

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

Forest Pest Outbreaks; Declaration of Emergency Because of Forest Pest Outbreaks

Whereas, serious infestations of southern pine beetle are present in many parts of the United States, and

Whereas, these pests are capable of causing loss of tree growth, increased tree mortality, increased fire hazard, and loss of production on large segments of Federally and privately owned forest land,

Now, therefore, in accordance with the provisions of the Act of September 25, 1981, 95 Stat. 953 (7 U.S.C. 147b), I declare that there is an emergency which threatens segments of agricultural production industries of this country, particularly the wood and forest products industries, and I authorize the transfer and use of such sums as may be necessary from appropriations or other funds available to the agencies or corporations of the Department of Agriculture for the conduct of programs to reduce forest resource damage caused by these forest insects and diseases.

Effective Date: This declaration of emergency shall become effective July 20, 1999.

Dan Glickman,

Secretary of Agriculture.

[FR Doc. 99-20446 Filed 8-6-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Office of the Secretary

Privacy Act; System of Records

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of New Privacy Act System of Records.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that USDA proposes to create a new Privacy

Act system of records, USDA/NOO-1, entitled "The USDA Voluntary Minority Farm Register."

EFFECTIVE DATE: This notice will be adopted without further publication in the **Federal Register** on September 20, 1999, unless modified by a subsequent notice to incorporate comments received from the public. Although the Privacy Act requires only that the portion of the system which describes the "routine uses" of the system be published for comment, USDA invites comment on all portions of this notice. Comments must be received by the contact person listed below on or before September 8, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rich Allen, Associate Administrator, NASS, Room 4117 South Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington DC, 20250, Telephone: (202) 720-4333.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to the Privacy Act, 5 U.S.C. 552a, USDA is creating a new system of records to be maintained by the USDA Office of Outreach. The Voluntary Minority Farm Register is a listing of minority owners and operators of farmland.

The purpose of the Voluntary Minority Farm Register is to establish a baseline for the amount of farmland owned by minority land owners in order to help the USDA set goals to halt the reduction in minority-owned farm land, monitor the loss of minority owned farms, and locate minority farmers for the purpose of informing them of USDA and other programs that may benefit them. The concept was generated by Recommendation #28 of the Report of the Civil Rights Action Team to the Secretary of Agriculture entitled Civil Rights at the United States Department of Agriculture, dated February 1997.

The Voluntary Minority Farm Register will be administered by the Office of Outreach. A specific register sign-up form will be issued in Spanish and English. Informational registration materials will be distributed to Community Based Organizations, educational institutions, and government agencies assisting minorities with land retention and acquisition to ensure the program is widely publicized and accessible to all.

A "Report on New System," required by 5 U.S.C. 552a(r), as implemented by OMB Circular A-130, was sent to the Chairman, Committee on Government Affairs, United States Senate, the

Chairman, Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, House of Representatives, and the Administrator, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget on July 30, 1999.

Signed at Washington, DC, on July 30, 1999.

Dan Glickman,

Secretary of Agriculture.

USDA/NOO-1

SYSTEM NAME:

USDA Voluntary Minority Farm Register.

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION:

None.

SYSTEM LOCATION:

USDA Office of Outreach, 1400 Independence Avenue, Washington, D.C.

CATEGORIES OF INDIVIDUALS COVERED BY THE SYSTEM:

Minority farmland owners and operators who voluntarily request to be included on the Register.

CATEGORIES OF RECORDS IN THE SYSTEM:

The system includes name, address, race/ethnic coding provided by the individual, and farmland acreages owned and operated for each individual who requested to be included on the Register. Acreage data are extracted from Farm Service Agency records for the requesting individuals.

AUTHORITY FOR MAINTENANCE OF THE SYSTEM:

Section 2501 of Public Law 101-624 (the 1990 Farm Bill), entitled Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers, provides authority for the USDA to enter into special arrangements to aid limited resource and under-served farmers. The Voluntary Minority Farm Register was one specific action requested during Civil Rights Action Team Public Meetings and documented in the Civil Rights Action Team Report of February 1997.

ROUTINE USES OF RECORDS MAINTAINED IN THE SYSTEM, INCLUDING CATEGORIES OF USERS AND THE PURPOSES OF SUCH USES:

(1) Records in the system will be disclosed and distributed to Community Based Organizations, educational institutions, and government agencies assisting minorities with land retention