

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

Office of the Secretary

[Docket No. 98-123-1]

Declaration of Emergency Because of Pseudorabies

Pseudorabies, a contagious, infectious, and communicable disease of livestock, primarily swine, is present in the United States. The disease, also known as Aujeszky's disease, mad itch, and infectious bulbar paralysis, is caused by a herpes virus. Pseudorabies does not affect humans.

In 1989 the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) launched a national pseudorabies eradication program in the United States. This pseudorabies eradication program, conducted in cooperation with the State governments and swine producers, involves the systematic identification of pseudorabies infected swine in the United States and the management of herds to eliminate sources of pseudorabies. By 1992, the program had identified nearly 8,000 swine herds as being infected. Steady progress towards eradication of Pseudorabies has been made since that time, and now only a little over 1,000 infected swine herds remained in the United States. By the end of the year 2000 pseudorabies should be completely eradicated from the United States.

Currently, swine prices in the United States are severely depressed. Not only are swine herd owners unable to sell their animals at a profit, they are actually losing money on these animals by continuing to feed and maintain them. Many of these owners are failing to vaccinate these devalued swine, since the cost of vaccinations cuts even further into the herd owner's financial resources. This poses a serious risk of spreading pseudorabies to additional premises and prolonging eradication efforts. This setback to the pseudorabies eradication program could not only be

economically damaging to the swine industry, but also would be costly for the Federal Government.

Therefore, APHIS has determined it is necessary to commence a voluntary accelerated pseudorabies eradication program in which the agency purchases and depopulates, as quickly as possible, as many pseudorabies infected herds at a considerable savings.

However, APHIS resources are insufficient to carry out this accelerated pseudorabies eradication program, therefore, additional funds are needed. These funds would be used for the following activities which are designed to eradicate pseudorabies in the United States well ahead of schedule: Contact swine herd owners in various States and purchase their infected herds from them at fair market value; remove and depopulate these infected herds on a voluntary basis; dispose of the swine carcasses; and conduct surveillance of surrounding herds to ensure that the disease has not spread beyond the infected herd that is being depopulated.

Therefore, in accordance with the provisions of the Act of September 25, 1981, 95 Stat. (7 U.S.C. 147b), I declare that there is an emergency that threatens the livestock industry of this country and hereby authorize the transfer and use of such funds as may be necessary from appropriations or other funds available to the agencies or corporations of the United States Department of Agriculture to commence a voluntary accelerated pseudorabies eradication program in the United States.

Effective Date: This declaration of emergency shall become effective January 7, 1999.

Dan Glickman,

Secretary of Agriculture.

[FR Doc. 99-800 Filed 1-13-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Commodity Credit Corporation

Notice and Request for Comment for Approval of a New Information Collection

AGENCY: Commodity Credit Corporation, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) is seeking approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to revise procedures for accepting vendor bids to supply commodities for use under domestic purchase programs. A Domestic Electronic Bid Entry System (DEBES) will provide for electronic submission of bids via the Internet. This will replace the current system, which requires hard-copy bids and manual entry into CCC's system. The new procedure will be more reliable and more efficient than the current procedure.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received on or before March 15, 1999 to be assured consideration.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS: Contact Tim Mehl, Chief, Planning and Analysis Division, Kansas City Commodity Office (KCCO), 9200 Ward Parkway, Kansas City, Missouri 64114, telephone (816) 926-3536 or fax (816) 926-6767.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Domestic Electronic Bid Entry System (DEBES)—7 CFR 1496.

OMB Control Number: 0560-New

Type of Request: Approval of a new information collection.

Abstract: The Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) purchases agricultural commodities to meet domestic program needs. CCC issues invitations to purchase agricultural commodities at various times during the year. Vendors respond by making offers using the CCC Commodity Bid Form (form KC-327). CCC verifies that the KC-327 is responsive and manually enters the information on the form into the bid evaluation program to determine the lowest cost and award data for the creation of contracts. The current keypunching process requires entering data and then verifying the results. The sensitivity of the data and the high value of the contracts at stake requires a reliable and efficient system for capturing the bid data.

Regulations governing paperwork burdens on the public require that before an agency collects information from the public, the agency must receive approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). In accordance with those regulations, CCC is seeking approval for DEBES to provide for the submission of bids through the Internet. Under OMB regulations, comments

concerning DEBES must be submitted to OMB within 30 days of this notice's publication in the **Federal Register**. Within 60 days "after receipt of the proposed collection of information or publication of the notice" in the **Federal Register**, whichever is later, OMB shall notify CCC of its decision to approve, require modifications to, or disapprove DEBES.

