high as 10 million seedlings/hectare (ha), and growth and development of the trees, along with simultaneous self-thinning produces mature stands of 10,000 to 15,000 trees/ha. Individual trees can grow into localized stands. These stands merge with other stands to form expansive monocultures often covering hundreds of acres. Melaleuca has invaded more than a half-million acres in southern Florida and over $25 million has been spent over the past decade to manage it, yet it continues to spread.

Melaleuca was first imported to southern Florida as an ornamental tree around 1900. Later, it was widely planted in wetlands as an inexpensive production method for the nursery trade in an attempt to produce a harvestable commodity. By the late 1970s, melaleuca became recognized as an invasive weed due to its ability to produce large quantities of seed. It was added to the Florida Prohibited Plant List in 1990, and to the Federal Noxious Weed List in 1992.

On October 26, 2004, we published in the **Federal Register** (69 FR 62432–63433, Docket No. 04–105–1) a notice in which we announced the availability, for public review and comment, of an environmental assessment documenting our review and analysis of environmental impacts associated with issuing a permit for the release of the nonindigenous fly *Fergusonina turneri* Taylor (Diptera: Fergusoninidae) and its obligate nematode *Fergusobia quinquenerviae* Davies and Giblin-Davis (Tylenchida: Sphaerulariidae) as biological control agents of melaleuca in the continental United States.

The fly *F. turneri* and the nematode *F. quinquenerviae* have a mutualistic biology that causes galls on plant buds and young leaves of melaleuca. Female flies are infected with parasitic female nematodes, nematode eggs, and nematode juveniles that persist through the life of the female fly. The female fly deposits multiple eggs along with the juvenile nematodes into developing melaleuca buds. These nematodes induce the formation of galls in the bud. Fly larvae then feed on the gall tissue and complete development within the gall. The adult fly will later emerge from a ''window'' in the gall wall, starting the cycle all over again. This process hampers the ability of melaleuca to regenerate by decreasing seed production and reducing survival of melaleuca seedlings and saplings.

We solicited comments on the environmental assessment for 30 days ending on November 26, 2004. We received three comments by that date. One of the commenters supported the recommendations of the environmental assessment. The other two commenters did not address the environmental assessment. Therefore, we are making no changes to the environmental assessment in response to these comments.

In this document, we are advising the public of our decision and finding of no significant impact regarding the use of *F. turneri* and *F. quinquenerviae* to control melaleuca in the continental United States. This decision, which is based on the findings in the environmental assessment, will enable the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to issue permits for the field release of *F. turneri* and *F. quinquenerviae* without management constraints or mitigating measures.

The environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact may be viewed on the Regulations.gov Web site and in our reading room (see **ADDRESSES** above for instructions for accessing Regulations.gov and information on the location and hours of the reading room). You may request paper copies of the environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact by calling or writing to the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. Please refer to the title of the environmental assessment when requesting copies.

The environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact have been prepared in accordance with: (1) The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), (2) regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality for implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA (40 CFR parts 1500–1508), (3) USDA regulations implementing NEPA (7 CFR part 1), and (4) APHIS' NEPA Implementing Procedures (7 CFR part 372).

Done in Washington, DC, this 11th day of January 2006.

Paul R. Eggert,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. E6–446 Filed 1–17–06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–34–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS–2006–0003]

Horse Protection; Public Meeting

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: We are advising the public that the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's Animal Care program will host a meeting to present current information on the enforcement of the Horse Protection Act (HPA) and provide a forum for horse industry members and other interested persons to comment on the Horse Protection Program, development of the HPA Operating Plan for 2007 and beyond, and other Horse Protection matters. This notice provides the meeting's agenda, location, and date.

DATES: The meeting will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on February 8, 2006. Registration will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 9 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Blue Ribbon Circle Club, 1110 Evans Street, Shelbyville, TN 37160.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Darby G. Holladay, APHIS Legislative and Public Affairs, 4700 River Road Unit 51, Riverdale, MD 20737; (301) 734–3265.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Animal Care, is announcing a meeting to discuss the enforcement of the Horse Protection Act (HPA). This meeting is designed to provide a forum for information dissemination on current initiatives by Animal Care. Further, this meeting will provide the opportunity for industry members and other interested parties to provide suggestions for the HPA Operating Plan for 2007 and beyond and comments on other Horse Protection Program matters during the listening session period on the agenda. Each speaker will indicate at registration their intention to address the Deputy Administrator during the listening session and will be allotted a set amount of time. Additional meetings of this type are tentatively scheduled to occur on the following dates and times: March 13, 2006, in Springfield, MO; April 19, 2006 in Dallas, TX; June 12, 2006, in Pomona, CA; September 11, 2006, in Chattanooga, TN; and December 11, 2006, in Riverdale, MD. These meetings will be announced in future **Federal Register** notices.

