

# 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

### Agricultural Marketing Service

[S&amp;T 99002]

#### Notice of Request for Extension and Revision of a Currently Approved Information Collection

**AGENCY:** Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), this notice announces the Agricultural Marketing Service's (AMS) intention to request an extension for and revision to a currently approved information collection for Recordkeeping Requirements for Certified Applicators of Federally Restricted Use Pesticides (7 CFR Part 110).

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received by April 9, 1999, to be assured of consideration.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS:** Contact Bonnie Poli, Chief, Pesticide Records Branch, Science and Technology, AMS, 8700 Centreville Road, Suite 202, Manassas, VA 20110, Telephone (703) 330-7826; Fax (703) 330-6110.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Title:* Recordkeeping Requirements for Certified Applicators of Federally Restricted Use Pesticides.

*OMB Number:* 0581-0164.

*Expiration Date of Approval:* September 30, 1999.

*Type of Request:* Extension and revision of a currently approved information collection.

*Abstract:* The regulations, "Recordkeeping Requirements for Certified Applicators of Federally Restricted Use Pesticides," require certified pesticide applicators to maintain records of federally restricted

use pesticide applications for a period of two years. The regulations also provide for access to pesticide records or record information by Federal or State officials, or by licensed health care professionals when needed to treat an individual who may have been exposed to restricted use pesticides, and penalties for enforcement of the recordkeeping and access provisions.

The Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990, (Pub. L. 101-624; 7 U.S.C. 136i-1), referred to as the FACT Act, directs and authorizes the Department to develop regulations which establish requirements for recordkeeping by all certified applicators of federally restricted use pesticides. A certified applicator is an individual who is certified by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or a State under cooperative agreement with EPA to use or supervise the use of restricted use pesticides.

Section 1491 of the FACT Act directs and authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to ensure compliance with regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, including levying penalties, for failure to comply with such regulations.

Because this is a regulatory program with enforcement responsibility, USDA must ensure that certified applicators are maintaining restricted use pesticide application records for the two year period required by the FACT Act. To accomplish this, USDA must collect information through personal inspections of certified applicator's restricted use pesticide application records.

The information collected is used only by authorized representatives of the USDA (AMS, Science and Technology national staff, other designated Federal employees, and designated State supervisors and their staffs), which are designated access to the record information through section 1491, subsection (b) of the FACT Act. The information is used to administer the Federal Pesticide Recordkeeping Program. The Agency is the primary user of the information, and the secondary user is each designated State agency which has a cooperative agreement with AMS.

*Estimate of Burden:* Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated as follows:

(a) Approximately 705,192 certified private applicators (recordkeepers)

apply restricted use pesticides. It is estimated that on an average certified private applicators have a total annual burden of .35 hours per record keeper. Of the 705,192 certified private applicators, approximately 4,800 are selected annually for recordkeeping inspections. It is estimated that a private applicator that is subject to a pesticide record inspection has an annual burden of .85 hours, which contributes to a total annual burden of 4,080 hours.

(b) There are approximately 308,583 certified commercial applicators nationally who are required to provide copies of restricted use pesticide application records to their clients. It is estimated that certified commercial applicators have a total annual burden of 1,520,697 hours.

(c) It is estimated that State agency personnel who work through cooperative agreements with AMS, to inspect certified private applicator's records have a total annual burden of 11,020 hours.

*Respondents:* Certified private and commercial applicators, State governments or employees, and Federal agencies or employees.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 1,018,651—The total number of respondents includes approximately 308,583 certified commercial applicators, 705,192 certified private applicators (recordkeepers) and designated state agency personnel utilized to inspect certified private applicator's records.

*Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* The estimated number of responses per respondent is as follows:

(a) It is estimated that certified private applicators (recordkeepers), record on an average 5 restricted use pesticide application records annually.

(b) It is estimated that certified commercial applicators provide 616 copies of restricted use pesticide records to their clients annually.

(c) State agency personnel, who work under cooperative agreements with AMS to conduct restricted use pesticide record inspections have approximately 4,951 responses annually.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 1,782,614 hours.

