

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

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

May 1, 1998.

The Department of Agriculture has submitted the following information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. Comments regarding (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 to be collected; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of 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 should be addressed to: Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Washington, D.C. 20503 and to Departmental Clearance Office, USDA, OCIO, Mail Stop 7602, Washington, D.C. 20250-7602. Comments regarding these information collections are best assured of having their full effect if received within 30 days of this notification. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling (202) 720-6746.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number and the agency informs potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information that such persons are not required to respond to the collection of information unless it

displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Economic Research Service

Title: USDA County Based Project Customer Survey.

OMB Control Number: 0536-NEW.

Summary of Collection: The Economic Research Service is managing, on behalf of the Secretary of Agriculture, a study of county-based agency operations. The goal of the project is the articulation of alternative approaches to organizing and staffing USDA's county-based operations in delivering services that are clearly linked to the Federal policy and program priorities and that can be transparently managed to meet Federal budget targets. During the study, consultants under contract with ERS will visit ten selected county office sites around the county. The consultant also plans to conduct a telephone survey of USDA customers associated with each site to gather a better understanding of customer interaction with the offices' business processes.

Need and Use of the Information: ERS, through its contract consultant, plans to conduct approximately 335 telephone interviews to gather information on customer interactions and experiences, and perceptions of service. The survey will be conducted one time only. The data collected from the survey will be used primarily by the project team as input to the workload measurement and business process modeling activities.

Description of Respondents: Farms; Individuals or households.

Number of Respondents: 770.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Other (one time collection).

Total Burden Hours: 254.

Food and Consumer Service

Title: The Integrity Profile.

OMB Control Number: 0584-0401.

Summary of Collection: The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) administers the Woman, Infant, and Childrens (WIC) Program on behalf of the Secretary of Agriculture. In recent years, the Office of Inspector General (OIG), has performed audits of FNS' vendor management and recommended FNS (1) develop criteria to identify vendors suspected of abuse (high-risk vendors) and (2) require State agencies to perform a minimum number of compliance investigations in order to provide

sufficient evidence on whether vendors are overcharging the Program or violating other regulatory requirements. Accordingly, FNS requires State agencies to report annually on their vendor monitoring efforts. The data collected from the States serves as a management tool to provide Congress, OIG senior program managers, as well as the general public, assurances that program funds are being spent appropriately and that every reasonable effort is being made to prevent, detect and eliminate fraud, waste and abuse.

Need and Use of the Information: The information collected is analyzed and a report is prepared by FNS annually that (1) assesses State agency progress in eliminating abusive vendors, (2) assesses the level of activity that is being directed to ensuring program integrity, and (3) analyzes trends over a 5-year period. The information is used at the national level in formulating program policy and regulations. At the FNS regional office level, the data is reviewed to identify possible vendor management deficiencies so that technical assistance can be provided to States, as needed. At the State level, the information is used to provide assurances to the Governor's office, and other interested parties, that WIC issues are being addressed.

Description of Respondents: State, Local or Tribal Government.

Number of Respondents: 88.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Annually.

Total Burden Hours: 1,836.

Agricultural Marketing Service

Title: Cotton Classing, Testing, and Standards.

OMB Control Number: 0581-0008.

Summary of Collection: The U.S. Cotton Standards Act, 7 U.S.C. 51, 53 and 55, directs and authorizes the USDA to supervise the various activities directly associated with the classification or grading of cotton, cotton linters, and cottonseed based on official USDA Standards. The Cotton Division of the Agricultural Marketing Service carries out this supervision and is responsible for the maintenance of the functions to which these forms relate.

Need and Use of the Information: The Agricultural Marketing Service uses the following forms to collection information: Form CN-357 is submitted by owners of cotton to request cotton classification services. The request

contains information for USDA to ascertain proper ownership of the samples submitted, distribute classification results, and bill for services. Information about the origin and handling of the cotton is necessary in order to properly evaluate and classify the samples.

Form CN-246 is submitted by cotton gins and warehouses seeking to serve as licensed samplers. The license period is five years. Licenses issued by the USDA-AMS Cotton Division authorize the warehouse/gin to draw and submit samples to insure the proper application of standards in the classification of cotton and to prevent deception in their use.

