

plan to announce an additional public meeting in Arkansas, which is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, October 4, 2001. We will publish a notice in the **Federal Register** announcing the date, time, and location of this meeting.

Done in Washington, DC, this 23rd day of July 2001.

Bobby R. Acord,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 01-18781 Filed 7-26-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 01-061-1]

International Plant Protection Convention Standard on the Plant Pest Risks Associated With Living Modified Organisms; Public Meeting

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: We are giving notice of a public meeting to solicit comments on the development of an international standard concerning the plant pest risks associated with living modified organisms.

DATES: The public meeting will be held on August 23, 2001, from 10 a.m. to noon.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will be held at the USDA Center at Riverside, 4700 River Road, Riverdale, MD, in Training Rooms 1 and 2.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Cathleen Enright, Director, Biotechnology Issues, PIM, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 140, Riverdale, MD 20737-1236; (301) 734-5342. For further information on APHIS' participation in international standard-setting activities, contact Mr. Nancy Klag, Manager, International Standards Management, PIM, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 Riverdale Road Unit 140, River, MD 20737-1236; (301) 734-8469.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) is recognized as the standard-setting body for international plant pest issues by the World Trade Organization. In April 2001, the IPPC's Interim Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (ICPM) recommended that an international standard be completed by April 2004 to address the plant pest risks associated with living modified

organisms (LMOs). At that time, the ICPM established an expert working group to develop detailed specifications for an LMO standard. The expert working group is expected to meet September 10-14, 2001.

The decision to develop an international standard was the result of requests from IPPC member countries for guidance from the IPPC on evaluating LMOs as plant pests, and the subsequent recommendations made in June 2000 by a meeting of an IPPC working group charged with considering this issue. The need for a standard was further discussed at a public meeting held by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) on March 8, 2001 (see 66 FR 10874, Docket No. 01-012-1, published February 20, 2001). The transcript of the March 8 meeting is available on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/pim/standards/lmos.pdf>.

The April 2001 meeting of the ICPM also produced terms of reference for the expert working group to use in developing detailed specifications for a standard on the plant pest risks associated with LMOs. The expert working group will develop a detailed standard specification for consideration at the ICPM4 meeting, to be held March 2002, that:

1. Identifies the plant pest risks associated with LMOs/products of modern biotechnology;
2. Identifies elements relevant to the assessment of these plant pest risks;
3. Considers existing international regulatory frameworks and guidelines;
4. Identifies areas within pest risk analysis standards and other international standards for phytosanitary measures (ISPMs) that are relevant to the phytosanitary aspects of LMOs/products of modern biotechnology; and
5. Identifies the plant pest risks associated with LMOs/products of modern biotechnology that are not adequately addressed by existing ISPMs.

The entire report from the April meeting is available on the Internet at <http://www.fao.org/waicent/faoinfo/agricult/agp/agpp/pq/>.

We are holding this public meeting to solicit comments on the development of specifications for the LMO standard.

This public meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 23, 2001. The public meeting will begin at 10 a.m. and is scheduled to end at noon. Those wishing to speak at the meeting must register in advance on or before Monday, August 20, 2001. To register to speak, please e-mail Dr. Cathleen Enright at cathleen.a.enright@aphis.usda.gov or

send a fax to Dr. Cathleen Enright at (301) 734-7639. Registrants should include their name, affiliation, address, and telephone number. Speakers are welcome, but not required, to submit written copies of their comments by e-mail to the address listed above. Depending on the number of registered speakers, limits may be imposed on the length of each speaker's presentation. The meeting will be recorded, and information about obtaining a transcript will be provided at the meeting.

Participation by teleconference will be available. Those wishing to participate by phone should contact Dr. Cathleen Enright for phone-in information at the e-mail address listed above by Friday, August 17, 2001. Finally, in lieu of attending the public meeting, interested persons may submit comments by mail or e-mail directly to Dr. Cathleen Enright at the addresses listed above.

If you require special accommodations, such as a sign language interpreter, please contact either of the persons listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

Parking and Security Procedures

Please note that a fee of \$2 is required to enter the parking lot at the USDA Center at Riverside. The machine accepts \$1 bills or quarters.

Upon entering the building, visitors should inform security personnel that they are attending the Living Modified Organisms public meeting. Identification is required. Security personnel will direct visitors to the registration tables located outside of Training Rooms 1 and 2. Registration upon arrival is necessary for all participants, including those who have registered in advance to speak. Visitor badges must be worn throughout the day.

Further information regarding the meeting and registration instructions may be obtained from either of the persons listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

Done in Washington, DC, this 24th day of July 2001.

