

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.

JOINT BOARD FOR THE ENROLLMENT OF ACTUARIES

Advisory Committee on Actuarial Examinations; Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Advisory Committee on Actuarial Examinations will meet in the Conference Room of William M. Mercer, Incorporated, 30th Floor, Conference Room 30C, 1166 Avenue of the Americas, New York, New York, on Friday, April 12, 1996, beginning at 8:30 a.m.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss topics and questions which may be recommended for inclusion on future Joint Board examinations in actuarial mathematics and methodology referred to in Title 29 U.S. Code, section 1242(a)(1)(B).

A determination as required by section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463) that the subject of the meeting falls within the exception to the open meeting requirement set forth in Title 5 U.S. Code, section 552(c)(9)(B), and that the public interest requires that such meeting be closed to public participation.

Dated: April 3, 1996.

Patrick W. McDonough,
Acting Advisory Committee Management Officer, Joint Board for the Enrollment of Actuaries.

[FR Doc. 96-8912 Filed 4-9-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4830-01-U

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

Advisory Committee on Agricultural Concentration

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: In response to the need for advice on concentration and vertical integration in the agricultural sector, the Secretary of Agriculture established an advisory committee on agricultural concentration. The purpose of the committee is to provide advice regarding whether agricultural concentration exists and if so, the causes and effects of such concentration. Further, the committee is to provide advice related to the need for new legislation.

DATES: The third meeting of this committee will be Monday, April 29, at 9:00 a.m., through 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 30, 1996. This meeting is open to the public; however, the committee does not plan to hear public testimony at this meeting. The committee is willing to receive written statements from any interested party, at any time.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held in room 107A of the USDA Administration Bldg., 14th and Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Written statements may be mailed to the committee in care of Barbara Claffey, Assistant Deputy Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Room 3069 South Bldg., 14th & Independence Ave S.W., Washington, D.C. 20096-6456. Written statements up to 10 pages in length may also be faxed, to the attention of Barbara Claffey, (202) 205-8023.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the committee is to make findings and recommendations regarding the need for modification of laws to address any identified concentration or vertical integration in the agricultural sector, regarding the adequacy of price discovery or reporting in the livestock and poultry industries, regarding any necessary modification to departmental programs in order to address concentration, and regarding actions to take to ensure adequate rail car availability throughout the year.

The committee consists of 21 members including: a Chairperson; two Vice Chairpersons; nine representatives of producers from the cattle, hog, lamb, poultry, and grain sectors; two representatives of packers and processors from the livestock, poultry, and grain sectors; two representatives of shippers, handlers, and transporters consisting of one each from grain elevator and railroad sectors; one

representative of the retailing sector; one individual with expertise in economics, competition, and/or finance; and three representatives of State government.

The committee is in the public interest in connection with the duties and responsibilities of the Department of Agriculture. Concentration in the agricultural sector is receiving increased attention in terms of its effect throughout the entire food industry.

Dated: April 5, 1996.

Lon Hatamiya,
Administrator.

[FR Doc. 96-8929 Filed 4-9-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-01-P

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 95-097-2]

Agritope, Inc.; Availability of Determination of Nonregulated Status for Cherry Tomato Line Genetically Engineered for Modified Fruit Ripening

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: We are advising the public of our determination that a cherry tomato line developed by Agritope, Inc., designated as 35-1-N that has been genetically engineered for modified fruit ripening 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 Agritope, 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 Agritope, 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: March 27, 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. Ved Malik, 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: mkpeterston@aphis.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On November 20, 1995, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) received a petition (APHIS Petition No. 95-324-01p) from Agritope, Inc., (Agritope) of Beaverton, OR, seeking a determination that a cherry tomato line designated as 35-1-N that has been genetically engineered for modified fruit ripening does not present a plant pest risk and, therefore, is not a regulated article under APHIS' regulations in 7 CFR part 340.

