

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. 00-015-1]

Plant-Derived Biologics for Human and Veterinary Applications; Public Meeting

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: This is to notify producers and users of human and veterinary vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics, as well as other interested persons, that a public meeting will be held to provide a forum for discussion on the regulatory and policy issues related to the manufacture, distribution, and use of biological products derived from plants. The meeting is being organized by the Food and Drug Administration and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and is sponsored by the Institute for International Cooperation in Animal Biologics.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Thursday, April 6, 2000, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will be held in the Scheman Building at the Iowa State Center, Ames, IA.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information about the meeting, contact Dr. Bruce Carter, Center for Veterinary Biologics, Licensing and Policy Development, VS, APHIS, 510 South 17th Street, Suite 104, Ames, IA 50010; phone (515) 232-5785, fax (515) 232-7120, or e-mail:

Bruce.A.Carter@usda.gov.

For registration information, contact Ms. Dawne Buhrow, Institute for International Cooperation in Animal Biologics, 2160 College of Veterinary Medicine, Iowa State University, Ames, IA 50011; phone (515) 294-7632, fax

(515) 294-8259, or e-mail: iicab@iastate.edu.

In addition, information regarding the meeting and registration is available on the Internet at <http://www.vetmed.iastate.edu/iicab/transpl.htm>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under its regulations in title 9 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), issued under the Virus-Serum-Toxin Act (21 U.S.C. 151 *et seq.*), the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) regulates, among other things, the production of veterinary biological products. Although none have been licensed to date, APHIS' Center for Veterinary Biologics anticipates receiving applications for licenses authorizing the production of veterinary biological products derived from plants. In addition, under its regulations in title 7 of the CFR (7 CFR part 340), issued under the Federal Plant Pest Act (7 U.S.C. 150aa *et seq.*) and the Plant Quarantine Act (7 U.S.C. 151 *et seq.*), APHIS also regulates, among other things, the field testing of transgenic plants that may be plant pests. Since 1991, APHIS' Plant Protection and Quarantine program has issued 25 permits for the field testing of transgenic plants containing genes whose products are intended for use in the development of human and veterinary biologics. Finally, under its regulations in title 21 of the CFR issued under the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300aa *et seq.*), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulates, among other things, the production of biological products intended for use in humans. The FDA's Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research has received applications for plant-derived products intended for use in humans.

In order to provide a forum for the discussion of regulatory and policy issues related to the manufacture, distribution, and use of biological products derived from plants, APHIS and FDA are organizing a public meeting. This public meeting, which is sponsored by the Institute for International Cooperation in Animal Biologics, is scheduled for April 6, 2000, and will provide an opportunity for the exchange of information between APHIS and FDA representatives, producers and users of biological products derived from plants, and other interested persons on issues of common

concern. The public meeting will begin at 1 p.m. and is scheduled to end at 5 p.m. Information regarding the meeting and registration instructions may be obtained from the persons listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT.**

Persons interested in making an oral presentation at the meeting should submit a brief written statement of the general views they wish to present, the name and address of each person who will participate in the presentation, and an estimate of the approximate length of time needed to make the presentation. This information should be e-mailed by March 20, 2000, to:

APHIS_FDA_Plants_oral@iastate.edu. The number of oral presentations and the time allocated for each may be limited, depending upon the number of requests. Oral presentations will be recorded in the proceedings of the meeting. Persons interested in submitting written comments for inclusion in the proceedings may do so by e-mailing them, by March 20, 2000, to:

APHIS_FDA_Plants_written@iastate.edu. Written comments and the requested information regarding oral presentations may also be mailed or faxed to Dr. Bruce Carter; his address and fax number are provided under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT.**

Done in Washington, DC, this 1st day of March 2000.

Bobby R. Acord,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 00-5429 Filed 3-6-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-U

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Notice of Request for Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Rural Business-Cooperative Service.

ACTION: Proposed collection; comments request.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the intention of the Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS) to request an extension of a currently approved information collection in support of the Cooperative

Development Division (CDD),
Cooperative Services Program.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received on or before May 8, 2000, to be assured of consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Wells, Director, CDD, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA, Cooperative Development Division, STOP 3254, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250-3254. Telephone: (202) 720-3350.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Cooperative Services Questionnaire: Market Potential for New Cooperatives Buyer Survey for New Cooperative Activity.

OMB Number: 0570-0009.

Expiration Date of Approval: May 31, 2000.

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

Abstract: The Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS) USDA, conducts feasibility studies to assist in the development of new cooperatives. The Cooperative Development Division specializes in technical assistance to agricultural and rural producer groups interested in organizing a cooperative, and to emerging or developing co-ops, so they can: (a) Use sensible economic judgment, (b) determine co-op feasibility, (c) meet an economic need, (d) successfully operate on sound business principles and, (e) increase member income. In order to carry out the Agency's mission, RBS needs to collect information from the cooperative community.

The authority to carry out RBS mission is defined in the Cooperative Marketing Act of 1926 (44 Stat. 802-1926).

Authority and Duties of Division (7 U.S.C. 453)

(a) The division shall render service to associations of producers of agricultural products, and federations and subsidiaries thereof, engaged in the cooperative marketing of agricultural products, including processing, warehousing, manufacturing, storage, the cooperative purchasing of farm supplies, credit, financing, insurance, and other cooperative activities.

(b) The division is authorized:

(1) To acquire, analyze and disseminate economic, statistical, and historical information regarding the progress, organization, and business methods of cooperative associations in the United States and foreign countries.

(2) To conduct studies of the economic, legal, financial, social, and other phases of cooperation, and

publish the results thereof. Such studies shall include the analyses of the organization, operation, financial and merchandising problems of cooperative associations.

(3) To make surveys and analyses if deemed advisable of the accounts and business practices of representative cooperative associations upon their request; to report to the association so surveyed to results thereof, and with the consent of the association so surveyed to publish summaries of the results of such surveys, together with similar facts, for the guidance of cooperative associations and for the purpose of assisting cooperative associations in developing methods of business and market analysis.

(4) To confer and advise with committees or groups of producers, if deemed advisable, that may be desirous of forming a cooperative association and to make an economic survey and analysis of the facts surrounding the production and marketing of the agricultural product or products which the association, if formed, would handle or market.

(5) To acquire from all available sources information concerning crop prospects, supply, demand, current receipts, exports, imports, and prices of the agricultural products handled or marketed by cooperative associations, and to employ qualified commodity marketing specialists to summarize and analyze this information and disseminate the same among cooperative associations, and others.

(6) To promote the knowledge of cooperative principles and practices and to cooperate, in promoting such knowledge, with educational and marketing agencies, cooperative associations, and others.

(7) To make such special studies, in the United States and foreign countries, and to acquire and disseminate such information and findings as may be useful in the development and practice of cooperation.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .5 hours per response.

Respondents: Mainly buyers of agricultural products in domestic market areas proposed cooperatives would be expected to market their member's products.

Estimated number of respondents: 90.
Estimated number of responses per respondent: 1.

Estimated total annual burden on respondents: 45 hours per year.

The Cooperative Development Division specializes in technical assistance to agricultural and rural

producer groups interested in organizing a cooperative, and to emerging or developing co-ops, so they can (a) use sensible economic judgment, (b) determine co-op feasibility, (c) meet an economic need, (d) successfully operate on sound business principles and, (e) increase member income.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Jean Mosley, Regulations and Paperwork Management Division, at (202) 692-0041.

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 Jean Mosley, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, STOP 0742, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250-0742. All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record.

Dated: February 25, 2000.

Dayton J. Watkins,

Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service.

[FR Doc. 00-5426 Filed 3-6-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-XY-U

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

**Information Collection Activity;
Comment Request**

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended), the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) invites comments on this new information collection for which RUS intends to