



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **USDA Seeks Nominations for the National Wildlife Services Advisory Committee**

WASHINGTON, Jan. 9, 2013—The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced it is soliciting nominees for five additional positions on the Secretary’s National Wildlife Services Advisory Committee (NWSAC) for a two year period.

During their terms committee members will advise USDA on the activities, policies and research needed to conduct wildlife services, a program within USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. Committee members can serve up to three consecutive terms.

Nominations for individuals are sought from interested organizations, the academic community, stakeholder groups, individuals and other related parties. The Committee serves as a public forum enabling those affected by the Wildlife Services program to have a voice in the program’s policies. Past membership on the committee has represented a broad array of agricultural, animal welfare and wildlife interests.

“Hispanic farmers and ranchers are active in all facets of U.S. agriculture today,” noted Undersecretary Edward Avalos. “In 2007, they sold more than \$12.7 billion worth of agricultural products from their farms and ranches. Also, women now represent almost a third of all farm operators in our latest census. USDA is seeking to have this committee represent the complex diversity of American farmers and ranchers.”

Women have a growing presence in U.S. agriculture, running more farms and ranches, operating more land, and producing a greater value of agricultural products in the 2007 NASS census than they were five years before. That latest USDA census also identified the strong representation of African American and Native Americans farmers and ranchers.

The Secretary will select members to obtain the broadest possible representation on the Committee. Appointments to the Committee will follow equal opportunity practices, in line with the USDA policies. To ensure that the recommendations of the Committee have taken into account the needs of the diverse groups served by the Department, membership should include individuals with demonstrated ability to represent minorities, women, and persons with disabilities.

Consideration will be given to nominations received on or before March 11, 2013. Nomination packages may be sent by postal mail or commercial delivery to The Honorable Thomas Vilsack, Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250, Attn: Secretary’s National Wildlife Services Advisory Committee. Nomination packages may also be faxed to (301) 734-5157.

Requests for further information, should be addressed to Ms. Carrie Joyce, Designated Federal Officer, WS, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 87, Riverdale, MD 20737; (301) 851-3999. Nomination forms are available from Ms. Joyce or on the Internet at <http://www.ocio.usda.gov/forms/doc/AD-755.pdf>

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