

regulation of pesticides under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), as amended (7 U.S.C. 136 *et seq.*). FIFRA requires that all pesticides, including herbicides, be registered prior to distribution or sale, unless exempt by EPA regulation. In cases in which the genetically modified plants allow for a new use of an herbicide or involve a different use pattern for the herbicide, the EPA must approve the new or different use. In conducting such an approval, the EPA considers the possibility of adverse effects to human health and the environment from the use of this herbicide. The herbicide glufosinate is registered for use on corn in the United States. When the use of the herbicide on the genetically modified plant would result in an increase in the residues of the herbicide in a food or feed crop for which the herbicide is currently registered, or in new residues in a crop for which the herbicide is not currently registered, establishment of a new tolerance or a revision of the existing tolerance would be required. Residue tolerances for pesticides are established by the EPA under the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA) as amended (21 U.S.C. 301 *et seq.*), and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) enforces tolerances set by the EPA under the FFDCA. The EPA has granted an exemption from the requirement of a tolerance for phosphinothricin acetyltransferase and the genetic material necessary for its production in corn and on all raw agricultural commodities.

The FDA published a statement of policy on foods derived from new plant varieties in the **Federal Register** on May 29, 1992 (57 FR 22984-23005). The FDA statement of policy includes a discussion of the FDA's authority for ensuring food safety under the FFDCA, and provides guidance to industry on the scientific considerations associated with the development of foods derived from new plant varieties, including those plants developed through the techniques of genetic engineering. Pioneer has begun consultation with FDA on the subject corn lines.

In accordance with § 340.6(d) of the regulations, we are publishing this notice to inform the public that APHIS will accept written comments regarding the Petition for Determination of Nonregulated Status from any interested person for a period of 60 days from the date of this notice. The petition and any comments received are available for public review, and copies of the petition may be ordered (see the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice).

After the comment period closes, APHIS will review the data submitted by the petitioner, all written comments received during the comment period, and any other relevant information. Based on the available information, APHIS will furnish a response to the petitioner, either approving the petition in whole or in part, or denying the petition. APHIS will then publish a notice in the **Federal Register** announcing the regulatory status of the Pioneer's male sterile and glufosinate-tolerant corn lines 676, 678, and 680, and the availability of APHIS' written decision.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 150aa-150jj, 151-167, and 1622n; 31 U.S.C. 9701; 7 CFR 2.17, 2.51, and 371.2(c).

Done in Washington, DC, this 12th day of February 1998.

Craig A. Reed,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 98-4037 Filed 2-17-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Southwest Oregon Provincial Interagency Executive Committee (PIEC), Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Southwest Oregon PIEC Advisory Committee will meet on March 3 at the Riverside Motel at 971 SE Sixth St. Grants Pass, Oregon. The meeting will begin at 9 a.m. and continue until 5 p.m. Agenda items to be covered include: (1) Coordinated watershed restoration between federal and non-federal land managers; (2) Province monitoring priorities; (3) Forest health issues; (4) Report from local BLM and Forest Service on local issues; and (5) public comment. All Province Advisory Committee meetings are open to the public.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Direct questions regarding this meeting to Chuck Anderson, Province Advisory Committee staff, USDA, Forest Service, Rogue River National Forest, 333 W. 8th Street, Medford, Oregon 97501, phone 541-858-2322.

Dated: February 9, 1998.

James T. Gladen,

Forest Supervisor, Designated Federal Official.

[FR Doc. 98-3924 Filed 2-17-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

National Agricultural Statistics Service

Notice of Intent To Seek Approval To Conduct an Information Collection

AGENCY: National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. No. 104-13) and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations at 5 CFR Part 1320 (60 FR 44978, August 29, 1995), this notice announces the National Agricultural Statistics Service's (NASS) intention to request approval for a new information collection, the Beef Cattle Pesticide Use Survey.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by April 24, 1998 to be assured of consideration.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS:

Contact Rich Allen, Associate Administrator, National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Room 4117 South Building, Washington, D.C. 20250-2000, (202) 720-4333.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Beef Cattle Pesticide Use Survey.

Type of Request: Intent to seek approval to conduct an information collection.

