

where conservation reserve program participants are provided an opportunity to request and receive early release from contracts or to reduce the amount of acreage subject to the contracts without penalty.

Need and Use of the Information: This information collection reflects program policy changes made to improve administration of the early release provision in the conservation reserve program.

Description of Respondents: Individuals or households; Farms.
Number of Respondents: 10,000.
Frequency of Responses: One-time.
Total Burden Hours: 5,000
Emergency processing of this submission has been requested by March 15, 1996.

Donald E. Hulcher,

Deputy Departmental Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 96-5379 Filed 3-6-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-01-M

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 96-003-1]

Notice of Request for Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Proposed 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 a currently approved information collection in support of regulations and standards issued under the Animal Welfare Act for guinea pigs, hamsters, and rabbits.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by May 6, 1996 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Send comments regarding the accuracy of burden estimate, ways to minimize the burden (such as the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology), or any other aspect of this collection of information to: Docket No. 96-003-1, 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 96-003-1. 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 and notices are requested to call ahead on (202) 690-2817 to facilitate entry into the comment reading room.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information on the regulations and standards for guinea pigs, hamsters, and rabbits, 9 CFR, part 3, subparts B and C, contact Mr. Stephen Smith, Animal Care Staff Officer, Regulatory Enforcement and Animal Care, APHIS, 4700 River Road, Unit 84, Riverdale, MD 20737-1234, (301) 734-7833, or e-mail: SNSmith@aphis.usda.gov. For copies of the proposed collection of information, contact Ms. Cheryl Jenkins, APHIS—Information Collection Coordinator, at (301) 734-5360.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Animal Welfare.

OMB Number: 0579-0092.

Expiration Date of Approval: April 30, 1996.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: Regulations and standards have been promulgated under the Animal Welfare Act (the Act) to promote and ensure the humane care and treatment of regulated animals under the Act. Title 9, part 3, subparts B and C, of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) address specific care and handling regulations for guinea pigs, hamsters, and rabbits. Enforcement of the Act and regulations require documentation of specified information concerning the transportation of these animals.

The regulations for transporting guinea pigs, hamsters, and rabbits require intermediate handlers and carriers to only accept shipping enclosures that meet the minimum requirements set forth in the regulations (§ 3.36) or are accompanied by documentation signed by the consignor verifying that the shipping enclosures comply with the regulations. If guinea pigs, hamsters, and rabbits are transported in cargo space that falls below 45 °F (7.2 °C), the regulations specify that the animals must be accompanied by a certificate of acclimation signed by a U.S. Department of Agriculture accredited veterinarian.

In addition, all shipping enclosures must be marked "Live Animals" and have arrows indicating the correct upright position of the container. Intermediate handlers and carriers are required to attempt to contact the consignee at least once every 6 hours upon the arrival of any live animals.

Documentation of these attempts must be recorded by the intermediate handlers and carriers and maintained for inspection by Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) personnel.

The above reporting and recordkeeping requirements do not mandate the use of any official government form.

The burden generated by APHIS requirements that all shipping documents be attached to the container has been cleared by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under OMB No. 0579-0036.

The reporting and recording requirements of 9 CFR, part 3, subparts B & C, are necessary to enforce regulations intended to ensure the humane treatment of guinea pigs, hamsters, and rabbits during transportation in commerce.

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 information collection 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, or other collection technologies, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

Estimate of burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .125 hours per response.

Respondents: Intermediate handlers, carriers, "A" and "B" dealers (as consignors), USDA accredited veterinarians.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1470.

Estimated Numbers of Responses per Respondent: 1.408.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 260 hours.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval of the information collection.

Done in Washington, DC, this 1st day of March 1996.

Lonnie J. King,

Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 96-5378 Filed 3-6-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

[Docket No. 96-008-1]

Secretary's Advisory Committee on Foreign Animal and Poultry Diseases; Notice of Solicitation for Membership

ACTION: Notice of solicitation for membership.

SUMMARY: We are giving notice that we anticipate renewing the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Foreign Animal and Poultry Diseases for a 2-year period. The Secretary is soliciting nominations for membership for this Committee.

