

# 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

#### Commission on 21st Century Production Agriculture

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has established the Commission on 21st Century Production Agriculture. In accordance with Section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), notice is hereby given of a meeting in November of the Commission on 21st Century Production Agriculture. The purpose of this meeting will be to address issues regarding small farms. This meeting is open to the public.

**PLACE, DATE, AND TIME OF MEETINGS:** This meeting will be held November 15, 1999 in Room 201 at the Georgia Department of Agriculture, Capital Square, Atlanta, Georgia 30334-4201 from 12:00 EST—5:00 PM EST; and on November 16, 1999, the Commission will be touring small farms and small farm cooperatives throughout rural Georgia.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Timothy M. Peters (202-720-4860), Assistant Director, Commission on 21st Century Production Agriculture, Room 3702 South Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-0524.

Dated: October 20, 1999.

**Keith J. Collins,**

*Chief Economist.*

[FR Doc. 99-28300 Filed 10-28-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-01-M

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Agricultural Research Service

#### Notice of Federal Invention Available for Licensing and Intent To Grant Exclusive License

**AGENCY:** Agricultural Research Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability and intent.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that a Federally owned invention U.S. Patent No. 5,919,446 (S.N. 08/958,475 filed October 27, 1997, entitled "Control of Fire Blight on Pome Fruit Trees with *Erwinia herbicola*" is available for licensing and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service, intends to grant to Northwest Agricultural Products of Wasco, Washington, an exclusive license to Serial No. 08/958,475.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before January 27, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** Send comments to: USDA, ARS, Office of Technology Transfer, 5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Room 4-1158, Beltsville, Maryland 20705-5131.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** June Blalock of the Office of Technology Transfer at the Beltsville address given above; telephone: 301-504-5989.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Federal Government's patent rights to this invention are assigned to the United States of America, as represented by the Secretary of Agriculture. It is in the public interest to so license this invention as Northwest Agricultural Products has submitted a complete and sufficient application for a license. The prospective exclusive license will be royalty-bearing and will comply with the terms and conditions of 35 U.S.C. 209 and 37 CFR 404.7. The prospective exclusive license may be granted unless, within ninety (90) days from the date of this published Notice, the Agricultural Research Service receives written evidence and argument which establishes that the grant of the license would not be consistent with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 209 and 37 CFR 404.7.

**Richard M. Parry, Jr.,**  
*Assistant Administrator.*

[FR Doc. 99-28379 Filed 10-28-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-03-P

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Commodity Credit Corporation

#### Notice of Request for Approval of a New Information Collection

**AGENCY:** Commodity Credit Corporation, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) is seeking approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for use of the forms necessary to implement the Total Quality Systems Audit (TQSA) program.

This information collection will allow CCC to determine compliance with TQSA standards. This program is being implemented to ensure that CCC purchases meet customer requirements and needs. Vendors offering processed commodities covered by TQSA for sale to CCC will have to meet quality control standards to assure the quality of the end product to be purchased by CCC.

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received on or before December 28, 1999 to be assured consideration.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Tim Mehl, Chief, Warehouse License and Examination Division, Kansas City Commodity Office, 9200 Ward Parkway, Kansas City, Missouri 64114, telephone (816) 926-6843, fax (816) 926-1774.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Title:* Total Quality Systems Audit Program.

*OMB Control Number:* 0560-NEW.

*Type of Request:* Approval of a new information collection.

*Abstract:* TQSA is a fee for service program open to food processors and other food related manufacturers of certain products purchased by CCC. Participation in the TQSA program may be required by CCC. Such requirement will be included in the applicable CCC commodity purchase announcement or invitation. A TQSA team has been organized in the Farm Service Agency (FSA) from personnel in FSA's Commodity Operations Division and the Department's Kansas City Commodity Office (KCCO).

During a TQSA audit, the participating vendor must make available to the audit team records pertaining to organization, production, work procedures, quality testing, shipping, sub-supplier certifications,

proof of U.S. origin, and all USDA contract documents. The vendor will make available key personnel and production workers for interview.

The TQSA team coordinates the audit with the vendor's management. The team makes detailed assessments of the vendor's production facilities, equipment, and procedures. Quality procedures and documentation are reviewed and assessed for compliance to TQSA standards. Records pertaining to purchasing, production, shipping, and safety are appraised. A review of CCC contracted products is made.

