

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 Research Service

Notice of Intent To Extend a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Agricultural Research Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 109-13) and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations at 5 CFR Part 1320 (60 FR 44978, August 29, 1995), this notice announces the Agricultural Research Service's (ARS) intention to request an extension for a currently approved information collection in support of USDA's Biological Control Documentation Program dealing with documenting the importation and release of foreign biological control agents.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by June 20, 1997, to be assured of consideration.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS: Contact Jack R. Coulson, Director, ARS Biological Control Documentation Center, Insect Biocontrol Laboratory, Plant Sciences Institute, ARS, USDA, National Agricultural Library, 4th Floor, 10301 Baltimore Avenue, Beltsville, MD 20705-2330, (301) 504-6350.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: USDA Biological Shipment Record—Record of Shipment of Exotic Microorganisms for Biological Control (AD-944); Release of Exotic Microorganisms for Biological Control (AD-944A).

OMB Number: 0518-0017.

Expiration Date of Current Approval: October 31, 1997.

Type of Request: Intent to extend the currently approved information collection.

Abstract: The purpose of the Biological Control Documentation Program is to record the importation (AD-944) and field release (AD-944A) of foreign/introduced beneficial microorganisms (biological control). The information collected is entered into the USDA "Releases of Beneficial Organisms in the United States and Territories" (ROBO) database, established in 1984. It is a cooperative program among USDA and other federal agencies, state governmental agencies, and U.S. universities. The use of the forms and the information provided is voluntary. The program is for the benefit of biological control research and action agency personnel, taxonomists, federal and state regulatory agencies, agricultural administrators, and the general public. Efforts are underway to replace the paper forms with computerized information collection, and when completed, the forms would be used only by those units for which computerized input is not possible. This information collection is due to expire on October 31, 1997. ARS intends to request an extension of three years.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1/12 hour per response.

Non-Federal Respondents: Non-profit institutions, universities, and state and local governments.

Estimated Number of Non-Federal Respondents: 20.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: An average of 3 (range 1-10).

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 5 hours.

Copies of the 2 forms used in this information collection can be obtained from Jack R. Coulson, ARS Biological Control Documentation Center, at (301) 504-6350.

Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) 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; (b) 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; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the

burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to: Jack R. Coulson, Director, ARS Biological Control Documentation Center, Insect Biocontrol Laboratory, Plant Sciences Institute, ARS, USDA, National Agricultural Library, 4th Floor, 10301 Baltimore Avenue, Beltsville, MD 20705-2350.

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.

Signed at Beltsville, MD, March 25, 1997.

A. Rick Bennett,

Acting Assistant Administrator, Office of International Research Programs, Agricultural Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

[FR Doc. 97-9860 Filed 4-15-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food and Consumer Service

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request—Tracking Nutrition Security Changes: State Choices and the National Food Stamp Program

AGENCY: Food and Consumer Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Food and Consumer Service's intention to request Office of Management and Budget approval of the Tracking Nutrition Security Changes Study.

DATES: Written comments on this notice must be received by June 16, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Comments are invited on: (a) 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; (b) 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; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be