

copy of the Emergency Action Notification, contracts with individuals or companies hired to perform the decontamination, receipts for equipment and materials purchased to perform the decontamination, time sheets for employees of the grain storage facility who performed activities connected to the decontamination, and any other documentation that helps show decontamination has been completed.

(e) *Flour millers.* Flour millers who, in accordance with a compliance agreement with APHIS, heat-treat millfeed made from wheat produced in the regulated area are eligible to be compensated at the rate of \$35.00 per short ton of millfeed. The amount of millfeed compensated will be calculated by multiplying the weight of wheat from the regulated area received by the miller by 25 percent (the average percent of millfeed derived from a short ton of grain). To claim compensation, the miller must submit to an inspector a copy of the limited permit under which the wheat was moved to the mill and a copy of the bill of lading for the wheat (showing the weight of the wheat in short tons). Flour millers must also submit verification that the millfeed was heat treated, in the form of a copy of the limited permit under which the wheat was moved to a treatment facility and a copy of the bill of lading accompanying that movement.

Done in Washington, DC, this 30th day of July 1996.

Terry L. Medley,
*Administrator, Animal and Plant Health
Inspection Service.*

[FR Doc. 96-19757 Filed 8-1-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

7 CFR Part 301

[Docket 96-016-11]

Karnal Bunt; Public Forums

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of public forums.

SUMMARY: We are advising the public that the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service is hosting three additional public forums on the Agency's program to control and eradicate Karnal bunt. One forum has already been held in Washington, DC. The forums will provide an additional opportunity for the public to comment on the regulations established and amended by a series of interim rules published in the Federal Register since March, 1996. Additionally, the forums

will provide the public an opportunity to comment on proposed changes to the regulations contained in a proposed rule published elsewhere in this issue of the Federal Register. The regulations quarantine portions of Arizona, California, New Mexico, and Texas because of infestations of Karnal bunt, restrict the movement of regulated articles from the quarantined areas, and provide compensation for certain individuals in order to mitigate losses and expenses incurred because of Karnal bunt. Comments will also be accepted addressing any aspect of the Karnal bunt program not included in the regulations, including control and survey activities conducted in the quarantined areas, the national Karnal bunt survey program, and the certification of wheat for export. Information gathered at the public forums will be considered by the Department in developing guidelines and procedures for conducting the Karnal bunt program for the 1996-97 wheat growing season.

DATES: The public forums will be held in Kansas City, MO, on August 13; in Phoenix, AZ, on August 14; and in Imperial, CA, on August 15. Each public forum will begin at 9 a.m. and is scheduled to end at 5 p.m. each day.

ADDRESSES: The public forums will be held at the following locations:

1. Kansas City, MO: Holiday Inn International Airport, Heartland Rooms 1 and 2, 11832 Plaza Circle, Kansas City, MO.
2. Phoenix, AZ: Embassy Suites Hotel, Manzana Room, 3210 Grand Avenue, Phoenix, AZ.
3. Imperial, CA: Veterans Memorial Home, 247 South Imperial Avenue, Imperial, CA.

Any persons who are unable to attend the forum, but who wish to comment on any aspect of the Karnal bunt program, may send written comments.

Consideration will be given only to comments received on or before September 3, 1996. Please send an original and three copies of written comments to Docket No. 96-016-11, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Suite 3C03, 4700 River Road, Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238. Please state that your comments refer to Docket No. 96-016-11. Comments received, including transcripts from the public forums, may be inspected at USDA, room 1141, South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Persons wishing to inspect comments are requested to call

ahead on (202) 690-2817 to facilitate entry into the comment reading room.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Stephen Poe, Operations Officer, Domestic and Emergency Operations, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 134, Riverdale, MD 20737-1236, (301) 734-8247.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The public forums are being held concerning the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's (APHIS) program to control and eradicate Karnal bunt. Comments will be accepted on the regulations established and amended by a series of interim rules published by APHIS in the Federal Register since March, 1996. Comments will also be accepted on a proposed rule (Docket No. 96-016-10, "Karnal Bunt") published in the "Proposed Rules" section of this issue of the Federal Register, which would amend the Karnal bunt regulations.

The interim rules were published on March 28, 1996 (61 FR 13649-13655, Docket No. 96-016-3), April 25, 1996 (61 FR 18233-18235, Docket No. 96-016-5), and July 5, 1996 (61 FR 35107-35109, Docket No. 96-016-6 and 61 FR 35102-35107, Docket No. 96-016-7). Comments are required to be received on the interim rules by September 3, 1996. Comments on the proposed rule (Docket No. 96-016-10) must be received by September 3, 1996.

A representative of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) will preside at the public forums. Any interested person may appear and be heard in person, or through an attorney or other representative. Persons who wish to speak at the public forums will be asked to provide their names and affiliations. Parties wishing to make oral presentations may register in advance by calling the Legislative and Public Affairs staff of APHIS, USDA, at (202) 720-2511. Registration will also be held for each forum at that forum site from 8 a.m. until 8:45 a.m. on the day of the forum. Speakers will be scheduled in the order their registration is received. Advance registrations for the forums must be made no later than the following:

1. Kansas City, MO: 4 p.m. e.d.s.t., August 9, 1996;
2. Phoenix, AZ: 4 p.m. e.d.s.t., August 12, 1996; and
3. El Centro, CA: 4 p.m. e.d.s.t., August 13, 1996.

