

 **NEWS RELEASE**

United States Department of Agriculture • Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service • Legislative and Public Affairs  
4700 River Road, Riverdale, MD 20737-1232 • Voice (301) 851-4100 • Web: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov>

---

Workabeba (Abby) Yigzaw (301) 851-4096  
Lyndsay Cole (970) 494-7410

### **Secretary's Advisory Committee on Animal Health Seeks Membership Nominations**

WASHINGTON, May 24, 2012--The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) today announced the solicitation of nominations for membership for this Committee to serve for 2- to 3-year staggered terms.

The committee will advise the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture on actions necessary to prevent, conduct surveillance or monitor and control or eradicate animal diseases of national importance. In doing so, the committee will consider the implications of public health, conservation of natural resources and the stability of livestock economies.

Nominations are being sought from interested organizations and individuals. An organization may nominate individuals from within or outside its membership. Appointments to the committee will be made by the Secretary of Agriculture and equal opportunity practices, consistent with USDA policies, will be followed in making committee appointments.

To ensure that recommendations of the committee have taken into account the needs of the diverse groups served by USDA, membership shall include, to the extent practicable, individuals with demonstrated ability to represent minorities, underserved communities, women and persons with disabilities.

The notice of solicitation for membership will be published in today's May 24 *Federal Register*.

Consideration will be given to nominations received on or before July 9. Send nominations to Mrs. R.J. Cabrera, Designated Federal Official, VS, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 35, Riverdale, MD 20737-1231; (301) 851-3478.

Currently, U.S. agriculture is experiencing one of its best periods in history thanks to the productivity, resiliency, and resourcefulness of our farmers and ranchers. The work of APHIS helps safeguard our nation's agriculture, fishing and forestry industries from unwanted pests, disease and unjustified trade restrictions. For example, to promote the health of U.S. agricultural exports, APHIS develops and advances science-based standards with trading partners to ensure our farm exports, valued at more than \$137 billion annually, are protected from unjustified

barriers. Strong agricultural exports are a positive contribution to the U.S. trade balance, support more than 1 million American jobs and boost economic growth.

#

*Note to Reporters: USDA news releases, program announcements, and media advisories are available on the Internet and through Really Simple Syndication (RSS) feeds. Go to the APHIS news release page at [www.aphis.usda.gov/newsroom](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/newsroom) and click on the RSS feed link.*

---

*USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. To file a complaint of discrimination, write:*

*USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice), or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).*