On January 23, 1996, APHIS published a notice in the Federal Register (61 FR 1743-1744, Docket No. 95-097-1) announcing that the Agritope petition had been received and was available for public review. The notice also discussed the role of APHIS and the Food and Drug Administration in regulating the subject tomato line and food products derived from it. In the notice, APHIS solicited written comments from the public as to whether the subject tomato line posed a plant pest risk. The comments were to have been received by APHIS on or before March 25, 1996.

During the designated 60-day comment period, APHIS received a total of 21 comments on the petition for cherry tomato line 35-1-N from individuals, a seed company, a State department of agriculture, and a university. All of the comments were in support of the subject petition.

Analysis

Cherry tomato line 35-1-N has been genetically engineered to contain the sam-k gene derived from *Escherichia coli* bacteriophage T3 that encodes an enzyme, S-adenosylmethionine hydrolase (SAMase), which alters the ethylene biosynthetic pathway and delays ripening of the tomato on the vine. When exposed to exogenous ethylene the fruit of line 35-1-N ripen normally. The subject cherry tomato

line also contains the nptII gene from the prokaryotic transposon Tn5, which encodes the enzyme neomycin phosphotransferase II and is used as a selectable marker for transformation. Expression of the introduced genes is controlled in part by the 3' region of the nopaline synthase gene from the plant pathogen *Agrobacterium tumefaciens*. The *A. tumefaciens* vector system was used to transfer the added genes into the Large Red Cherry parental line.

Cherry tomato line 35-1-N has been considered a regulated article under APHIS' regulations in 7 CFR part 340 because it contains regulatory gene sequences derived from the plant pathogen *A. tumefaciens*. However, evaluation of field data reports from field tests of the subject tomato line conducted under APHIS permits or notifications since 1992 indicates that there were no deleterious effects on plants, nontarget organisms, or the environment as a result of the subject tomato plants' release into the environment.

Determination

Based on its analysis of the data submitted by Agritope and a review of other scientific data, comments received, and field tests of the subject tomato line, APHIS has determined that cherry tomato line 35-1-N: (1) Exhibits no plant pathogenic properties; (2) is no more likely to become a weed than cherry tomato cultivars developed by traditional breeding techniques; (3) is unlikely to increase the weediness potential for any other cultivated or wild species with which it can interbreed; (4) will not harm threatened or endangered species or other organisms, such as bees, that are beneficial to agriculture; and (5) will not cause damage to raw or processed agricultural commodities. Therefore, APHIS has concluded that cherry tomato line 35-1-N and any progeny derived from hybrid crosses with other nontransformed tomato varieties will be just as safe to grow as traditionally bred cherry tomato lines that are not regulated under 7 CFR part 340.

The effect of this determination is that Agritope's cherry tomato line designated as 35-1-N is no longer considered a regulated article under APHIS' regulations in 7 CFR part 340.

Therefore, the notification requirements pertaining to regulated articles under those regulations no longer apply to the field testing, importation, or interstate movement of the subject tomato line or its progeny. However, the importation of cherry tomato line 35-1-N or seeds capable of propagation is still subject to

the restrictions found in APHIS' foreign quarantine notices in 7 CFR part 319.

National Environmental Policy Act

An environmental assessment (EA) has been prepared to examine the potential environmental impacts associated with this determination. The EA was prepared in accordance with: (1) The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (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). Based on that EA, APHIS has reached a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) with regard to its determination that Agritope's cherry tomato line 35-1-N and lines developed from it are no longer regulated articles under its regulations in 7 CFR part 340. Copies of the EA and the FONSI are available upon request from the individual listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

Done in Washington, DC, this 4th day of April 1996.

Lonnie J. King,

Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 96-8904 Filed 4-9-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

Farm Service Agency

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

AGENCY: Farm Service Agency.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Farm Service Agency's (FSA) intention to request an extension for an information collection currently approved in support of obtaining information regarding chattel debt for direct operating loans authorized by subtitle B of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (Act) and emergency loans for operating purposes as authorized by subtitle C of the Act.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received on or before June 10, 1996, to be assured consideration.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Mark Falcone, Deputy Director, Loan Making Division, Farm Credit Programs, Farm Service Agency, USDA, Ag Box 0522, P.O. Box