The meeting will, with the exception of possible minor modifications, follow the agenda below:

8:30 a.m. to 9 a.m.—Registration
9 a.m. to 9:15 a.m.—Welcome and Overview
9:15 a.m. to 11 a.m.—Horse Protection Program Update
11 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.—Listening Session
12:45 p.m. to 1 p.m.—Remarks and Closing

Meeting notices, copies of the Horse Protection Act, HPA regulations, the HPA Operating Plan for 2004–2006, and other relevant documents are available on the Animal Care Web site at *http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ac/hpainfo.html*.

Please note that this meeting is being held to provide for the exchange of information on the enforcement of the Horse Protection Act and is not an opportunity to submit formal comments on proposed rules or other regulatory initiatives. Written comments will be accepted and should be mailed to: USDA, APHIS, Animal Care, 4700 River Road Unit 84, Riverdale, MD 20737.

Done in Washington, DC, this 11th day of January 2006.

Paul R. Eggert,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. E6–444 Filed 1–17–06; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 05–092–1]

Draft Guidelines on Pharmacovigilance of Veterinary Medicinal Products: Management of Adverse Event Reports (VICH Topic GL24) and Data Elements for Submission of Adverse Event Reports (VICH Topic GL42)

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of availability and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The International Cooperation on Harmonization of Technical Requirements for the Registration of Veterinary Medicinal Products (VICH) has developed two draft guidelines titled ''Pharmacovigilance of Veterinary Medicinal Products: Management of Adverse Event Reports'' and ''Pharmacovigilance of Veterinary Medicinal Products: Data Elements for Submission of Adverse Event Reports.'' These draft guidelines describe, respectively, standardized terminology for the identification of possible adverse events following the use of veterinary medicinal products, and the specific data elements to be used for the submission and exchange of spontaneous adverse event reports between marketing authorization holders (licensees/permittees) and regulatory authorities. Because the draft guidelines apply to pharmacovigilance and adverse event reporting on veterinary vaccines regulated by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service under the Virus-Serum-Toxin Act, we are requesting comments on the scope of each guideline and its provisions so that we may include any relevant public input on the drafts in the Agency's comments to the VICH Steering Committee.

DATES: We will consider all comments that we receive on or before March 20, 2006.

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

- Federal eRulemaking Portal: Go to *http://www.regulations.gov* and, in the ''Search for Open Regulations'' box, select ''Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service'' from the agency drop-down menu, then click on ''Submit.'' In the Docket ID column, select APHIS–2005–0121 to submit or view public comments and to view supporting and related materials available electronically. After the close of the comment period, the docket can be viewed using the ''Advanced Search'' function in *Regulations.gov*.
- Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery: Please send four copies of your comment (an original and three copies) to Docket No. 05–092–1, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3A–03.8, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737–1238. Please state that your comment refers to Docket No. 05–092–1.

Reading Room: You may read any comments that we receive on this docket 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) 690–2817 before coming.

Other Information: Additional information about APHIS and its programs is available on the Internet at *http://www.aphis.usda.gov*. You may request copies of the draft guidelines ''Pharmacovigilance of Veterinary Medicinal Products: Management of Adverse Event Reports'' and ''Pharmacovigilance of Veterinary Medicinal Products: Data Elements for Submission of Adverse Event Reports'' from the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Albert P. Morgan, Center for Veterinary Biologics—Policy Evaluation and Licensing, VS, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 148, Riverdale, MD 20737–1231; (301) 734–8245.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The International Cooperation on Harmonization of Technical Requirements for the Registration of Veterinary Medicinal Products (VICH) is a unique project conducted under the auspices of the World Organization for Animal Health that brings together the regulatory authorities of the European Union, Japan, and the United States and representatives from the animal health industry in the three regions. The purpose of VICH is to harmonize technical requirements for veterinary products (both drugs and biologics). Regulatory authorities and industry experts from Australia and New Zealand participate in an observer capacity. The World Federation of the Animal Health Industry (COMISA, the Confederation Mondiale de L'Industrie de la Sante Animale) provides the secretarial and administrative support for VICH activities.

The United States Government is represented in VICH by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). The FDA provides expertise on veterinary drugs, while APHIS fills a corresponding role for veterinary biological products. As VICH members, APHIS and FDA participate in efforts to enhance harmonization and have expressed their commitment to seeking scientifically based, harmonized technical requirements for the development of veterinary drugs and biological products. One of the goals of harmonization is to identify and reduce the differences in technical requirements for veterinary drugs and biologics among regulatory agencies in different countries.

Two draft guidelines have been made available by the VICH Steering Committee for comments by interested parties. The first draft guideline, ''Pharmacovigilance of Veterinary Medicinal Products: Management of Adverse Event Reports'' (VICH Topic GL24), is intended to standardize terminology for the identification of possible adverse events following the use of marketed veterinary medicinal products. Because the draft guideline applies to some veterinary biological products regulated by APHIS under the Virus-Serum-Toxin Act—particularly with regard to terminology used for adverse event reporting—we are requesting comments on its provisions so that we may include any relevant public input on the draft in the Agency's comments to the VICH Steering Committee.

The second draft guideline, ''Pharmacovigilance of Veterinary Medicinal Products: Data Elements for Submission of Adverse Event Reports'' (VICH Topic GL42), describes the