The public forums will begin at 9 a.m. and are scheduled to end at 5 p.m. local time. However, the forums may be terminated at any time after they begin if all persons desiring to speak have been heard. The presiding officer may limit the time for each presentation so

that all interested persons have an opportunity to participate. Attendees who wish to speak but who did not register will be provided time to speak only after all registered speakers have been heard.

The purpose of the forums is to give interested persons an opportunity for oral presentation of data, views, and information to the Department concerning APHIS' program to control and eradicate Karnal bunt. Questions about the content of the interim rules and the proposed rule concerning Karnal bunt may be part of the commenters' oral presentations. However, neither the presiding officer nor any other representative of the Department will respond to the comments on the interim rules and proposed rule at the forums, except to clarify or explain provisions of the interim rules and the proposed rule.

We ask that anyone who reads a statement provide two copies to the presiding officer at the forum. A transcript will be made of the public forums and the transcript will be placed in the rulemaking record and will be available for public inspection.

Done in Washington, DC, this 30th day of July 1996.

Terry L. Medley,

Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 96-19756 Filed 8-1-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

7 CFR Part 319

[Docket No. 95-082-1]

Importation of Cut Flowers

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: We are proposing to amend the cut flowers regulations by eliminating the import permit and notice of arrival requirements for imported cut flowers of camellia, gardenia, rhododendron, rose, and lilac. All cut flowers are routinely inspected upon arrival in the United States and, if necessary, fumigated. Cut flowers of camellia, gardenia, rhododendron, rose, and lilac appear to present no greater risk than other cut flowers of introducing plant pests, including serious plant diseases. We believe that this action would reduce barriers to trade and eliminate an unnecessary paperwork burden without increasing the risk of imported cut flowers introducing exotic plant pests into the United States.

DATES: Consideration will be given only to comments received on or before September 3, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Please send an original and three copies of your comments to Docket No. 95-082-1, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, suite 3C03, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238. Please state that your comments refer to Docket No. 95-082-1. Comments received may be inspected at USDA, room 1141, South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Persons wishing to inspect comments are requested to call ahead on (202) 690-2817 to facilitate entry into the comment reading room.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Peter M. Grosser, Senior Staff Officer, Port Operations, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 139, Riverdale, MD 20737-1236, (301) 734-8891.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The regulations in 7 CFR part 319.74 through 319.74-7 (referred to below as "the regulations") govern the importation of certain cut flowers into the United States. These regulations, among other things, require that all cut flowers imported into the United States be inspected for serious plant pests and, if necessary, treated to eliminate any injurious plant pest. Sections 319.74-2a, 319.74-4, and 319.74-5 of the regulations also provide that import shipments of cut flowers of camellia (*Camellia* spp.), gardenia (*Gardenia* spp.), rhododendron (*Rhododendron* spp. [including *Azalea*]), rose (*Rosa* spp.), and lilac (*Syringa* spp.) be accompanied by an import permit and that a notice of arrival be submitted to the Collector of Customs immediately after a shipment of these cut flowers arrives in the United States. Currently, no other varieties of cut flowers require an import permit or a notice of arrival when they are imported into the United States.

In 1947, we determined that imported cut flowers of camellia, gardenia, rhododendron, rose, and lilac presented a special risk of introducing injurious insects and plant diseases when imported into the United States and, therefore, should be accompanied by an import permit and should be subject to notice of arrival requirements. However, based on our experience enforcing the regulations, we have since determined that the import permit and notice of arrival requirements are no longer necessary for these varieties of cut

flowers. Instead, procedures standard to the importation of all varieties of cut flowers appear to be sufficient to mitigate the risk of camellia, gardenia, rhododendron, rose, and lilac introducing exotic plant pests into the United States.

Our port inspectors are routinely notified of the arrival of imported cut flowers by examining a shipment's manifest or by receiving electronic correspondence from importers or shippers. After arrival at the port of entry in the United States, all cut flowers are routinely inspected for injurious insects, including agromyzids, and for symptoms of plant diseases by an inspector of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), and, if necessary, the cut flowers are treated in accordance with § 319.74-3. We have determined that these standard procedures are sufficient to allow the safe importation of cut flowers of camellia, gardenia, rhododendron, rose, and lilac into the United States. Therefore, we are proposing to eliminate the import permit and notice of arrival requirements for imported cut flowers of camellia, gardenia, rhododendron, rose, and lilac. This action would reduce barriers to trade in cut flowers between the United States and other countries, in accordance with the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), and would eliminate an unnecessary paperwork burden without increasing the risk of imported cut flowers introducing exotic plant pests, including plant diseases, into the United States.

Because cut flowers of camellia, gardenia, rhododendron, rose, and lilac are the only varieties of cut flowers for which we require an import permit or notice of arrival, we are, therefore, proposing that all import permit and notice of arrival requirements, and all references to both, be removed from the regulations. If we remove the import permit requirement, APHIS will no longer need to confirm that an import permit has been issued for a shipment of cut flowers, and importers will no longer need to apply for import permits or seek renewals of import permits in order to import cut flowers into the United States. In addition, if we remove the notice of arrival requirement, there will be no need for importers to submit a notice of arrival to APHIS. These actions would save time and effort and would reduce the paperwork burden both for importers of cut flowers and for APHIS.

We are also proposing to remove paragraph (c) of § 319.74-2 in order to streamline the regulations and to make