

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

Agricultural Research Service

Notice of Intent to Grant Exclusive License

AGENCY: Agricultural Research Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service, intends to grant PRT Marketing, L.L.C. of Keller, Texas an Exclusive License to U.S. Patent No. 6,061,875, "Powered Roll Gin Stand" issued on May 16, 2000. Notice of Availability of this invention for licensing was published in the **Federal Register** on April 30, 2001.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before September 30, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to: USDA, ARS, Office of Technology Transfer, 5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Rm. 4-1174, Beltsville, Maryland 20705-5131.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: June Blalock of the Office of Technology Transfer at the Beltsville address given above; telephone: 301-504-5989.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Federal Government's patent rights in this invention are assigned to the United States of America, as represented by the Secretary of Agriculture. It is in the public interest to so license this invention as PRT Marketing, L.L.C. has submitted a complete and sufficient application for a license. The prospective exclusive license will be royalty-bearing and will comply with the terms and conditions of 35 U.S.C. 209 and 37 CFR 404.7. The prospective exclusive license may be granted unless, within thirty (30) days from the date of this published Notice, the Agricultural Research Service receives written evidence and argument which establishes that the grant of the license would not be consistent with the

requirements of 35 U.S.C. 209 and 37 CFR 404.7.

Michael D. Ruff,

Assistant Administrator.

[FR Doc. 02-22188 Filed 8-29-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-03-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Research Service

Notice of Federal Invention Available for Licensing and Intent to Grant Exclusive License

AGENCY: Agricultural Research Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of availability and intent.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Federally owned invention disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 5,552,295, "Monoclonal Antibodies to Bovine Haptoglobin and Methods for Detecting Serum Haptoglobin Levels", issued September 3, 1996, is available for licensing and that the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service, intends to grant to Syracuse Bioanalytical, Inc. of Ithaca, New York, an exclusive license to this invention.

DATES: (Federal Register) Comments must be received within ninety (90) calendar days of the date of publication of this Notice in the **Federal Register**.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to: USDA, ARS, Office of Technology Transfer, 5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Room 4-1174, Beltsville, Maryland 20705-5131.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: June Blalock of the Office of Technology Transfer at the Beltsville address given above; telephone: 301-504-5989.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Federal Government's patent rights to this invention are assigned to the United States of America, as represented by the Secretary of Agriculture. It is in the public interest to so license this invention as Syracuse Bioanalytical, Inc. has submitted a complete and sufficient application for a license. The prospective exclusive license will be royalty-bearing and will comply with the terms and conditions of 35 U.S.C. 209 and 37 CFR 404.7. The prospective exclusive license may be granted unless, within ninety (90) days from the date of this published Notice, the Agricultural Research Service receives written evidence and argument which

establishes that the grant of the license would not be consistent with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 209 and 37 CFR 404.7.

Michael D. Ruff,

Assistant Administrator.

[FR Doc. 02-22187 Filed 8-29-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-03-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. 02-033N]

Technical Conference on Foreign Material Contaminants, Prerequisite Programs, and Validation

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is announcing that it will hold a one-and-a-half-day technical conference on September 24 and 25, 2002, on foreign material contaminants, prerequisite programs, and validation to discuss issues related to these topics.

DATES: The public meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 24, and Wednesday, September 25, 2002. The meeting will be held from 8 a.m. to approximately 5 p.m. the first day and from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. the second day.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will be held at the Double Tree Inn, 1616 Dodge Street, Omaha, Nebraska; telephone (402) 346-7600. A tentative agenda is available in the FSIS Docket Room and on the FSIS Web site at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov>. FSIS welcomes comments on the topics to be discussed at the public meeting. Please send an original and two copies of comments to the FSIS Docket Room, Docket #02-033N, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Room 102 Cotton Annex, 300 12th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20250-3700. All comments and the official transcript of the meeting, when they become available, will be kept in the FSIS Docket Room at the address provided above.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Charles L. Gioglio at (202) 205-0256. Registration for the meeting will be on-site. Persons requiring a sign language

interpreter or other special accommodations should notify Ms. Sheila Johnson as soon as possible at (202) 690-6498.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

FSIS administers the Federal Meat Inspection Act, the Poultry Products Inspection Act, and the Egg Products Inspection Act. The Agency's activities are intended to prevent the distribution in domestic and foreign commerce, as human food, of unwholesome, adulterated, or misbranded meat, poultry, and egg products, including products that may transmit diseases or that may be otherwise injurious to health.

