

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

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 02-052-1]

Notice of Request for Approval of an Information Collection

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: New 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 initiate a new information collection activity to support the National Animal Health Monitoring System's national Catfish 2003 study.

DATES: We will consider all comments we receive that are postmarked, delivered, or e-mailed by July 15, 2002.

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. 02-052-1, 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. 02-052-1. 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. 02-052-1" 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 national Catfish 2003 study, contact Mr. Chris Quatrano, Management Analyst, Centers for Epidemiology and Animal Health, VS, APHIS, 555 S. Howes, Fort Collins, CO 80521; (970) 490-7847. 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: National Catfish Study 2003.

OMB Number: 0579-XXXX.

Type of Request: Approval of a new information collection.

Abstract: The United States Department of Agriculture is responsible for protecting the health of our Nation's livestock and poultry populations by preventing the introduction and interstate spread of contagious, infectious, or communicable diseases of livestock (including farm-raised fish) and poultry and for eradicating such diseases from the United States when feasible. In connection with this mission, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) operates the National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS), which collects, on a national basis, statistically valid and scientifically sound data on the prevalence and economic importance of livestock and poultry diseases. Information from the studies conducted by NAHMS is disseminated to and used by livestock and poultry producers, consumers, animal health officials, private veterinary practitioners, animal industry groups, policymakers, public health officials, media, educational institutions, and others to improve the productivity and competitiveness of U.S. agriculture.

NAHMS' national studies have evolved into a collaborative industry and government initiative to help improve product quality and to

determine the most effective means of producing animal and poultry products. APHIS is the only agency responsible for collecting national data on animal and poultry health. Participation in any NAHMS study is voluntary, and all data are confidential.

NAHMS will initiate a national study titled Catfish 2003. Catfish 2003 will take place on farms in Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi, where 95.2 percent of total U.S. catfish sales and 95.2 percent of the water surface acres for catfish production were located in 2001.¹ The purpose of Catfish 2003 is to support the catfish farming industry through the description of production and processing methods, the evaluation of the overall health status of farm-raised catfish, and the estimation of the prevalence of specific diseases affecting the industry. The potential benefits to the industry from Catfish 2003 include increased production through enhanced pond management and increased consumer confidence in quality through disease reduction.

The specific objectives of Catfish 2003 include the following: (1) Estimating the prevalence of specific diseases affecting the catfish industry, such as enteric septicemia, columnaris, winter kill, proliferative gill disease, visceral toxicosis, and diseases associated with trematodes; (2) assessing the frequency of water quality testing and pond maintenance to correlate specific water characteristics with possible health conditions in catfish; (3) describing management practices used by catfish farmers and their impact on productivity; (4) evaluating the use of nutritional supplements in the catfish farming industry; (5) describing the frequency of health-related management practices, including feeding practices, fingerling purchase and production, stocking procedures, harvesting methods, pest management practices, use of veterinary services, and vaccination and treatment practices.

We are asking the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve the information collection activity for the national Catfish 2003 study.

The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public (as well as affected agencies) concerning our

¹ NASS Catfish Production Report, February 2002.

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 collection of information, 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 collection of information 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 0.458 hours per response.

Respondents: Industry personnel, private veterinary practitioners, company and independent producers, academicians, State veterinary medical officers, and State public health officials.

Estimated annual number of respondents: 1,080.

Estimated annual number of responses per respondent: 1.

Estimated annual number of responses: 1,080.

Estimated total annual burden on respondents: 495 hours. (Due to averaging, the total annual burden hours may not equal the product of the annual number of responses multiplied by the reporting burden per response.)

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

Done in Washington, DC, this 9th day of May 2002.

Peter Fernandez,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 02-12138 Filed 5-14-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Commodity Credit Corporation

Farm Service Agency

Type 31-V, Burley Biologically Engineered Tobacco

AGENCIES: Agricultural Marketing Service, Commodity Credit Corporation and Farm Service Agency, USDA.

ACTION: Notice; request for public comment.

SUMMARY: This notice invites comments about whether the biologically engineered Burley Tobacco Type 31-V and related tobaccos should be considered quota or non-quota tobacco for the 2003 and subsequent crop years.

DATES: Comments concerning the contents of this notice must be submitted by June 14, 2002 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments concerning this notice to Director, Tobacco and Peanuts Division, FSA, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Room 5750-S, STOP 0514, Washington, DC 20250-0514. Comments may be sent by facsimile to (202) 720-0549. Comments may be sent by e-mail to: tob_comments@wdc.fsa.usda.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ann Wortham, Tobacco and Peanuts Division, (202) 720-2715 or at e-mail address ann_wortham@wdc.fsa.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938, as amended (The Act) established tobacco marketing quotas as part of the tobacco program, which is intended to balance supply with demand at levels assuring stable supplies for domestic and export use at prices that are considered sufficient for producers. The quotas set specific limits on the amount of particular types of tobacco that may be sold without penalty, and apply to the areas in which the type is produced if marketing quotas are approved through referendum by producers of that type. The Act also defined the types of tobacco that are subject to quotas, one of which is burley tobacco, which is defined by the statute to be Type 31 tobacco.

Recently, tobacco that was biologically engineered to have a low nicotine content became available to producers. The regulations of the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), which classifies tobacco for inspection purposes but does not determine types for FSA's Tobacco Program, provide that certain tobacco which in its cured state has a nicotine content of not more than eight-tenths of one percent ($\frac{8}{10}$ of 1%), oven dry weight, be classified as Type 31-V, if burley, or Type 73, if flue-cured. AMS thus classified, for inspection purposes, the biologically engineered tobacco, which fell at or below that nicotine level, as being either Type 31-V (burley) or, if cured in the

same manner as class 1 flue-cured tobacco, as Type 73 (flue-cured).

FSA marketing quota regulations currently include Type 31 (burley), and Types 11-14 (flue-cured), as tobaccos subject to quotas. The purpose of this notice is to request comments on whether to include Type 31-V or Type 73 in the definitions of tobaccos subject to quotas.

Discussion

If the biologically engineered tobacco (Type 31 or Type 73) is determined to be quota tobacco, it could be grown in quota tobacco States and on quota tobacco farms without penalty. Some concern has been expressed that growing such tobacco in quota areas could create a risk of contamination of traditional types of tobacco through cross-pollination.

If the biologically engineered tobacco is determined to be non-quota tobacco, it could be grown in non-quota areas and not be subject to penalties, but it could not be grown in quota areas without incurring a penalty, thus alleviating the concern over cross-pollination.

FSA invites the views of interested persons before making its determination on considering biologically engineered tobacco, Type 31-V or Type 73, and related tobaccos, as quota or non-quota tobaccos, and will consider those views in formulating its policy. All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in any rule that may be forthcoming on this issue. All comments will become a matter of public record.

Signed at Washington, DC, on April 26, 2002.

James R. Little,

Administrator, Farm Service Agency and Executive Vice President, Commodity Credit Corporation.

[FR Doc. 02-12076 Filed 5-14-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-05-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Fresno County Resource Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Resource Advisory Meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the authorities in the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (Pub. L. 92-463) and under the secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (Pub. L. 106-393) the Sierra and Sequoia National Forests' Resource Advisory