

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 Marketing Service

[Doc. # TM-03-12]

Notice of Request for Extension and Revision of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), this notice announces the Agricultural Marketing Service's (AMS) intention to request an extension and revision of a currently approved information collection for the Farmers Market Questionnaire.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by December 22, 2003 to be assured of consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Contact or send comments to Ed Ragland, Marketing Service Branch, Transportation and Marketing, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Room 2646, South Building, Washington DC 20250-0269; (202) 720-8317 and Fax (202) 690-0031.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Farmers Market Questionnaire.

OMB Number: 0581-0169.

Expiration Date of Approval: March 31, 2004.

Type of Request: Revision of a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: Under the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1621 *et seq.*), the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is responsible for collecting data to provide market access for small and medium sized farmers. One of the elements of this function is to collect data on farmers

markets throughout the country and publish this information. This information is critical to State and local governments ability to make decisions on the formation and management of local farmers markets. States and localities need this information not only to support small and medium sized farmers, but also to make decisions concerning rural business activities. Information will be collected on the size and growth of markets, consumers and farmers served, products sold, sales, days of operation, and management structure. Information will be collected every two years on the size and growth of farmers markets to monitor how this marketing method changes over time and the impact farmers markets have on the farming community nationwide.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .25 hours per response.

Respondents: Farmers market managers.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 3,100.

Estimated Total Annual Responses: 1,550.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: .5.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 388 hours.

Comments are invited on: (1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to Ed Ragland, Marketing Services Branch, Transportation and Marketing, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Room 2646, South Building, Washington DC 20250-0269. All comments received will be available for public inspection during

regular business hours at the same address.

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

AMS is committed to implementation of the Government Paperwork Elimination Act, which provides for the use of information resources to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of government operations, including providing the public with the option of submitting information or transacting business electronically to the extent possible.

Dated: October 16, 2003.

Kenneth C. Clayton,

Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 03-26714 Filed 10-22-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Research Service

Advisory Committee on Biotechnology and 21st Century Agriculture; Nominations

AGENCY: Office of the Under Secretary, Research, Education, and Economics, USDA.

ACTION: Advisory Committee on Biotechnology and 21st Century Agriculture; Nominations.

SUMMARY: The Agricultural Research Service is requesting nominations for qualified persons to serve as members of the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Biotechnology and 21st Century Agriculture (AC21). The charge for the AC21 is two-fold: to examine the long-term impacts of biotechnology on the U.S. food and agriculture system and USDA; and to provide guidance to USDA on pressing individual issues, identified by the Office of the Secretary, related to the application of biotechnology in agriculture.

DATES: Written nominations must be received by fax or postmarked on or before November 24, 2003.

ADDRESSES: All nomination materials should be sent to Michael Schechtman, Designated Federal Official, Office of the Deputy Secretary, USDA, 202B Jamie L. Whitten Federal Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW.,

Washington, DC 20250. Forms may also be submitted by fax to (202) 690-4265.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Questions should be addressed to Michael Schechtman, Designated Federal Official, telephone (202) 720-3817; fax (202) 690-4265; e-mail mschechtman@ars.usda.gov. To obtain form AD-755 ONLY please contact Dianne Harmon, Office of Pest Management Policy, telephone (202) 720-4074, fax (202) 720-3191; e-mail dharmon@ars.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: AC21 members serve staggered 2-year terms, with terms for half of the Committee members expiring in any given year. Nominations are being sought for open Committee seats. The terms of 9 members of the AC21 will expire in early 2004. The AC21 Charter allows for flexibility to appoint up to a total of 11 members. Members can be reappointed to serve up to 6 consecutive years. Equal opportunity practices, in line with USDA policies, will be followed in all membership appointments to the Committee. To ensure that the recommendations of the Committee have taken into account the needs of the diverse groups served by USDA, membership shall include, to the extent practicable, individuals with demonstrated ability to represent minorities, women, and persons with disabilities.

Nominees of the AC21 should have recognized expertise in one or more of the following areas: recombinant-DNA (rDNA) research and applications using plants; rDNA research and applications using animals; rDNA research and applications using microbes; food science; silviculture and related forest science; fisheries science; ecology; veterinary medicine; the broad range of farming or agricultural practices; weed science; plant pathology; biodiversity; applicable laws and regulations relevant to agricultural biotechnology policy; risk assessment; consumer advocacy and public attitudes; public health/epidemiology; ethics, including bioethics; human medicine; biotechnology industry activities and structure; intellectual property rights systems; and international trade. Members will be selected by the Secretary of Agriculture in order to achieve a balanced representation of viewpoints to address effectively USDA biotechnology policy issues under consideration.

Nominations for AC21 membership must be in writing and provide the appropriate background documents required by USDA policy, including background disclosure form AD-755.

The AC21 meets in Washington, DC, up to four (4) times per year. The function of the AC21 is solely advisory. Members of the AC21 and its subcommittees serve without pay, but with reimbursement of travel expenses and per diem for attendance at AC21 and subcommittee functions for those AC21 members who require assistance in order to attend the meetings. While away from home or their regular place of business, those members will be eligible for travel expenses paid by REE, USDA, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at the same rate as a person employed intermittently in the government service is allowed under Section 5703 of Title 5, United States Code.

Submitting Nominations: Nominations should be typed and include the following:

1. A brief summary of no more than two (2) pages explaining the nominee's suitability to serve on the AC21.
2. A resume or curriculum vitae.
3. A completed copy of form AD-755. Nominations should be sent to Michael Schechtman at the address listed above, and be post marked no later than [the date set forth above].

Dated: October 15, 2003.

Joseph Jen,

Under Secretary for Research, Education and Economics.

[FR Doc. 03-26790 Filed 10-22-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3401-03-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 03-089-1]

Notice of Request for Extension of Approval of an Information Collection

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 in support of the Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey.

DATES: We will consider all comments that we receive on or before December 22, 2003.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by postal mail/commercial delivery or by e-mail. If you use postal mail/commercial delivery, please send four

copies of your comment (an original and three copies) to: Docket No. 03-089-1, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71, 4700 River Road, Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238. Please state that your comment refers to Docket No. 03-089-1. If you use e-mail, address your comment to regulations@aphis.usda.gov. Your comment must be contained in the body of your message; do not send attached files. Please include your name and address in your message and "Docket No. 03-089-1" on the subject line.

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.

APHIS documents published in the **Federal Register**, and related information, including the names of organizations and individuals who have commented on APHIS dockets, are available on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppd/rad/webrepor.html>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information regarding the Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey, contact Ms. Coanne O'Hern, National Survey Coordinator, Pest Detection and Management Programs, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road, Unit 137, Riverdale, MD 20737-1236; (301) 734-4387. For copies of more detailed information on the information collection, contact Mrs. Celeste Sickles, APHIS' Information Collection Coordinator, at (301) 734-7477.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey.

OMB Number: 0579-0010.

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

Abstract: Under the Plant Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 7701-7772), the Secretary of Agriculture is responsible for preventing the introduction and interstate spread of plant pests and noxious weeds that are new to or not widely distributed within the United States.

To this end, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) program, has joined forces with the States and other agencies to create a program called the Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS). The CAPS program collects and manages