Bid Process Modifications

Each vendor will be required to use an Internet Service Provider to participate in the DEBES. KCCO will provide vendor training and offer hotline assistance for DEBES. It is anticipated DEBES will be put into operation in the summer of 1999. Vendor participation in the DEBES shall be required to submit bids to CCC for the purchase of agricultural commodities intended for domestic food programs. The DEBES will capture commodity vendor bid data in a more reliable and efficient way than the current system. DEBES provides the data in an electronic and linear format.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for collecting information under this notice is estimated to average 30 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.

Respondents: Businesses and other for profit.

Respondents: 60.

Estimated Number of Annual

Responses per Respondent: 24.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 720 hours.

Proposed topics for comments include: (a) 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; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information collected; or (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of the information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments regarding this information collection requirement should be directed to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Attention: Desk Officer for Agriculture, Washington, DC 20503, and to Tim

Mehl, Chief Planning and Analysis Division, Kansas City Commodity Office, 9200 Ward Parkway, Kansas City, Missouri 64114, telephone (816) 926-3536 or fax (816) 926-6767.

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.

Signed at Washington, DC, on January 7, 1999.

Keith Kelly,

Executive Vice President, Commodity Credit Corporation.

[FR Doc. 99-843 Filed 1-13-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-05-P

COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Sunshine Act Notice; Meeting

AGENCY: U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

DATE AND TIME: Friday, January 22, 1999, 9:30 a.m.

PLACE: U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, 624 Ninth Street, N.W., Room 540, Washington, DC. 20425.

STATUS:

Agenda

- I. Approval of Agenda
- II. Approval of Minutes of December 11, 1998 Meeting
- III. Announcements
- IV. Executive Session
- V. Staff Director's Report
- VI. State Advisory Committee Report "Racial Harassment in Vermont Public Schools" (Vermont)
- VII. State Advisory Appointments for District of Columbia, Maryland and New York
- VIII. Project Planning
- IX. Future Agenda Items

CONTACT PERSON FOR FURTHER

INFORMATION: Barbara Brooks, Press and Communications (202) 376-8312.

Stephanie Y. Moore,

General Counsel.

[FR Doc. 99-979 Filed 1-12-99; 2:44 pm]

BILLING CODE 6335-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Submission for OMB Review: Comment Request

DOC has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13.

Bureau: International Trade Administration.

Title: Format for Petition Requesting Relief Under U.S. Antidumping Duty Law.

Agency Form Number: ITA-357P.

OMB Number: 0625-0105.

Type of Request: Reinstatement.

Burden: 1,520 hours.

Number of Respondents: 38.

Avg. Hours Per Response: 40 hours.

Needs and Uses: The International Trade Administration, Import Administration's, Antidumping/Countervailing Duty (AD/CVD) Enforcement, implements the U.S. antidumping and countervailing duty law. Import Administration investigates allegations of unfair trade practices by foreign governments and producers and, in conjunction with the U.S. International Trade Commission, can impose duties on the product in question to offset the unfair practices. Form ITA-357P—Format for Petition Requesting Relief Under the U.S. Antidumping Duty Law—is designed for U.S. companies or industries that are unfamiliar with the antidumping law and the petition process. The Form is designed for potential petitioners that believe that an industry in the United States is being injured because a foreign competitor is selling a product in the United States at less than fair value. Since a variety of detailed information is required under the law before initiation of an antidumping duty investigation, the Form is designed to extract such information in the least burdensome manner possible. Form ITA-357P is sent by request to potential U.S. petitioners.

Affected Public: Businesses or other for profit, not-for-profit institutions.

Frequency: On occasion.

Respondent's Obligation: Required to obtain or retain a benefit, voluntary.

OMB Desk Officer: David Rostker, (202) 395-7340.

Copies of the above information collection can be obtained by calling or writing Linda Engelmeier, Department Forms Clearance Officer, (202) 482-3272, Department of Commerce, Room 5327, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent to David Rostker, OMB Desk Officer, Room 10202, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503 within 30 days of the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: January 11, 1999.

Linda Engelmeier,

Department Forms Clearance Officer, Office of Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 99-838 Filed 1-13-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-P