

interviews to establish usage baselines and monitor trends in some areas for critical use and user characteristics for representatives Forest Service wilderness area.

Need and Use of the Information: FS will collect information from visitors to find out how many times they visit, when they plan their next visit, or if they plan to visit at all. Visitors will be asked, when visiting, if they come in groups, and if so, the size of those groups and how long they stay when visiting. Also, visitors will be asked do they use equipment such as stoves, wood for fires and do they have preferences for social conditions? If the information is not collected FS will have no basis for making management decisions and establishing policy for guiding wilderness management in general.

Description of Respondents: Individuals or households.

Number of Respondents: 1,000.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 416.

Rural Development

Title: Rural Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities (Ongoing Reporting Requirements).

OMB Control Number: 0570-0027.

Summary of Collection: The Community Renewal Tax Relief Act of 2000 extends the duration for all Empowerment Zone through December 2009. The Rural Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities program (EZ/EC) provides economically depressed rural areas and communities with opportunities for growth and revitalization. USDA has designated 120 Champion communities from the EZ/EC applicant communities that have agreed to implement their strategic plans in accordance with the principles of the program and report regularly on their progress.

Need and Use of the Information: Periodic reviews provide the basis for USDA to continue or revoke a designation during the life of the federal program. These reports provide progress on each project that the designee has specified in their implementation plans. A warning letter may be sent to recipients who have been regarded as noncompliance or have made insufficient progress in implementing the strategic plan.

Description of Respondents: State, Local or Tribal Government.

Number of Respondents: 178.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 3,762.

Sondra Blakey,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Research Service

Notice of Establishment of the Advisory Committee on Biotechnology and 21st Century Agriculture and Notice of Appointment of Committee Members

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

ACTION: Notice of establishment of the Advisory Committee on Biotechnology and 21st Century Agriculture and notice of appointment of committee members.

SUMMARY: The Office of the Under Secretary, Research, Education, and Economics of the Department of Agriculture, in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. 2, announces the establishment of and appointment of members to the Advisory Committee on Biotechnology and 21st Century Agriculture ("AC21").

ADDRESSES: The public may send written comments 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.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael Schechtman, Telephone: (202) 720-3817, Fax: (202) 690-4265, or e-mail mschechtman@ars.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Department of Agriculture is establishing a new committee, the Advisory Committee on Biotechnology and 21st Century Agriculture. The purpose of this new committee is to examine the long-term impacts of biotechnology on the U.S. food and agriculture system and USDA, and provide guidance to USDA on pressing individual issues, identified by the Office of the Secretary, related to the application of biotechnology in agriculture. The committee is necessary and in the public interest.

The Committee will report to the Secretary through an annual report and other means as necessary and appropriate.

The Committee will meet in Washington, DC, up to four (4) times per

year. Eighteen members were appointed from nominations of more than 100 well-qualified individuals, representing the biotechnology industry, the farming community, the seed industry, food manufacturers, commodity processors and shippers, environmental and consumer groups, along with academic researchers as well as experts on bioethics and legal issues. Equal opportunity practices were followed in appointing committee members. To assure that recommendations of the advisory committee take into account the needs of diverse groups served by the Department, membership includes, to the extent practicable, individuals with demonstrated ability to represent minorities, women, and persons with disabilities.

The following appointments to the Advisory Committee on Biotechnology and 21st Century Agriculture have been made:

Patricia A. Layton, Professor, Department of Forest Resources, Clemson University, in Clemson, South Carolina will serve as Chair of the AC21;

Daryl D. Buss, Dean, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Wisconsin in Madison, Wisconsin;

Leon C. Corzine, Farmer, and Chairman, Biotechnology Working Group, National Corn Growers Association, in Assumption, Illinois;

Carole Cramer, Professor, Virginia Tech, and Chief Scientific Officer, CropTech Corporation, in Blacksburg, Virginia;

Richard T. Crowder, Chief Executive Officer, American Seed Trade Association, in Alexandria, Virginia;

Michael D. Dykes, Vice President, Government Affairs, Monsanto Company, in Washington, DC;

Juan C. Enriquez-Cabot, Director, Life Sciences Project, Harvard Business School, in Boston, Massachusetts;

Randal W. Giroux, Staff Scientist, Cargill, Inc., in Wayzata, Minnesota;

Duane Grant, Farmer and Member, National Association of Wheat Growers and U.S. Wheat Inc. Biotechnology Committee, in Rupert, Idaho;

David A. Hoisington, Director, Applied Biotechnology Center and Bioinformatics, International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT), in Mexico City, Mexico;

Gregory A. Jaffe, Co-Director, Biotechnology Project, Center for Science in the Public Interest, in Washington, DC;

David C. Magnus, Assistant Professor, Center for Bioethics, University of Pennsylvania, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania;

Terry L. Medley, Vice President, Global Regulatory Affairs, DuPont

Agriculture and Nutrition, in Wilmington, Delaware;

Margaret G. Mellon, Director, Food and Environment Program, Union of Concerned Scientists, in Washington, DC;

Ronald D. Olson, Vice President, Grain Operations, General Mills, in Minneapolis, Minnesota;

Jerome B. Slocum, Farmer and General Manager, North Mississippi Grain Company, in Coldwater, Mississippi;

Keith C. Triebwasser, Manager, Product Safety and Regulatory Affairs, The Procter and Gamble Company, in Cincinnati, Ohio;

Lisa W. Zannoni, Head, Global Regulatory Affairs and Government Relations, BASF Plant Science, in Mount Olive, New Jersey.

Committee members will initially serve one- or two-year terms, and may be reappointed to serve up to six consecutive years. In the event of a vacancy, the Secretary will appoint a new member as appropriate and subject to the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The duties of the Committee are solely advisory.

Committee members will serve without pay. Reimbursement of travel expenses and per diem costs shall be made to Committee members who would be unable to attend Committee meetings without such reimbursement.

Joseph J. Jen,

Under Secretary, Research, Education, and Economics.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 03-007-1]

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 importation of animals and poultry, animal and poultry products, and animal germ plasm.

DATES: We will consider all comments that we receive on or before June 16, 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. 03-007-1, 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. 03-007-1. 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. 03-007-1" 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 importation of animals and poultry, animal and poultry products, and animal germplasm, contact Dr. Gary Colgrove, Director, National Center for Import and Export, VS, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 38, Riverdale, MD 20737-1231; (301) 734-4356. 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: Importation of Animals and Poultry, Animal and Poultry Products, Certain Animal Embryos, Semen, and Zoological Animals.

OMB Number: 0579-0040.

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

Abstract: The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of the United States Department of Agriculture is responsible for, among other things, preventing the introduction of exotic animal diseases into the United States and for rapidly

identifying, containing, and eradicating such diseases when feasible. In connection with this mission, APHIS collects pertinent information from those individuals who import animals or poultry, animal or poultry products, or animal germplasm into the United States.

This information includes data such as the origins of the animals or animal products to be imported, the health status of the animals or the processing methods used to produce animal products to be imported, and whether the animals or animal products were temporarily offloaded in another country during their transit to the United States. We need this information to help ensure that these imports do not introduce exotic animal diseases into the United States.

We use a variety of information collection procedures, devices, and forms including, but not limited to: Health certificates, import permits, ear tags, leg bands, specimen submission forms, inspection reports, cooperative and trust fund agreements, and certification statements.

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 information collection, 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 information collection 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 0.0369992 hours per response.

Respondents: Entities that import animals or poultry, animal or poultry products, and animal embryos, germplasm, and semen.

Estimated annual number of respondents: 169,806.