

# Notices

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

June 6, 1997.

The Department of Agriculture has submitted the following information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. Comments regarding (a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology should be addressed to: Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Washington, DC 20503 and to Department Clearance Office, USDA, OCIO, Mail Stop 7602, Washington, DC 20250-7602. Comments regarding these information collections are best assured of having their full effect if received within 30 days of this notification. Copies of the submission(s) May be obtained by calling (202) 720-6204 or (202) 720-6746.

An agency May not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number and the agency informs potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information that such persons are not required to respond to the collection of information unless it

displays a currently valid OMB control number.

### Agricultural Marketing Service

*Title:* Winter Pears Grown in Oregon, Washington, and California, Marketing Order No. 927.

*OMB Control Number:* 0581-0089.

*Summary of Collection:* Information is collected from growers and handlers for referendums, marketing agreements, and volume of fruit sold.

*Need and Use of the Information:* The information is used to administer Marketing Order No. 927.

*Description of Respondents:* Business or other for-profit; Farms.

*Number of Respondents:* 1,890.

*Frequency of Responses:*

Recordkeeping; Reporting: On occasion; Biennially

*Total Burden Hours:* 3,571.

### Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

*Title:* Imported Seed and Screening.

*OMB Control Number:* 0579-New.

*Summary of Collection:* All seeds offered for entry into the United States must be accompanied by a declaration from the importer and the containers must be labeled. A certificate of analysis stating that the seeds were analyzed and found to present no noxious weed threat to the United States must accompany the shipment.

*Need and Use of the Information:* The information is used to prevent the spread of insect pests and noxious weeds in the United States.

*Description of Respondents:* Business or other for-profit; State, Local or tribal Government.

*Number of Respondents:* 1,200.

*Frequency of Responses:*

Recordkeeping; Reporting: On occasion.

*Total Burden Hours:* 11,564.

### Farm Service Agency

*Title:* Foreign Investment Disclosure Act Report, 7 CFR 781.

*OMB Control Number:* 0560-0097.

*Summary of Collection:* The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 requires foreign investors to timely report all held, acquired, or transferred U.S. agricultural land.

*Need and Use of the Information:* The information is used to track foreign investment in U.S. agricultural land and prepare an annual report to Congress and the President.

*Description of Respondents:*

Individuals or households; Business or other for-profit; Farms.

*Number of Respondents:* 4,375.

*Frequency of Responses:* Reporting: On occasion.

*Total Burden Hours:* 2,108.

**Donal Hulcher,**

*Departmental Clearance Officer.*

[FR Doc. 97-15263 Filed 6-10-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-01-M

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Agricultural Marketing Service

[Docket No. PY-97-006]

### Notice of Request for Approval of an Information Collection

**AGENCY:** Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Proposed Collection.

**SUMMARY:** Notice; in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), this notice announces the intention of the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) to request an approval of an information collection in support of the State Option Contracts (SOC) Program.

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received by August 11, 1997.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** Contact Connie Helms, USDA/AMS/Poultry Division, Room 3943-S, 1400 Independence Avenue S.W., STOP 0260, Washington, DC 20250-0260, (202) 720-7693.

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Title:* Donation of Foods for use in the United States, its territories and possessions and areas under its jurisdiction.

*OMB Number:* 0581-xxx

*Expiration Date of Approval:*

*Type of Request:* Approval of a new information collection.

*Abstract:* Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food Distribution Programs assist American farmers and needy people by purchasing commodities and delivering them to State agencies that, in turn, distribute them to organizations for use in providing food assistance to those in need. The commodities help to meet the nutritional needs of children from preschool age through high school in USDA Child Nutrition Programs and needy individuals participating in other domestic feeding programs.

In accordance with the provisions of section 3A of the Commodity Distribution Reform Act (Act) and WIC Amendments of 1987 (7 U.S.C. 612c note) as added by section 1773 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 1421 note) and 7 CFR part 250, USDA acts as the administering agency for the implementation and operation of the SOC Program. This legislation allows the Secretary broad authority to establish regulatory provision promoting accountability in the use of USDA commodities by Federal, State, and private agencies.

This program was previously administered by the Food and Consumer Service (FCS). Effective school year 1997-98, the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) will assume the responsibility for administering the SOC Program.

The collection of information for the program is currently approved under OMB number 0584-0293. The expiration date of this approval is September 30, 1997.

The information collection and record keeping requirements in this request are essential in the administration of the SOC Program.

The information collected is used only by authorized representatives of the USDA. The information is used to assure compliance with the Act and the provisions of the SOC Federal-State agreement.

*Estimate of Burden:* Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 2.00 hours per response.

*Respondents:* State or local governments.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 20.

*Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* 1.00

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 40 hours.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Connie Helms, Commodity Procurement Branch, at (202) 720-7693.

Send Comments regarding, but not limited to, the following: (a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the

information to be collected; or (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, to: Catherine V. Smith, Acting Chief, USDA/AMS/ Poultry Division, Room 3943-S, 1400 Independence Avenue S.W., STOP 0260, Washington, DC 20250-0260.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: June 5, 1997.

**Michael D. Holbrook,**

*Director, Poultry Division, Agricultural Marketing Service.*

[FR Doc. 97-15254 Filed 6-10-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 97-044-1]

#### Availability of Environmental Assessments and Findings of No Significant Impact

**AGENCY:** Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** We are advising the public that three environmental assessments and findings of no significant impact have been prepared by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service relative to the issuance of permits to allow the field testing of genetically engineered organisms. The environmental assessments provide a basis for our conclusion that the field testing of the genetically engineered organisms will not present a risk of introducing or disseminating a plant pest and will not have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment. Based on its findings of no significant impact, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has determined that environmental impact statements need not be prepared.

**ADDRESSES:** Copies of the environmental assessments and findings of no significant impact are available for public inspection at USDA, room 1141, South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC, between 8 a.m. and

4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Persons wishing to inspect those documents are requested to call ahead on (202) 690-2817 to facilitate entry into the reading room.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Arnold Foudin, Deputy Director, Biotechnology Evaluation, BSS, PPQ, APHIS, Suite 5B05, 4700 River Road Unit 147, Riverdale, MD 20737-1237; (301) 734-7612. For copies of the environmental assessments and findings of no significant impact, contact Mr. Clayton Givens at (301) 734-7612; e-mail: cgivens@aphis.usda.gov. Please refer to the permit numbers listed below when ordering the documents.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The regulations in 7 CFR part 340 (referred to below as the regulations) regulate the introduction (importation, interstate movement, and release into the environment) of genetically engineered organisms and products that are plant pests or that there is reason to believe are plant pests (regulated articles). A permit must be obtained or a notification acknowledged before a regulated article may be introduced into the United States. The regulations set forth the permit application requirements and the notification procedures for the importation, interstate movement, and release into the environment of a regulated article.

In the course of reviewing each permit application, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) assessed the impact on the environment that releasing the organisms under the conditions described in the permit application would have. APHIS has issued permits for the field testing of the organisms listed below after concluding that the organisms will not present a risk of plant pest introduction or dissemination and will not have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment. The environmental assessments and findings of no significant impact, which are based on data submitted by the applicant and on a review of other relevant literature, provide the public with documentation of APHIS' review and analysis of the environmental impacts associated with conducting the field tests.

Environmental assessments and findings of no significant impact have been prepared by APHIS relative to the issuance of permits to allow the field testing of the following genetically engineered organisms: