

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

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 99-091-1]

Availability of Draft Pest Risk Assessment for the Importation of Honeybees and Honeybee Germ Plasm from New Zealand

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: We are advising the public that a draft pest risk assessment has been prepared by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service for the importation of honeybees and honeybee germ plasm from New Zealand. We are making this draft pest risk assessment available to the public for review and comment.

DATES: We invite you to comment on the draft pest risk assessment. We will consider all comments that we receive by February 7, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Please send your comment and three copies to: Docket No. 99-091-1, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Suite 3C03, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238.

Please state that your comment refers to Docket No. 99-091-1.

A copy of the draft pest risk assessment, and any comments that we receive on it, may be reviewed in our reading room. The reading room is located in room 1141 of the USDA South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC. Normal reading room hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. To be sure someone is there to help you, please call (202) 690-2817 before coming.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Robert V. Flanders, Regulatory Coordination, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 141, Riverdale, MD 20737-1228; (301) 734-5930.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture has received a request from the Government of New Zealand to allow the importation into the United States of adult honeybees (*Apis mellifera*) (specifically queens and package bees) and honeybee germ plasm from New Zealand. The request was made in accordance with the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

To determine whether the risk associated with such importation is low enough for us to initiate rulemaking to implement this change to our regulations, we have prepared a draft pest risk assessment, entitled "Risk Assessment: Importation of Adult Queens, Package Bees, and Germ Plasm of Honeybees (*Apis mellifera* L.) From New Zealand," in consultation with the Government of New Zealand. The draft pest risk assessment identifies quarantine pests associated with the importation of honeybees and honeybee germ plasm from New Zealand and qualitatively assesses the likelihood of the introduction of these quarantine pests into the United States, as well as the consequences of introduction.

We are making this draft pest risk assessment available to the public for review and comment. In particular, we request feedback on the risk factors, methodology, and documentation used in the draft pest risk assessment. We will consider all comments that we receive by the date listed under the heading **DATES** at the beginning of this notice.

The draft pest risk assessment is available in our reading room (information on the location and hours of the reading room is listed under the heading **ADDRESSES** at the beginning of this notice), on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/prq/honeybees/>, by calling the Plant Protection and Quarantine automated fax retrieval system at (301) 734-3560 and requesting document 0512, or by contacting the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 281; 7 CFR 2.22, 2.80, and 371.2(c).

Done in Washington, DC, this 3rd day of December 1999.

Bobby R. Acord,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 99-31955 Filed 12-8-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-U

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Farm Service Agency

Notice of Request for Extension of a Previously Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Farm Service Agency, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Farm Service Agency's (FSA) intention to request an extension for an information collection previously approved in support of the Agency's personnel employment system for its county committee employees who are not considered Federal Civil Service employees within the meaning of 5 U.S.C. 2105.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received on or before February 7, 2000 to be assured consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Donald Samuels, Personnel Management Specialist, Human Resources Division, Farm Service Agency, USDA, STOP 0592, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-0592; telephone (202) 418-8988; e-mail Don_Samuels@wdc.fsa.usda.gov; or facsimile (202) 418-9121.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Selection and Functions of Farm Service Agency State, County, and Community Committees.

OMB Control Number: 0560-0016.

Type of Request: Extension of a Previously Approved Information Collection.

Abstract: The information collected under Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Control Number 0560-0016, as identified above, is needed to enable the Farm Service Agency (FSA) to effectively administer the regulations at 7 CFR part 7 relating to the selection and function of Farm Service Agency State, County and Community Committees. Information requested on