



PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

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USDA Seeks Nominees for Plant Variety Protection Board

WASHINGTON, XXXXX -- The U.S. Department of Agriculture today announced that the Plant Variety Protection Office (PVPO) is seeking candidates for the Plant Variety Protection Board.

The board consists of 14 individuals who are experts in various areas of plant varietal development. Members were appointed by Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack and include seed industry, public sector, and farmer representatives.

The board advises the secretary about rules and regulations needed to facilitate proper administration of the Plant Variety Protection (PVP) Act; makes advisory decisions on all appeals from the examiner; and advises the secretary about questions related to section 44 of the PVP Act on public interest in wide usage of a protected variety.

The USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) administers the PVP Act, which provides legal protection in the form of intellectual property rights to developers of new and distinct seed-reproduced and tuber-propagated plants ranging from farm crops to flowers.

Full nomination packages include a completed Application for Committee Membership (Form AD-755) and a resume. These items should be submitted to Paul Zankowski, Commissioner; Plant Variety Protection Office; 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Room 3543; Washington, DC 20250, no later than Jan. 7, 2013. Final selections will be made by the secretary.

Form AD-755 can be found online at: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/PVPO>. Click on PVPO Advisory Board (under resources on the right side) or visit the USDA Advisory Committee website at: www.usda.gov/advisory_committees.xml.

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