

STAKEHOLDER ANNOUNCEMENT

WASHINGTON, July 14, 2014-- The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) BioPreferred[®] program office will [host a public meeting for stakeholders](#) to discuss the issue of incorporating mature market (wood) products into the BioPreferred program. USDA is seeking input from stakeholders on how to evaluate products for eligibility to be included in the BioPreferred program.

The 2014 Farm Bill amended Section 9002 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (P.L. 107-171) to require the BioPreferred program to “promote biobased products, including forest products, that apply an innovative approach to growing, harvesting, sourcing, procuring, processing, manufacturing, or application of biobased products regardless of the date of entry into the marketplace.” Products that were previously considered to be mature market products (those that had a significant market share prior to 1972) and were previously ineligible for the BioPreferred program, will now be included in the program if manufacturers demonstrate that they apply an “innovative approach” in the life cycle of their product.

Working in conjunction with the USDA Forest Products Laboratory, as required by the 2014 Farm Bill (Section 9002(h)), USDA is developing a process to evaluate the eligibility of biobased products for the BioPreferred Program based on the use of “innovative approaches.”

The meeting is scheduled for Friday, August 1, 2014, at 10:00 a.m. in Room 107A of the USDA Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C., 20024.

Pre-registration for the August 1, 2014 meeting is not required but is recommended. If you wish to register to attend please do so at: <http://www.biopreferred.gov> and note whether you wish to be recognized to make a formal presentation. To join the public meeting by conference call, dial (800) 981-3173 and use conference ID: 6557. Participants on the conference call may submit questions or comments during the meeting via biopreferred@dm.usda.gov or at a webinar address which will be provided to participants via email once registered.

For more information about the public meeting, or to submit written comments, contact: Ron Buckhalt, BioPreferred Program Manager, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of Procurement and Property Management, 361 Reporters Building, 300 7th Street S.W., Washington, D.C. 20024, (202) 205-4008. RonB.Buckhalt@dm.usda.gov.

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