Form CN-383 is submitted to cotton producers, ginner, warehousemen, cooperatives, manufacturers, merchants, and crushers interested in acquiring a set of cotton grade and staple standards for Upland and Pima cotton.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit; Individuals or households.

Number of Respondents: 307.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Annually; Other (every 5 yrs).

Total Burden Hours: 100.

Farm Service Agency

Title: Standards for Approval of Warehouses-7 CFR 1421, 1423 and 1427

OMB Control Number: 0560-0052

Summary of Collection: The Farm Service Agency (FSA), under Public Law 80-806, the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) Charter Act, is authorized to enter into storage contracts with commercial warehouse operators. Specifically, the Act permits FSA to enter into various types of contracts as are necessary in the conduct of its business and directs FSA to utilize the usual and customary channels, facilities and arrangements of trade and commerce in its functions of purchasing, warehousing, transporting, processing, or handling of agricultural commodities. FSA must collect information in order to develop and maintain a List of Approved Warehouses (Approved List) to store CCC-owned or loan commodities. The use of warehouses on the Approved List reduces the risk of loss faced by CCC by using only those facilities which meet the financial, physical, and managerial requirements of CCC. The information will be collected by mail which is necessary because these agreements must be legal and binding.

Need and Use of the Information: The information collected on various forms is necessary to establish and maintain the Approved List, follow accepted warehousing practices, and represent

the minimum burden to carry out various mandatory price support programs. The forms will be reviewed by FSA contracting officers at the Kansas City Commodity Office (KCCO) in order to maintain an Approved List for the storage of CCC-owned or CCC-loan commodities.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit.

Number of Respondents: 3,380.

Frequency of Responses: Recordkeeping; Reporting: On occasion; Annually.

Total Burden Hours: 423,864.

Farm Service Agency

Title: End-Use Certificate Program—7 CFR Part 782.

OMB Control Number: 0560-0151.

Summary of Collection: Public Law 103-182, Section 321 (f) of the North American Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act mandates that the Secretary of Agriculture shall implement, in coordination with the Commissioner of Customs, a program requiring that end-use certificates be included in the documentation covering the entry into the United States of any wheat originating from Canada.

Need and Use of the Information: The end-use certificate program was designed to ensure that Canadian wheat does not benefit from USDA or CCC-assisted export programs. The information collected on the end-use certificate is used in conjunction with USDA's domestic origin compliance review process doing quarterly audits of contractors involved in foreign food assistance programs. The form FSA-750 "End-Use Certificate for Wheat" is used by approximately 200 importers of Canadian wheat to report entry into the United States. The FSA-751 "Wheat Consumption and Resale Report" is used by approximately 225 millers, exporters, and other users of Canadian wheat to report final disposition of Canadian wheat in the United States.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit.

Number of Respondents: 430.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion; Quarterly.

Total Burden Hours: 5,971.

Nancy Sternberg,

Departmental Information Clearance Officer.
[FR Doc. 98-12141 Filed 5-6-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 97-130-2]

AgrEvo USA Co.; Availability of Determination of Nonregulated Status for Sugar Beet Genetically Engineered for Glufosinate Herbicide Tolerance

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: We are advising the public of our determination that AgrEvo USA Company's sugar beet designated as Transformation Event T120-7, which has been genetically engineered for tolerance to the herbicide glufosinate, is no longer considered a regulated article under our regulations governing the introduction of certain genetically engineered organisms. Our determination is based on our evaluation of data submitted by AgrEvo USA Company in its petition for a determination of nonregulated status and an analysis of other scientific data. This notice also announces the availability of our written determination document and its associated environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact.

EFFECTIVE DATE: April 28, 1998.

ADDRESSES: The determination, an environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact, and the petition 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 those documents are asked to call in advance of visiting at (202) 690-2817 to facilitate entry into the reading room.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Ved Malik, Biotechnology and Biological Analysis, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 147, Riverdale, MD 20737-1236; (301) 734-6774. To obtain a copy of the determination or the environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact, contact Ms. Kay Peterson at (301) 734-4885; e-mail: mkpeterson@aphis.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On December 2, 1997, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) received a petition (APHIS Petition No. 97-336-01p) from AgrEvo USA Company (AgrEvo) of Wilmington, DE, seeking a determination that sugar beet