



United States Department of Agriculture

Rural Development Farm Bill Listening Session

April 25, 2014 - Washington, DC

The Department of Agriculture's Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS), a Rural Development Agency, will hold a listening session on April 25, 2014 to discuss how RBS will implement the 2014 Farm Bill changes to the Value-Added Producer Grant Program.

The listening session will specifically focus on two topics:

- (1) Implementing priority preference for veteran farmers and ranchers
- (2) Priority for beginning farmers or ranchers, socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers, and operators of small-and medium-sized family farms and ranches that are structured as Family Farms.

The purpose of the meeting is to receive public input that RBS can factor into potential Value-Added Producer Grant Notice of Funding Availability (NOFAs) and regulations. This will not be a discussion with RBS officials or a question and answer session.

The listening session is scheduled for April 25, 2014 from 1:00-4:00 pm in the Whitten Building, Room 107-A, 14th Street and Independence Ave. SW., Washington, DC 20250. Anyone interested in attending the public meeting or providing oral comments to RBS during the listening session must send an email to Andrew.jermolowicz@wdc.usda.gov by April 23, 2014, to register the names of those planning to attend. Registrations will be accepted until maximum room capacity is reached. Please provide the following information in your email: First and last name, organization, title, email, city, and state.

Stakeholders and the public who do not wish to attend or speak at the listening session are invited to submit written comments at <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments. Comments must be received by April 24, 2014.

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USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users)