to the Board and reappointed one (effective October 2005).
- **Farm Bill for FY 2007:** The Secretary is heavily involved holding listening sessions with stakeholders across the Nation.
- **Hurricane Damage and Recovery:** REE, as well as USDA, have played a major role in helping in the relief, support, and damage recovery for hurricane victims and USDA employees in New Orleans, Louisiana and other affected states.
- **October 18-20, 2005 Advisory Board Meeting/Focus Sessions:** Program Planning Chair, Carol Keiser, said that the 3 Mini-Session Topics are right on target and have been planned well by the Planning Committee. She said that USDA needs to be in the forefront of conversations about emerging diseases, which are now going on at HHS. Increased media activities by USDA will help get the word out in a positive science-based manner to the public and help enhance USDA's visibility.

- **Specialty Crop Listening Session, October 20-21, 2005: Specialty Crop Committee Chair, Walt Armbruster, told the members that a recent resignation on the Committee because of personal reasons has brought about a new appointment by Advisory Board Chair Martin Massengale of Matt McInerney from the Western Growers Association. The Listening Session planning is being finalized and the draft agenda is looking balanced, with a broad array of expertise on specialty crop topics as designated in the 2004 congressional legislation.**

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Martin Massengale, Chair

Deborah T. Hanfman, Executive Director

<p>_____</p> <p>Initials following Advisory Board Approval</p> <p>_____</p> <p>DATE APPROVED BY BOARD</p>