Throughout the 1990's, the Agency's most important goal was an improved food safety inspection system, exemplified by the Pathogen Reduction and Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (PR/HACCP) regulations that are now fully implemented. Although a primary goal of the PR/HACCP rule was to eliminate, reduce, and prevent the presence of pathogens, the HACCP regulations also address physical hazards. Recently, there have been questions raised on how foreign materials need to be addressed in the HACCP environment. Therefore, to address such concerns, FSIS is holding this technical conference.

Public Meeting

At the meeting, the Agency will describe, and invite discussion and comment on, circumstances and instances of contamination; the different types of foreign material contamination; health and safety risk aspects; current state of detection and removal; verification; validation; Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP); critical control points and critical limits in relation to foreign materials; and the role of prerequisite programs.

The Agency will present its current thinking on controlling foreign material contaminants through HACCP, Standard Sanitation Operating Procedures (Sanitation SOPs), and prerequisite programs. Discussion panels of food safety experts will review the current state of foreign material contaminant detection, removal, and verification. The Agency intends to seek information from academia, industry sources, and consumers on the best ways to identify such potential hazards and to provide a forum for discussion on how best to control them. The Agency will open the discussion to include, and solicit comment from, the attendees.

Additional Public Notification

Public awareness of all segments of rulemaking and policy development is important. Consequently, in an effort to better ensure that minorities, women, and persons with disabilities are aware of this public meeting notice, FSIS will announce it and make copies of this **Federal Register** publication available through the FSIS Constituent Update. FSIS provides a weekly FSIS Constituent Update, which is communicated via Listserv, a free e-mail subscription service. In addition, the update is available on-line through the FSIS Web site located at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov>. The update is used to provide information regarding FSIS policies, procedures, regulations, FSIS public meetings, recalls, **Federal Register** notices, and any other types of information that could affect or would be of interest to our constituents/stakeholders. The constituent Listserv consists of industry, trade, and farm groups, consumer interest groups, allied health professionals, scientific professionals, and other individuals that have requested to be included. Through the Listserv and web page, FSIS is able to provide information to a much broader, more diverse audience.

For more information contact the Congressional and Public Affairs Office, at (202) 720-9113. To be added to the free e-mail subscription service (Listserv), go to the "Constituent Update" page on the FSIS Web site at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/oa/update/htm>.

Click on the "Subscribe to the Constituent Update Listserv" link, then fill out and submit the form.

Done at Washington, DC on August 27, 2002.

William J. Hudnall,

Acting Administrator.

[FR Doc. 02-22189 Filed 8-29-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-DM-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Hoosier National Forest, Indiana; German Ridge Restoration Project

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: The USDA Forest Service, Hoosier National Forest intends to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) to disclose the environmental consequences of a vegetation restoration project. In the EIS the USDA Forest Service will address

the potential environmental impacts of replacing pine plantations in the German Ridge area of Perry County, Indiana with native hardwood communities. See the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for the purpose and need of the action.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis must be received on or before September 30, 2002. The draft environmental impact statement is expected February 2003, and the final environmental impact statement is expected August 2003.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Ron Ellis, NEPA Coordinator; Hoosier National Forest; 811 Constitution Avenue; Bedford IN 47421. Send electronic comments to: r9_hoosier_website@fs.fed.us. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for information on how to send electronic comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: Ron Ellis, NEPA Coordinator, Hoosier National Forest, USDA Forest Service; telephone: 812-275-5987. See address above under **ADDRESSES**. Copies of documents may be requested at the same address. Another means of obtaining information is to visit the Forest Web page at www.fs.fed.us/r9/hoosier—click on "Forest Projects," then "Scoping Packages," and then "German Ridge Restoration."

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Purpose and Need for Action

The purpose and need for the project is to:

- Fulfill the goals and objectives of the *Forest Plan* involving the restoration of native communities (*Forest Plan*, pp. 2-2, 2-6, and 2-32).
- Replace pine plantations with native hardwood communities that include a strong component of oaks, hickories, and other fire-adapted plants.
- Restore several fire-dependent plant species associated with the barrens that are Regional Forester sensitive species or forest species of concern.

Proposed Action

To move the vegetation toward the desired condition shown in the Hoosier National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, the Hoosier National Forest would during the next six or seven years: (1) Use prescribed burning on 2,180 acres, (2) harvest using "clearcut with reserves" on 498 acres, (3) clearcut 80 acres, and (4) thin 101 acres. The total treatment area is 2,180 acres. Hardwood trees, which account for 20 to 50 percent of the trees in the pine stands, would be left in the harvest areas.