

# Notices

## Federal Register

Vol. 63, No. 118

Friday, June 19, 1998

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. 98-049-1]

#### 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 Cooperative State-Federal Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication Program.

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received by August 18, 1998 to be assured of consideration.

**ADDRESSES:** Send comments regarding the accuracy of burden estimate, ways to minimize the burden (such as through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology), or any other aspect of this collection of information to: Docket No. 98-049-1, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, suite 3C03, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238. Please send an original and three copies, and state that your comments refer to Docket No. 98-049-1. 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:** For information regarding the Cooperative State-Federal Bovine Tuberculosis

Eradication Program, contact Dr. James P. Davis, Senior Staff Veterinarian, National Animal Health Programs, VS, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 43, Riverdale, MD 20737-1231, (301) 734-5970. For copies of more detailed information on the information collection, contact Mr. Gregg Ramsey, APHIS' Information Collection Coordinator, at (301) 734-5682.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Title:* Tuberculosis.

*OMB Number:* 0579-0084.

*Expiration Date of Approval:* September 30, 1998.

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

*Abstract:* The United States Department of Agriculture is responsible for preventing the spread of serious communicable animal diseases from one State to another, and for eradicating such diseases from the United States when feasible.

In connection with this mission, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service participates in the Cooperative State-Federal Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication Program, which is a national program to eliminate bovine tuberculosis (a serious disease of livestock) from the United States.

The disease also affects man through contact with infected animals or their byproducts. Our program is conducted under the various States' authorities supplemented by Federal regulations on the interstate movement of animals.

Implementing our Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication Program necessitates the use of a number of information-gathering documents, including various forms needed to properly identify, test, and transport animals. Other information gathering documents are used to report and review epidemiological data collected during investigations necessary to locate the disease and ensure adequate controls are in place to prevent its spread. Still other documents provide information we need to pay indemnity to owners of animals that are destroyed because of tuberculosis.

We are asking the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve the continued use of this information collection activity.

The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public (as well as affected agencies) concerning our information collection. We need this outside input to help us:

(1) Evaluate whether the proposed 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 proposed 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 0.32444 hours per response.

*Respondents:* State Veterinarians, livestock inspectors, herd owners.

*Estimated annual number of respondents:* 5,031.

*Estimated annual number of responses per respondent:* 10.642.

*Estimated annual number of responses:* 53,540.

*Estimated total annual burden on respondents:* 17,371 hours. (Due to rounding, the total annual burden hours may not equal the product of the annual number of responses multiplied by the average 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 12th day of June 1998.

**Charles Schwalbe,**

*Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.*

[FR Doc. 98-16279 Filed 6-18-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 98-048-1]

#### Availability of an Environmental Assessment

**AGENCY:** Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** We are advising the public that an environmental assessment has been prepared by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service relative to the proposed release into the environment of nonindigenous weevils for use as biological control agents to suppress hound's-tongue (*Cynoglossum officinale*), an introduced weed. The environmental assessment has been prepared to provide the public with documentation of APHIS' review and analysis of the environmental impact and plant pest risk associated with releasing these biological control agents into the environment.

**ADDRESSES:** Copies of the environmental assessment are available for public inspection 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 requested to call ahead on (202) 690-2817 to facilitate entry into the reading room.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Ronald D. Hennessey, Entomologist, Biotechnology and Biological Analysis, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 133, Riverdale, MD 20737, (301) 734-7839; or E-mail: rhenness@aphis.usda.gov. For copies of the environmental assessment, write to Dr. Ronald D. Hennessey at the same address. Please refer to the title of the environmental assessment when ordering copies.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has received an application from Montana State University for a permit to release a nonindigenous root-feeding weevil, *Mogulones cruciger* (Coleoptera: Curculionidae), for biological control of hound's-tongue, *Cynoglossum officinale* (Boraginaceae). Hound's-tongue is an introduced weed that has been reported in 36 of the 48 contiguous States. The purpose of the proposed action is to reduce the severity of infestations of hound's-tongue in the United States through the introduction of *M. cruciger*.

Hound's-tongue is an invasive weed that significantly reduces forage and whose barbed seeds stick to sheep, reducing the value of wool, and stick to cattle, causing skin irritation and behavioral problems. Hound's-tongue also contains large quantities of pyrrolizidine alkaloids, which are toxic to cattle and horses. Distribution of hound's-tongue is currently increasing in Montana and British Columbia.

The applicant is proposing to collect the *M. cruciger* adults from Hungary and Serbia and import them to the Insect Quarantine Laboratory at Montana State University in Bozeman, MT, where their species identity would be confirmed, and examinations for diseases, parasitoids, and other contaminants would be made. The weevil would then be released in infestations of hound's-tongue at several selected sites in western and central Montana.

After substantial weevil populations are established, insects would be collected and distributed to other sites in Montana. Distribution would follow in other affected States as soon as possible. Eventually, the weevil is expected to spread throughout many or all of the 36 States in which hound's-tongue occurs.

If a permit to release *M. cruciger* is issued, this weevil will be the first exotic biological control agent approved for release against Hound's-tongue in the United States.

To provide the public with documentation of APHIS' review and analysis of the environmental impact and plant pest risk associated with releasing these biological control agents into the environment, we have prepared an environmental assessment relative to the release into the environment of *M. cruciger* entitled "Field Release of *Mogulones cruciger* (Coleoptera: Curculionidae), a Nonindigenous Weevil Proposed for Biological Control of Hound's-Tongue, *Cynoglossum officinale* (Boraginaceae)" (May 1998).

The environmental assessment has been prepared in accordance with: (1) the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), (2) regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality for implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA (40 CFR parts 1500-1509), (3) USDA regulations implementing NEPA (7 CFR part 1b), and (4) APHIS' NEPA Implementing Procedures (7 CFR part 372).

Done in Washington, DC, this 12th day of June 1998.

**Charles Schwalbe,**

*Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.*

[FR Doc. 98-16280 Filed 6-18-98; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-34-P**

## **COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED**

### **Procurement List; Proposed additions**

**AGENCY:** Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled.

**ACTION:** Proposed additions to Procurement List.

**SUMMARY:** The Committee has received proposals to add to the Procurement List services to be furnished by nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities.

*Comments must be received on or before:* July 20, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, Crystal Gateway 3, Suite 310, 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22202-4302.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Beverly Milkman (703) 603-7740.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This notice is published pursuant to 41 U.S.C. 47(a)(2) and 41 CFR 51-2.3. Its purpose is to provide interested persons an opportunity to submit comments on the possible impact of the proposed actions.

If the Committee approves the proposed additions, all entities of the Federal Government (except as otherwise indicated) will be required to procure the services listed below from nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities.

I certify that the following action will not have a significant impact on a substantial number of small entities. The major factors considered for this certification were:

1. The action will not result in any additional reporting, recordkeeping or other compliance requirements for small entities other than the small organizations that will furnish the services to the Government.

2. The action does not appear to have a severe economic impact on current contractors for the services.

3. The action will result in authorizing small entities to furnish the services to the Government.

4. There are no known regulatory alternatives which would accomplish the objectives of the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act (41 U.S.C. 46-48c) in connection with the services proposed for addition to the Procurement List. Comments on this certification are invited. Commenters should identify the statement(s) underlying the certification on which they are providing additional information.