Abstract: Producers of beef cattle in 12 Western States will be surveyed. The survey asks for information about pesticides used to treat beef cattle to control external parasites, pesticides used in and around beef cattle facilities, and beef cattle pest management practices. Data collected will help provide quality information to fulfill certain requirements of the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) must make regulatory decisions affecting many pesticide products. In order to do an effective risk assessment, accurate pesticide use information is essential. A Pesticide Benefit Assessments report will be produced by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). With the information, EPA and USDA together can evaluate the risks and the benefits of pesticide use. Presently, there is very little information on pesticides used on beef cattle.

These data will be collected under the authority of 7 U.S.C. 2204(a). Individually identifiable data collected under this authority are governed by

Section 1770 of the Food Security Act of 1985, 7 U.S.C. 2276, which requires USDA to afford strict confidentiality to non-aggregated data provided by respondents.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 30 minutes per response.

Respondents: Beef cattle producers in 12 Western States.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 2,000.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 1,000 hours.

Copies of this information collection and related instructions can be obtained without charge from Larry Gambrell, the Agency OMB Clearance Officer, at (202) 770-5778.

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 the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to: Larry Gambrell, Agency OMB Clearance Officer, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Room 4162 South Building, Washington, D.C. 20250-2000.

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 Washington, D.C., January 22, 1998.

Rich Allen,

Acting Administrator, National Agricultural Statistics Service.

[FR Doc. 98-4035 Filed 2-17-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-20-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Economics and Statistics Administration

Secretary's 2000 Census Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Economics and Statistics Administration, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, as amended by Pub. L. 94-409, Pub. L. 96-523, and Pub. L. 97-375), we are giving notice of a meeting of the Commerce Secretary's 2000 Census Advisory Committee. The meeting will convene on March 19-20, 1998, at the Inn and Conference Center, University of Maryland University College, University Boulevard and Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20742. The Committee will discuss Census 2000 issues including address lists, methodology, plans for Census 2000 Dress Rehearsal data, and other related topics.

The Committee is composed of a Chair, Vice Chair, and up to thirty-five member organizations, all appointed by the Secretary of Commerce. The Committee will consider the goals of Census 2000 and user needs for information provided by that census. The Committee will provide a perspective from the standpoint of the outside user community about how operational planning and implementation methods proposed for Census 2000 will realize those goals and satisfy those needs. The Committee shall consider all aspects of the conduct of the 2000 census of population and housing and shall make recommendations for improving that census.

DATES: On Thursday, March 19, 1998, the meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m. and adjourn for the day at 4:30 p.m. On Friday, March 20, 1998, the meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m. and adjourn at 4 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will take place at the Inn and Conference Center, University of Maryland University College, University Boulevard and Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20742.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Anyone wishing additional information about this meeting, or who wishes to submit written statements or questions, may contact Maxine Anderson-Brown, Committee Liaison Officer, Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Room 3039, Federal Building 3,

Washington, DC 20233, telephone: 301-457-2308, TDD 301-457-2540.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: A brief period will be set aside on Friday afternoon for public comment and questions. However, individuals with extensive questions or statements for the record must submit them in writing to the Commerce Department official named above at least three working days prior to the meeting.

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Kathy Maney; her telephone number is 301-357-2308, TDD 301-457-2540.

Dated: February 10, 1998.

Lee Price,

Acting Under Secretary for Economic Affairs, Economics and Statistics Administration.

[FR Doc. 98-3928 Filed 2-17-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-27-M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

Centers for Disease Control Notice of Decision on Application for Duty-Free Entry of Scientific Instrument

This is a decision pursuant to Section 6(c) of the Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Materials Importation Act of 1966 (Pub. L. 89-651, 80 Stat. 897; 15 CFR part 301). Related records can be viewed between 8:30 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. in Room 4211, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C.

Docket Number: 97-094. *Applicant:* Centers for Disease Control, Morgantown, WV 26505-5288. *Instrument:* Electron Microscope, Model JEM-1220. *Manufacturer:* JEOL Ltd., Japan. *Intended Use:* See notice at 62 FR 62288, November 21, 1997. *Order Date:* September 11, 1997.

Comments: None received. Decision: Approved. No instrument of equivalent scientific value to the foreign instrument, for such purposes as the instrument is intended to be used, was being manufactured in the United States at the time the instrument was ordered. Reasons: The foreign instrument is a conventional transmission electron microscope (CTEM) and is intended for research or scientific educational uses requiring a CTEM. We know of no CTEM, which was being manufactured in the United States at the time of order of the instrument.

Frank W. Creel,

Director, Statutory Import Programs Staff.

[FR Doc. 98-4071 Filed 2-17-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-P