DATES: Consideration will be given to nominations received on or before April 22, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Nominations received should be addressed to the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. John Williams, Chief Staff Veterinarian, Emergency Programs, VS, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 41, Riverdale, MD 20737-1231, (301) 734-8073.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Secretary's Advisory Committee on Foreign Animal and Poultry Diseases (Committee) advises the Secretary of Agriculture on actions necessary to keep foreign diseases of livestock and poultry from being introduced into the United States. In addition, the Committee advises on contingency planning and on maintaining a state of preparedness to deal with these diseases, if introduced.

The Committee Chairperson and Vice Chairperson shall be elected by the Committee from among its members.

Terms will expire for the current members of the Committee in June 1996. We are soliciting nominations from interested organizations and individuals to replace members on the Committee. An organization may nominate individuals from within or outside its membership. The Secretary will select members to obtain the broadest possible representation on the Committee, in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463) and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Regulation 1041-1. Equal opportunity practices, in line with the USDA policies, will be followed in all appointments to the Committee. To ensure that the recommendations of the Committee have taken into account the

needs of the diverse groups served by the Department, membership should include, to the extent practicable, individuals with demonstrated ability to represent minorities, women, and persons with disabilities.

Done in Washington, DC, this 1st day of March 1996.

Lonnie J. King,

Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 96-5377 Filed 3-6-96; 8:45 am]

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[Docket No. 95-076-2]

Plant Genetic Systems (America), Inc.; Availability of Determination of Nonregulated Status for Corn Line Genetically Engineered for Male Sterility and Glufosinate Herbicide Tolerance as a Marker

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: We are advising the public of our determination that a corn line developed by Plant Genetic Systems (America), Inc., designated as event MS3 that has been genetically engineered for male sterility and tolerance to the herbicide glufosinate as a marker 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 Plant Genetic Systems (America), Inc., in its petition for a determination of nonregulated status, an analysis of other scientific data, and our review of comments received from the public in response to a previous notice announcing our receipt of the Plant Genetic Systems (America), Inc., petition. This notice also announces the availability of our written determination document and its associated environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact.

EFFECTIVE DATE: February 22, 1996.

ADDRESSES: The determination, an environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact, the petition, and all written comments received regarding 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.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. James White, Biotechnology Permits, BBEP, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 147, Riverdale, MD 20737-1237; (301) 734-7612. To obtain a copy of the determination or the environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact, contact Ms. Kay Peterson at (301) 734-7612; E-mail: mkpeterson@aphis.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On August 16, 1995, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) received a petition (APHIS Petition No. 95-228-01p) from Plant Genetics Systems (America), Inc., (PGS) of Des Moines, IA, seeking a determination that a corn line designated as transformation MS3 (event MS3) that has been genetically engineered for male sterility and tolerance to the herbicide glufosinate as a marker does not present a plant pest risk and, therefore, is not a regulated article under APHIS' regulations in 7 CFR part 340.

On November 16, 1995, APHIS published a notice in the Federal Register (60 FR 57570-57571, Docket No. 95-076-1) announcing that the PGS petition had been received and was available for public review. The notice also discussed the role of APHIS, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Food and Drug Administration in regulating the subject corn line and food products derived from it. In the notice, APHIS solicited written comments from the public as to whether the subject corn line posed a plant pest risk. The comments were to have been received by APHIS on or before January 16, 1996.

APHIS received a total of six comments on the subject petition from seed companies, State departments of agriculture, and a seed farm. All of the comments were in support of the subject petition.

Analysis

Event MS3 has been genetically engineered with a gene from *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens* encoding a ribonuclease called barnase, which inhibits pollen formation and results in male sterility of the transformed plants. The subject corn line also contains the *bar* gene isolated from the bacterium *Streptomyces hygroscopicus* that encodes a phosphinothricin acetyltransferase (PAT) enzyme, which, when introduced into a plant cell, inactivates glufosinate. Linkage of the *barnase* gene, which induces male sterility, with the *bar* gene, a glufosinate tolerance gene used as a marker, enables identification of the male sterile line