Comments are invited on: (1) 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) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) 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. Comments may be sent to Bonnie Poli, Chief, Pesticide Records Branch, Science and Technology, AMS, 8700 Centreville Road, Suite 202, Manassas, VA 20110. All comments received will be available for public inspection during regular business hours at the same address.

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.

Dated: February 2, 1999.

**William J. Franks, Jr.,**

*Deputy Administrator, Science and Technology.*

[FR Doc. 99-2947 Filed 2-5-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 98-118-1]

#### Availability of an Environmental Assessment and Strategy: Risk Reduction in the Florida Medfly Eradication Program

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** We are advising the public that a final environmental assessment has been prepared by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to explore risk reduction strategies relative to Medfly program activities in the State of Florida. Additionally, APHIS has prepared a strategy regarding risk reduction in the Florida Medfly eradication program. This notice announces the availability of both documents for public inspection.

**ADDRESSES:** The environmental assessment and the strategy 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. To request copies of the environmental assessment or the strategy, write to the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. Please refer to the title of the environmental assessment or strategy when requesting copies.

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

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Mediterranean fruit fly, *Ceratitis capitata* (Wiedemann), (Medfly) is one of the world's most destructive pests of fruit and vegetables. The Medfly has been introduced into Florida a total of 13 times, including its first introduction in 1929. Because of the Medfly's potential for rapid range expansion, Medfly outbreaks in Florida represent major threats to agriculture, the environment, and the quality of life in Florida and other U.S. mainland States. The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of the United States Department of Agriculture cooperates with the Florida State Department of Agriculture to eradicate Medfly and to prevent future infestations. All Medfly outbreaks in Florida have been successfully eradicated using a combination of nonchemical and chemical control methods.

Consistent with our continued goal of preventing and eradicating Medfly infestations, we are committed to reexamining the Florida Medfly program for the purpose of achieving maximum risk reduction, including minimizing risks to the environment and human health. As part of that commitment, we have prepared environmental analyses and risk assessments, held a number of public meetings, and analyzed comments from the public regarding the Florida Medfly program in order to establish a final Florida Medfly program risk reduction strategy. This notice announces the availability of two documents that identify various means to potentially reduce risk in the Florida Medfly program:

- Risk Reduction Strategy, Florida Medfly Program, Environmental Assessment, June 1998.
- Strategy: Risk Reduction in Florida Medfly Eradication Programs, January 1999.

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 1500-1508), (3) USDA regulations implementing NEPA (7 CFR part 1b), and (4) APHIS' NEPA Implementing Procedures (7 CFR part 372).

Done in Washington, DC, this 2nd day of February 1999.

**Joan M. Arnoldi,**

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

[FR Doc. 99-2939 Filed 2-5-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Threatened and Endangered Species Management on the Allegheny National Forest, Warren, McKean, Elk and Forest Counties, Pennsylvania

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

**SUMMARY:** The Forest Service will prepare a Draft and a Final Environmental Impact Statement to disclose the environmental consequences of amending the Forest Plan to include various strategies for managing federally listed threatened and endangered species on the Allegheny National Forest. Species to be considered include the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), the clubshell mussel (*Pleurobema clava*) and the northern riffleshell mussel (*Epioblasma torulosa rangiana*), which are federally listed as endangered, and the small whorled pogonia (*Isotria medeoloides*) and the bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) which are federally listed as threatened. The proposed action is to amend and supplement the standards and guides in the Allegheny Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan).

The purpose and need for this proposal is to maintain and enhance habitat to ensure the continued existence of the aforementioned threatened and endangered species in light of new information recently acquired. There is a need to adjust some of the existing standards and guides and provide some additional direction in the Forest Plan to ensure their conservation. Based on a review of the regulations (36 CFR 219.10f) and of the Forest Service Manual and Handbook direction (FSM 1922.51 and FSH Chapter 5.32) the proposed action is a non-significant amendment to the Forest Plan. The