the continual improvement to this voluntary quality management program.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Rochelle Langley, Quality Management Specialist, Biotechnology Regulatory Services, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 146, Riverdale, MD 20737–1228; 301–851–3906, *Rochelle.A.Langley@aphis.usda.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), regulates the importation, interstate movement, and environmental release of genetically engineered (GE) organisms that are, or may be, plant pests. In September 2007, APHIS' Biotechnology Regulatory Services (BRS) announced a voluntary, audit-based compliance assistance program known as the Biotechnology Quality Management System (BQMS) Program to assist the regulated community in achieving and maintaining compliance with requirements for field trials and movements of GE organisms under its regulations in 7 CFR part 340.

Under the BQMS Program, APHIS–BRS has provided support for the voluntary adoption by participants of a quality management system to improve their management of domestic research and development of regulated GE organisms in order to fully comply with regulations. The BQMS Program included a mandatory audit standard that provided extensive criteria for the development, implementation, and an objective evaluation of the participant's quality management system.

We are notifying the public that BRS is updating its BQMS Program and renaming it the Biotechnology Quality Management Support Program, which will use the same BQMS acronym, in order to reach a broader audience. After engaging with current and prospective BQMS participants, APHIS–BRS determined a modularized, more flexible, Web-based approach reaches a wider universe of researchers and developers conducting biotechnology activities. Small organizations, academics, and first-time users now have access to a program that previously was only within the means of a select few with considerable resources. The new BQMS Program is no longer audit-based, and no longer requires an ''all or nothing'' quality management system that relies on a BRS-developed audit standard, a required 3-day BRS-led training session for all participants, and a third-party audit cycle to maintain Program recognition. The new BQMS Program remains a voluntary compliance assistance program but with fewer impediments to users—no required multi-day training, no cost-prohibitive third-party audits and associated travel expenses, and no exhaustive resource commitments.

The new BQMS Program is a flexible, Web-based, modular approach designed to enhance compliance by enabling organizations large and small to develop sound quality management practices. Users can select any or all critical control points applicable to their organizations' compliance assistance needs such as: Site selection planning, procedures for storage, transportation (interstate movement and importation), environmental release planning and monitoring, post-harvest handling and transfer, devitalization and final disposition, potential regulatory compliance incidents, and a reporting form for regulatory compliance incidents. User costs should decrease with the ability to easily choose only the modules they need to meet their unique compliance assistance needs.

The new BQMS Program offers a comprehensive repository of user-friendly, Web-based templates, guidelines, and checklists to assist users in the implementation of processes, procedures, and the foundation for a quality management system. No matter how big or small their organization, BQMS users will continue to have the option of requesting one-on-one tailored assistance from BRS staff, as in the past.

Organizations participating in the voluntary program will be encouraged to use BQMS resources as a foundation to ensure all personnel are properly trained regarding the requirements for working with GE organisms; identify and develop control measures to minimize the risk or occurrence of unauthorized releases; and monitor quality management practices and procedures.

These updates are the next step in the continual improvement of the voluntary BQMS Program.

Done in Washington, DC, this 11th day of January 2017.

Kevin Shea,

Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 2017–01017 Filed 1–17–17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–34–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS–2016–0113]

Notice of Request for Extension of Approval of an Information Collection; Interstate Movement of Fruit From Hawaii

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Extension of approval of an information collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's intention to request an extension of approval of an information collection associated with the regulations for the interstate movement of fruit from Hawaii.

DATES: We will consider all comments that we receive on or before March 20, 2017.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by either of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal: Go to http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=APHIS-2016-0113.*
- *Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery:* Send your comment to Docket No. APHIS–2016–0113, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3A–03.8, 4700 River Road, Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737–1238.

Supporting documents and any comments we receive on this docket may be viewed at *http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=APHIS-2016-0113* or in our reading room, which is located in room 1141 of the USDA South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC. Normal reading room hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. To be sure someone is there to help you, please call (202) 799–7039 before coming.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information on the regulations for the interstate movement of fruit from Hawaii, contact Dr. Robert Baca, Assistant Director, Permitting and Compliance Coordination, Compliance and Environmental Coordination Branch, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road, Unit 150, Riverdale, MD 20737; (301) 851–2292. For copies of more detailed information on the information collection, contact Ms. Kimberly Hardy, APHIS' Information Collection Coordinator, at (301) 851–2483.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Interstate Movement of Fruit From Hawaii.

OMB Control Number: 0579–0331.

Type of Request: Extension of approval of an information collection.

