

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

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 96-087-1]

Notice of Request for Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Approved information collection extension; 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 the National Agricultural Pest Information System.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by December 30, 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. 96-087-1, 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 96-087-1. 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: For information on the National Agricultural Pest Information System,

contact Mr. C. David McNeal, Jr., Operations Officer, Plant Protection and Quarantine, APHIS, 4700 River Road, Unit 139, Riverdale, MD 20737-1236, (301) 734-8295; or e-mail: DMcneal@aphis.usda.gov. For copies of more detailed information, contact Ms. Cathy McDuffie, APHIS' Support Services Specialist, at (301) 734-5190.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: National Agricultural Pest Information System.

OMB Number: 0579-0010.

Expiration Date of Approval: 12/31/96.

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

Abstract: Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, United States Department of Agriculture, has joined forces with the States to create a program called the Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey. This program allows the States and PPQ to conduct surveys to detect and measure the presence of plant pests and to place survey data into a national computer-based system called the National Agricultural Pest Information System. This, in turn, allows us to obtain a more comprehensive picture of pest conditions in the United States.

The information generated by this program is used by the States to predict potential pest situations. It is used by Federal interests to promptly detect and respond to the occurrence of new pests and to record the location of those pest incursions that could directly hinder the export of U.S. farm commodities.

The Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey employs several forms to carry out its information gathering activities. We are seeking OMB approval to continue the use of these forms.

The Cooperative Agreement is an agreement between PPQ and the States in which the States agree to participate in the Survey, and to carry out Survey activities according to our instructions.

During the course of their Survey activities, State cooperators gather a significant amount of information which must then be relayed to us either in writing, via telephone, or via computer.

We are seeking OMB approval to continue the use of these forms.

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: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .0062 hours per response.

Respondents: State Cooperators.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 50.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 601.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 188 hours.

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

Done in Washington, DC, this 25th day of October 1996.

A. Strating,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 96-27974 Filed 10-30-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

[Docket No. 96-084-1]

Granting of Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS) Waiver for Digital Signature Standard

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of granting of FIPS waiver request.

SUMMARY: The Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has granted a waiver to APHIS to use RSA digital signature technology in lieu of the Digital