



United
States
Department of
Agriculture

Research
Education
Economics

Office
of the Under
Secretary

Room 216W
Jamie L. Whitten Building
Washington, DC 20250-0110

July 15, 2008

Dear Colleague:

On behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), I am requesting nominations to fill 6 vacancies on the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board (the Board).

Section 1408 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3123) was amended by the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2008 by deleting six members to the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board, which totals 25 members. Since the Advisory Board's inception by congressional legislation in 1996, each member has represented a specific category related to farming or ranching, food production and processing, forestry research, crop and animal science, land-grant institutions, non-land grant college or university with a historic commitment to research in the food and agricultural sciences, food retailing and marketing, rural economic development, and natural resource and consumer interest groups, among many others. The Board was created by the Federal Agricultural Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (The Farm Bill, P.L. 104-127, Sec. 802) to provide advice to the Secretary of Agriculture and land-grant colleges and universities on national priorities and policies related to agricultural research, education, extension, and economics.

The Board is composed of 25 members, each representing a specific area of expertise or affiliation required in the Farm Bill. Members serve staggered appointments so that every year approximately one-third of the members' term will expire. This year, USDA is seeking nominations for 6 vacant categories that will serve a 3-year term.

The 6 vacant member categories are:

Category B. Farm Cooperatives

Category D. Plant Commodity Producer

Category G. National Aquaculture Association

Category J. National Food Science Organization

Category L. National Nutritional Science Society**Category M. Land-Grant Colleges and Universities - 1862**

Please find enclosed a copy of the AD-755 form (available at <http://narceeab.rec.usda.gov>), a copy of the 1996 legislation that established the Advisory Board, and a list of current Board members for fiscal year 2008. If you have questions regarding nominations, please contact Karen Hunter, Executive Director, NAREEE Advisory Board or Shirley Morgan-Jordan, Program Coordinator, at (202) 720-3684.

In order to be considered for membership, a completed AD-755 for each nominee and the nomination letter **must** be postmarked or received via fax (202-720-6199) no later than **Monday, August 25, 2008**. We suggest that you fax the nomination package to us as soon as possible and then send the **original** by "express mail." **Due to Federal Government mail handling procedures, our standard mail may be delayed considerably before reaching us.**

Incumbent members may seek re-appointment consideration, but must also provide the same required information materials as new nominees. The nomination process is thorough, fair, and highly competitive. In appointing members to serve on the Advisory Board, the Secretary will assure, to the maximum extent practical, equal representation of public and private sector representatives, as well as a balance of geographic regions across the Nation.

It is my hope that the nomination process will be completed in August, and appointments to the Board will be made by the Secretary in September 2008. The effective date for service on the Board is October 1, 2008. A full Board meeting is being held in November 2008, in Washington, D.C., with an orientation session scheduled for new members.

I encourage you to nominate all individuals you think are qualified to serve on the Board. **In your transmittal letter, please indicate the membership category or categories that best represent(s) each nominee. You may be nominated to more than one category.**

Send your transmittal letter of nomination and the nominee's completed AD-755 form, preferably by Express Mail and/or Fax (202-720-6199) to:

Office of the Advisory Board/Nominations
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Research, Education, and Economics
Jamie L. Whitten Building, Room 344-A
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250-2255

All nominees will be vetted before selection. Appointments to the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board will be made by the Secretary of Agriculture.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gale Buchanan", written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above the typed name and title.

Gale Buchanan
Under Secretary
Research, Education, and Economics

Enclosures

United States Department of Agriculture
**ADVISORY COMMITTEE OR RESEARCH AND PROMOTION
 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Privacy Act Notice

Public Laws 95-113 and 93-579 permit collection of the data requested on this form. The information is used to determine qualifications, suitability and availability for service on advisory committees or research and promotion boards/councils. The information will be used to conduct background clearances and/or for annual reports on advisory committees or research and promotion boards/councils. Failure to submit this information may result in non-selection of a prospective advisory committee member, board/council member or termination of the committee or board/council.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY OR TYPE

1. Name (Last, First, Middle)	2. Social Security Number
3. Residence Address (include ZIP code)	4. Business No. Home No: FAX: e-Mail Address:
5. Place of Birth	6. Date of Birth
7. Company/Business Name	
8. Company/Business Address (include ZIP Code)	9. Occupation/Title

10. [Insert appropriate commodity question(s) from supplemental list.] To be completed by R&P Board Members Only

10a. If applicable, how long have you been engaged in farming or production, and what is the size of your farming operation. (i.e. List acreage and pounds produced by kind of crop, as well as, kinds and numbers of livestock?)

11. List your business experience.

12. List education and any specialized experience.

13. List applicable farm/handler/producer/importer or co-op member industry organizations (include whether a member or officer and how long affiliated).

14. List other affiliations and/or service as a community leader that would benefit you in your role as a member of the advisory committee or research and promotion board/council.

15. List any Federal advisory committee or board on which you are currently a member and the number of years you have served on that committee or board. (To be completed by Advisory Committees Only)

16. List sources of income in excess of \$10,000 for the past calendar year from other than your primary employment. List only sources; do not show amounts of income from each source. (To be completed by Advisory Committees Only)

17. Have you ever been convicted of a felony? (A felony is defined as any violation of law punishable by imprisonment of longer than one year). () Yes () No. If yes, please explain on the attached continuation sheet.

18. As a result of your participation in Federal programs, have any judgments been rendered against you? As a result of participation in any governmental programs relative to the purposes of the advisory committee or research and promotion board/council for which you are a nominee, have any civil or criminal actions been initiated against you? () Yes () No. If yes, please explain on the attached continuation sheet.

19 Name as you would prefer it to appear on official correspondence. (To be completed by R&P Board Members Only)

Signature

Date

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0505-0001. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 30 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital or family status, political beliefs, parental status or protected genetic information. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Continuation Sheet for Form AD-755

If you need more space for an answer, use this sheet. Please number each answer to correspond to the number on Form AD-755. When you have completed your answer(s), attach to Form AD-755.

[INSERT COMMODITY BOARD, COUNCIL, OR DELEGATE NAME]

Name (Last, First, Middle) _____

Social Security Number: _____

