

# 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

### Office of the Secretary

[Docket No. 97-056-1]

#### Declaration of Emergency Because of the Mediterranean Fruit Fly

A serious outbreak of the Mediterranean fruit fly, *Ceratitidis capitata* (Wiedemann), is occurring in Florida.

The Mediterranean fruit fly is one of the most destructive pests of over 200 species of fruits, nuts, and vegetables, especially citrus and stone fruits. The pest can develop rapidly and spread easily, causing severe damage to entire citrus and other fruit and vegetable growing areas. At least 43 countries are known to regulate in some manner for the Mediterranean fruit fly.

As of June 2, 1997, an infestation of the Mediterranean fruit fly had been found in a portion of Hillsborough County, FL. The presence of this fruit fly in the continental United States could severely disrupt the fruit and vegetable industry due to the loss of export markets. The Florida agricultural industry, worth an estimated \$6 billion annually, is based on continued trade in international markets. According to industry sources, in 1996 the value of Florida citrus exports, in fresh and juice form, was estimated at approximately \$940 million.

In cooperation with the State of Florida, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has initiated a program to eradicate this fruit fly infestation in Florida. The State of Florida is assisting APHIS in the funding of the program costs. However, APHIS resources are insufficient to meet the estimated \$2.1 million needed for the Federal share. In addition, some of these resources may be needed to fund other, small scale emergencies before the end of the year.

Therefore, in accordance with the provisions of the Act of September 25,

1981, 95 Stat. (7 U.S.C. 147b), I declare that there is an emergency which threatens the citrus and other fruit and vegetable growing industries of this country and hereby authorize the transfer and use of such funds as may be necessary from appropriations or other funds available to the agencies or corporations of the United States Department of Agriculture for the conduct of a program to detect and identify Mediterranean fruit fly infested areas, to control and prevent the spread of the Mediterranean fruit fly to noninfested areas in the United States, and to eradicate Mediterranean fruit fly wherever it may be found in the continental United States.

*Effective Date:* This declaration of emergency shall become effective June 20, 1997.

**Dan Glickman,**

*Secretary of Agriculture.*

[FR Doc. 97-16716 Filed 6-25-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-M

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Rural Housing Service

### Rural Utilities Service

### Rural Business Service

### Farm Service Agency

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

**AGENCY:** Rural Housing Service, USDA.  
**ACTION:** Proposed collection; comments request.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Agency's intention to seek continued OMB approval for a currently approved information collection contained in 7 CFR 1927-B, Real Estate Title Clearance and Loan Closing.

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received by August 25, 1997, to be assured of consideration.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** E. Sue Smith, Senior Loan Specialist, Single Family Housing Processing Division, RHS, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Ag Stop 0783, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-0783, Telephone (202) 690-4507.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Title:* Real Estate Title Clearance and Loan Closing.

*OMB Number:* 0575-0147.

*Expiration Date of Approval:* November 30, 1997.

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

*Abstract:* Section 501 of Title V of the Housing Act of 1949, as amended, authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to extend financial assistance to construct, improve, alter, repair, replace or rehabilitate dwellings, farm buildings and/or related facilities to provide decent, safe, and sanitary living conditions and adequate farm buildings and other structures in rural areas. Title Clearance is required to assure the Agency(s) that the loan is legally secured and has the required lien priority.

The Agency will be collecting information to assure that those participating in this program remain eligible to proceed with loan closing and to ensure that loans made with Federal funds are legally secured. The respondents are individuals or households, farms, businesses, and non-profit institutions. The information required is used by Agency personnel to verify that the required lien position has been obtained. The information is collected at the field office responsible for processing a loan application through loan closing. The information is also used to insure the program is administered in a manner consistent with legislative and administrative requirements. If not collected, the Agency would be unable to determine if the loan is adequately and legally secured.

*Estimate of Burden:* Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .23 per response.

*Respondents:* Individuals or households, Farms, Business, Non-Profit Institutions.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 70,000.

*Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* 5.81.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 96,780.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from the Barbara Williams, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, Support Services Division, at (202) 720-9734.