Four types of TQSA audits are performed:

1. Baseline audits are done for new or potential TQSA participants. The audit provides the company with guidelines to meet the TQSA standards.

2. Full audits are mandatory for those vendors that have previously met the TQSA standards and wish to remain in compliance with the TQSA program.

3. Surveillance audits are limited in scope to confirm corrective actions, found during full audits, are complete and successfully implemented.

4. Destination reviews are conducted at a point in the commodity distribution chain to verify the product conforms to standards. The review is usually conducted as part of an audit program to check product quality, but may be conducted in response to a customer complaint.

To be compliant with TQSA standards the vendor must completely conform to Good Manufacturing Practices (21 CFR Part 110), Applicable Federal or State food safety requirements, and current commodity announcement/invitations, if applicable. Vendors must also demonstrate an acceptable level of conformance with ISO/ANSI/ASQ 9001-1994 Quality Systems Model for Quality Assurance in Design, Development, Production, Installation, and Servicing Standards.

All observations and findings of non-conformance will be recorded on the Audit Summary (KC-1TQ). Evidence of major non-conformance or system failures will be reported on the Corrective Actions Request (KC-3TQ).

At the conclusion of the audit a score is determined according to established procedures. This score is also used to determine the frequency of future audits. The score, the audit results on the KC-1TQ, the KC-3TQ, and the billable hours are discussed with the vendor's representative at an exit meeting. Any disputes will be settled during this meeting and the results and the score revised if necessary. The score

finalized during this meeting cannot be disputed at a later date.

The Audit Summary (KC-1TQ) and the Corrective Action Request (KC-3TQ) require the signature of the vendor's representative. The signature constitutes agreement with the results and score of the audit. The signed forms are provided to KCCO. This information may be used to determine the eligibility for and awarding of contracts.

*Estimate of Burden:* Public reporting burden for collecting information under this notice is estimated to average 30 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.

*Respondents:* Food vendors participating in the TQSA Program.

*Respondents:* 250.

*Estimated Number of Annual Responses per Respondent:* 2.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Per Respondent:* 1 hour.

*Total Annual Responses:* 500.

*Total Annual Burden Hours:* 250.

*Proposed topics for comment include:*

(a) Whether the 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 burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information collected; or (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of the 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 regarding this information collection requirement may be directed to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Attention: Desk Officer for USDA, Washington, DC 20503, and to Timothy P. Mehl, Chief, Warehouse Licensing and Examination Division, Kansas City Commodity Office, 9200 Ward Parkway, Kansas City, Missouri 64114, telephone (816) 926-6843, fax (816) 926-1774.

All comments will become a matter of public record.

Signed at Washington, DC, on October 25, 1999.

**Keith Kelly,**

*Executive Vice President, Commodity Credit Corporation.*

[FR Doc. 99-28378 Filed 10-28-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-05-P

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Foreign Agricultural Service

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

**AGENCY:** Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Foreign Agricultural Service's (FAS) intention to request an extension for a currently approved information collection in support of the Public Law 480, Title I program, found at 7 CFR part 17.

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received by December 28, 1999 to be assured of consideration.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Acting Director, Public Law 480 Operations Division, Export Credits, Foreign Agricultural Service, Room 4549 South Building, Stop 1033, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-1033. Telephone: (202) 720-3664.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Title:* Declaration of Sale, Form FAS-359.

*OMB Number:* 0551-0009.

*Expiration Date of Approval:* February 29, 2000.

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

*Abstract:* Title I of the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954, as amended, (Public Law 480) authorizes the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) to finance the sale and exportation of agricultural commodities on concessional credit terms. 7 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.* Commodity suppliers must report details of sales for price approval. Form FAS-359, "Declaration of Sale," is the written record, signed by the commodity supplier, of the terms of sale as reported by telephone. When signed for the General Sales Manager, it provides evidence of the USDA price approval required for CCC financing.

*Estimate of Burden:* The public reporting burden is 15 minutes per response for commodity suppliers reporting details of sales.

*Respondents:* Business or other for-profit.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 15.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 30.25 hours.