Bobby R. Acord,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 01-18780 Filed 7-26-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Commodity Credit Corporation****Notice of Request for Extension and Revision of a Currently Approved Information Collection**

AGENCY: Commodity Credit Corporation, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the intention of the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) to request an extension for and revision to a currently-approved information collection for the Non-recourse Cotton Loan Program. This notice requests comments on proposed revisions to CCC-605, Designation of Agent—Cotton. The primary revision being proposed would provide producers the option of authorizing the Commodity Credit Corporation to use an electronic record of the producer's designation of an agent. Other format revisions to the CCC-605 are also proposed. The information collected is used to support the operation of the marketing assistance loan programs for cotton under authority of the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act (15 U.S.C. 714 *et seq.*) and the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7201 *et seq.*)

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received on or before September 25, 2001 to be assured consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gene S. Rosera, USDA/Farm Service Agency, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., STOP 0512; Washington, DC 20250-0512, telephone number (202) 720-8481. Comments may also be submitted by e-mail to: gene_rosera@wdc.fsa.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Non-recourse Cotton Loan Program.

OMB Control Number: 0560-0074.

Expiration Date of Approval: October 31, 2002.

Type of Request: Extension and revision to a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: On behalf of CCC, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) has developed an Internet-based process (referred to as Centralized Certificate Redemption (CCR)) that will allow agents designated and approved by cotton producers to obtain and exchange commodity certificates for cotton loan collateral. Cotton producers commonly authorize entities engaged in the marketing of cotton to repay cotton loan obligations

or obtain and exchange commodity certificates for cotton loan collateral at county FSA offices. The CCR will allow these approved entities to conduct these loan settlement functions online and ultimately obtain loan collateral without physically presenting paper documents and payments at multiple county FSA offices.

Cotton producers currently designate and approve agents for these loan functions using CCC-605, Designation of Agent—Cotton. The CCC-605 is also frequently used by the producer's agent to transfer their repayment authority to a subsequent agent. This form additionally identifies the loan to which the agent-designation applies, the quantity of the loan collateral applicable to the agent-designation, the number of bales, and other loan information.

For loan collateral redemptions, the agent or subsequent agent presents the CCC-605, the list of bales to be redeemed from loan, and payment at the county FSA office that "holds" the cotton warehouse receipts or electronic warehouse receipts. Based on receipt of these documents, CCC accepts repayment of the loan and releases the loan collateral to the agent designated by the producer. This same process is followed when the producer's agent requests to exchange commodity certificates for the loan collateral. For such exchanges, the agent additionally signs a statement acknowledging receipt of the commodity certificate and its exchange for loan collateral valued at the marketing loan repayment rate.

When the CCR process becomes fully operational, producers will be offered the option of authorizing CCC to accept certificate exchanges for their loan collateral from the agent identified on the electronic warehouse receipt (EWR) for the cotton. (This option is not being offered at this time for loan redemptions with cash.) This field of information on the EWR is referred to as the Electronic Agent Designation (EAD). However, for CCC to accept certificate redemptions from the agent identified on the EWR, the producer will need to authorize CCC to use such electronic records. This authorization will be required to protect both the producer and CCC from any liability arising from CCC's use of such records. Under the CCR process, the CCC-605 form will not be required to be returned to the county FSA office in order to establish the CCR as a totally on-line process. The EAD will be entered onto the EWR by the EWR Provider based on procedures acceptable to the cotton producer, the producer's designated agent, and the EWR Provider. The establishment of the EAD and the use of the CCR process are

entirely optional and producers will continue to have the option of requiring repayment or certificate exchanges at the county FSA office.

CCC will request approval of a revised CCC-605, Designation of Agent—Cotton that would contain the following parts. Parts A, B, C, F, and G to the revised CCC-605 would provide functions that are new to the CCC-605. Part A would identify the contact producer authorizing CCC to use an EAD. This part would additionally identify the loan or loans for which the authorization is established by loan number, maturity date and farm number. The producer would have the option of providing authorization for CCC to use the EAD for all loans of a specific crop year. Part B would contain the definitions and terms of the authorization for CCC to use the EAD. Part C of the form would provide for the signatures and dates of signatures for all producers providing CCC authorization to use the EAD. Part D would provide the terms under which the producer authorizes an agent or, if applicable, the subsequent agent to redeem all or a portion of the cotton pledged as collateral for the identified loans. The terms of agent designation in Part D will not be revised from those currently provided by CCC-605 (version dated 10-13-00) except for necessary notational corrections. Part F, Endorsements, will provide space for the producer's agent to transfer, by endorsement, the functions to a subsequent agent. The current version of the CCC-605 provides space for six such subsequent endorsements and the proposed CCC-605 will have room for only four such subsequent endorsements. It is proposed that a new Part F be added as a convenience to agents that may present the CCC-605 at a county FSA office by providing the following statement that would be followed by space for the agent's signature and date of the signature: "I acknowledge: (1) Receipt of CCC Commodity Certificate which I requested to purchase from CCC; (2) that the certificate will be exchanged with CCC in the manner specified in CCC regulations at 7 CFR Part 1400 in order that I may receive commodities from CCC which had previously been pledged as collateral for a CCC marketing assistance loan; and (3) that for purposes of valuing the commodity acquired under this transaction, such value will be the marketing loan repayment rate applicable under 7 CFR Parts 1427 for the commodity as of the day I made payment to CCC for the commodity certificate." Part G is