



PUBLIC NOTICE

The Ohio Department of Agriculture will hold a public hearing for the purpose of accepting testimony on the proposed rescission to Chapter 901-17 of the Administrative Code.

The rules in this package regulate the Ohio Rural Rehabilitation program overseen by the Ohio Department of Agriculture. The Ohio Rural Rehabilitation program was developed to assist Americans affected by the Great Depression. At that time, money was set aside for the relief effort to “make grants to the several states to aid in meeting the costs of furnishing relief and in relieving the hardship and suffering caused by unemployment in the form of money, service, materials, and/or commodities to provide the necessities of life to persons in need as a result of the present emergency, and/or their dependents, whether resident, transient, or homeless.” These funds were administered in Ohio by the Ohio Rural Rehabilitation Corporation. In 1973, the Ohio Department of Agriculture, through a Use Agreement entered into by the Department and the Federal Government, took over the program.

Ohio Revised Code section 901.30 through .34 outlines the program. Specifically, ORC 901.32 states that “[m]oney credited to the [Ohio farm loan fund] may be expended or obligated by the director for rural rehabilitation purposes benefiting the state.” The Revised Code and associated Use Agreement provides the Department and its community enough guidance and authority to administer the program. The administrative code rules currently merely duplicate and/or reiterate the Revised Code. For those reasons, it was determined that the rules in this chapter are no longer necessary.

The hearing will be held on:

June 16, 2017 at 9:00 A.M.

**Ohio Department of Agriculture
Bromfield Administration Building
Hearing Room 129 (Seminar “A”)
8995 East Main Street
Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068-3399.**

The hearing will be conducted in accordance with Chapter 119 of the Revised Code. Any person affected by the no change rule package may appear and be heard in person, by his attorney, or both, may present his position, arguments, or contentions, orally or in writing, offer and examine witnesses, and present evidence tending to show that the no change rule package, if adopted or effectuated, will be unreasonable or unlawful.

More information on the rule package, including a business impact analysis and copies of the rules, can be found at <http://www.agri.ohio.gov/proposedrules/proposedrules.aspx> or by visiting the Register of Ohio at www.registerofohio.state.oh.us.



Any person who wishes to present his position, arguments, or contentions in writing, other than at the public hearing, may do so by either mailing his or her written comments to the Ohio Department of Agriculture, c/o Legal Section, 8995 East Main Street, Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068; by email at ecomments@agri.ohio.gov, or by transmitting by facsimile at (614) 995-4585. Written comments sent by mail shall be postmarked no later than the day of the hearing. Written comments transmitted by facsimile shall be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on the day of the hearing.

