

Contact:

J. Robert Burk, (202) 720-8408

Meeting of the National Genetic Resources Advisory Council Scheduled for March 5-6

WASHINGTON, February 26, 2013—The National Genetic Resources Advisory Council (NGRAC), a sub-committee of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics (NAREEE) Advisory Board of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), is holding a meeting beginning on the morning of March 5 through the afternoon of March 6, 2013 in Beltsville, MD. The meeting will focus on briefing the NGRAC members on: the rules and regulations governing their sub-committee work; a broad overview of the genetic resource programs of the USDA; and the establishment of a timeline and agenda for their future work. The meeting will be held at the USDA Agricultural Research Service George Washington Carver Center and is open to the public.

The meeting's agenda includes two full days of featured experts in food and agriculture. Among those invited to speak are: Dr. Catherine Woteki, USDA Chief Scientist and Under Secretary for Research, Education and Economics (REE); Dr. Edward Knipping, Administrator, USDA's Agricultural Research Service; Dr. Ken Richards, Research Manager (Retired), Canadian Genetic Resource Program, Plant Gene Resources of Canada, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Saskatoon Research Centre Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Alberta, Canada; Dr. Peter Bretting, National Program Leader, Office of National Programs, USDA's Agricultural Research Service; Kelly Day-Rubenstein and Dr. Paul Heisey, Agricultural Economists, USDA's Economic Research Service; Dr. Ann Marie Thro, National Program Leader, USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Division of Plant Systems – Production; Dr. Gary Pederson, Supervisory Geneticist, USDA's Agricultural Research Service, Griffin, GA; and Dr. Michael Schechtman, Executive Secretary, Advisory Committee on Biotechnology and 21st Century Agriculture (AC21).

The NGRAC for the National Genetic Resources Program was established in March 1992, under the USDA Departmental Regulation 1043-8 as directed by Section 1632 of P.L. 101-624. The NGRAC was re-chartered in May 2011. In April 2012, the NGRAC was inactivated as a standalone entity and transitioned under the NAREEE Advisory Board. The NAREEE Advisory Board was established by the Federal Agricultural Improvement and Reform Act of 1996, P.L. 104-127, Sec. 802.

Meeting Location:

USDA Agricultural Research Service  
George Washington Carver Center  
5601 Sunnyside Ave.  
Beltsville, MD 20705

You must register as an attendee by contacting Shirley Morgan-Jordan at [s<mailto:s>hirley.morgan@ars.usda.gov](mailto:shirley.morgan@ars.usda.gov) or call (202) 720-3684. A draft agenda will be sent upon request. At the end of each meeting day, the floor will be open for public comment, or interested individuals may provide written comment for the public record postmarked by March 19, 2013.