Abstract: The Plant Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 7701 *et seq.*) authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to restrict the importation, entry, or interstate movement of plants, plant products, and other articles to prevent the introduction of plant pests into the United States or their dissemination within the United States. The regulations in 7 CFR part 318, State of Hawaii and Territories Quarantine Notices, prohibit or restrict the interstate movement of fruits, vegetables, and other products from Hawaii, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Guam to the continental United States to prevent the spread of plant pests or noxious weeds.

In accordance with the regulations in § 318.13–26, breadfruit, jackfruit, fresh pods of cowpea and its relatives, dragon fruit, mangosteen, moringa pods, and melon must meet certain conditions for interstate movement from Hawaii into the continental United States. These conditions involve information collection activities, such as compliance agreements, certificates and limited permits, among other things.

We are asking the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve our use of these information collection activities for an additional 3 years.

The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public (as well as affected agencies) concerning our information collection. These comments will help us:

(1) Evaluate 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;

(2) Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the burden of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(3) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(4) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, through use, as appropriate, of automated, electronic, mechanical, and other collection technologies; *e.g.,* permitting electronic submission of responses.

Estimate of burden: The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 0.22 hours per response.

Respondents: Importers of fruit from Hawaii.

Estimated annual number of respondents: 110.

Estimated annual number of responses per respondent: 25.

Estimated annual number of responses: 2,782.

Estimated total annual burden on respondents: 618 hours. (Due to averaging, the total annual burden hours may not equal the product of the annual number of responses multiplied by the reporting burden per response.)

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.

Done in Washington, DC, this 11th day of January 2017.

Kevin Shea,

Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 2017–01009 Filed 1–17–17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–34–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS–2015–0096]

The Scotts Co. and Monsanto Co.; Determination of Nonregulated Status of Creeping Bentgrass Genetically Engineered for Resistance to Glyphosate

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: We are advising the public of our determination that creeping bentgrass designated as event ASR368, which has been genetically engineered for resistance to the herbicide glyphosate by the Scotts Company and Monsanto Company is no longer considered a regulated article under our regulations governing the introduction of certain genetically engineered organisms. Our determination is based on our evaluation of data submitted by the Scotts Company and Monsanto Company in its petition for a determination of nonregulated status, our analysis of publically available scientific data, and comments received from the public on the petition for nonregulated status and its associated environmental impact statement and plant pest risk assessment. This notice also announces the availability of our written determination and record of decision.

DATES: Effective January 18, 2017.

ADDRESSES: You may read the documents referenced in this notice and any comments we received in our reading room. The reading room is located in room 1141 of the USDA South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC. Normal reading room hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. To be sure someone is there to help you, please call (202) 799–7039 before coming. Those documents are also available on the Internet at *http://www.aphis.usda.gov/biotechnology/petitions_table_pending.shtml* under APHIS Petition Number 15–300–01p and are posted with the comments we received on the *Regulations.gov* Web site at *http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=APHIS-2015-0096.*

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. John Turner, Director, Environmental Risk Analysis Programs, Biotechnology Regulatory Services, APHIS, 4700 River Road, Unit 147, Riverdale, MD 20737–1236; (301) 851–3954, email: *john.t.turner@aphis.usda.gov.* To obtain copies of the documents referenced in this notice, contact Ms. Cindy Eck at (301) 851–3892, email: *cynthia.a.eck@aphis.usda.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The regulations in 7 CFR part 340, ''Introduction of Organisms and Products Altered or Produced Through Genetic Engineering Which Are Plant Pests or Which There Is Reason to Believe Are Plant Pests,'' regulate, among other things, the introduction (importation, interstate movement, or release into the environment) of organisms and products altered or produced through genetic engineering that are plant pests or that there is reason to believe are plant pests. Such genetically engineered (GE) organisms and products are considered ''regulated articles.''

The regulations in § 340.6(a) provide that any person may submit a petition to APHIS seeking a determination that an article should not be regulated under 7 CFR part 340. Paragraphs (b) and (c) of § 340.6 describe the form that a petition for a determination of nonregulated status must take and the information that must be included in the petition.

APHIS received a petition from the Scotts Company of Marysville, OH, and Monsanto Company of St. Louis, MO (Scotts/Monsanto), seeking a determination of nonregulated status of creeping bentgrass (*Agrostis stolonifera* L.) designated as event ASR368, which has been genetically engineered for resistance to the herbicide glyphosate. The Scotts/Monsanto petition states that information collected during field trials