

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

Commodity Credit Corporation

Poult Enteritis Mortality Syndrome (PEMS)

AGENCY: Commodity Credit Corporation, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) is issuing this notice to inform all interested parties who were affected by turkey depopulation due to Poult Enteritis Mortality Syndrome (PEMS) in southwestern Missouri of the availability of assistance for such losses through Livestock Indemnity Program for Contract Growers (LIP-CG).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sharon Biastock, (202) 720-6336.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

During the period since April 2000, several turkey contract growers in the southwestern Missouri counties of Jasper, Newton, Barry, McDonald, and Barton, were forced to depopulate their turkey houses for several weeks due to an outbreak of PEMS. PEMS is an intestinal infection that causes dehydration and high mortality in young turkeys. To end the disease, growers must depopulate their turkey houses and leave them empty for two growing cycles, or about 20 weeks.

Section 806 of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2001, Public Law 106-387, as amended by section 101(5) of H.R. 5666, Miscellaneous Appropriations Act, 2001, as enacted in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2001, Public Law 106-554, provides that the Secretary shall not use more than \$2 million to carry out a program for income losses as a result of PEMS sustained before April 30, 2001, by

individuals who raise poultry owned by other individuals.

Purpose

The purpose of this notice is to inform affected parties that to receive benefits, contract growers must file application CCC-661 and provide the necessary documentation showing the number of birds that were destroyed and the number that would have been raised if there had been no need to depopulate the turkey houses. Subject to the availability of funds under the \$2 million limit, applications will be accepted and approved using the same terms and conditions that apply to the Livestock Indemnity Program for Contract Growers (LIP-CG) that were published in the *Federal Register* on December 29, 2000, (65 F.R. 82892) revising 7 CFR Part 1439, Subpart E—Livestock Indemnity Program for Contract Growers with the following exceptions:

(a) Eligibility applies only to turkey contract growers who depopulated their turkey houses at any time during the period of March 1, 2000 through April 30, 2001 because of PEMS; and

(b) Presidential or Secretarial natural disaster declarations are not necessary.

Application for benefits due to PEMS for Jasper, Newton, Barry, McDonald, and Barton Counties in Missouri must be filed with the Farm Service Agency (FSA) in the local USDA Service Center servicing the county in which the affected turkey population is located no later than the final signup date yet to be determined by the Secretary but not before May 1, 2001.

Contract growers of turkeys affected by PEMS in counties other than Jasper, Newton, Barry, McDonald, and Barton of Missouri, may contact Sharon Biastock by May 1, 2001, for further guidance on applying for benefits.

After all applications are received, final eligibility determinations will be made. To the extent that eligible claims exceed the \$2 million available, the agency will apportion the claims accordingly.

Signed at Washington, DC, on March 22, 2001.

James R. Little,

Acting Executive Vice President, Commodity Credit Corporation.

[FR Doc. 01-7788 Filed 3-28-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-05-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Information Collection; Request for Comments; Health Screening Questionnaire

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Forest Service announces its intention to establish a new information collection. The collected information will enable the Forest Service to evaluate current employees, who are seeking certification or recertification for firefighter positions, as well as individuals, who are applying for firefighter positions, to determine if they meet the qualifications to safely perform assigned duties as a Forest Service firefighter.

DATES: Comments must be received in writing on or before May 29, 2001.

ADDRESSES: All comments should be addressed to Wini Sorensen, National Safety Officer, National Interagency Fire Center, Forest Service, USDA, 3833 South Development Avenue, Boise, ID 83705-5354.

Comments also may be submitted via facsimile to (208) 387-5398 or by email to wsorensen@fs.fed.us.

The public may inspect comments received at the National Safety Office, National Interagency Fire Center, Forest Service, USDA, 3833 South Development Avenue, Boise, Idaho, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday thru Friday MST.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Wini Sorensen, National Safety Officer, at (208) 387-5102.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Protection Act of 1922 (16 U.S.C. 594) authorizes the Forest Service to fight fires on National Forest System lands.

Individuals must complete the Health Screening Questionnaire (HSQ) when seeking employment as a new firefighter with the Forest Service or recertification as a Forest Service firefighter. Forest Service employees will evaluate the collected information to determine if the individual seeking certification or recertification may begin a physical

fitness program to train for the arduous level "Pack Test" of the Work Capacity Test. If Forest Service employees determine, based on the collected information, that an individual may not be physically able to train for the arduous level of the Work Capacity Test, the agency will require the individual to undergo a physical examination from a physician.

Description of Information Collection

The following describes the information collection to be established:
Title: Health Screening Questionnaire (HSQ).

OMB Number: New.

Expiration Date of Approval: New.

Type of Request: This is a new information collection that has not yet received approval from the Office of Management and Budget.

Abstract: Forest Service personnel at Forest Service Ranger Districts, Forest Service Supervisors' Offices, Forest Service Research Stations, or the Area Office will evaluate the collected data to ensure that individuals seeking recertification as a Forest Service firefighter, as well as those applying to become certified, will meet the physical and health requirements of the position.

Forest Service employees will collect information on the current general health of the individual, such as height, weight, and current level of physical activity; previous serious health conditions, such as life threatening injury, diseases, or heart conditions; and special current conditions, such as diabetes or allergies. Individuals determined to be in sufficient health will be asked to complete the "Work Capacity Tests," which would include testing the level of the individual's aerobic fitness, level of muscular strength, and muscle endurance.

The information provided by an individual will be placed in the individual's Official Employee Medical File. As required under The Privacy Act (5 USC 552a), the information will not be available to any other agency or individual.

Data gathered in this information collection is not available from other sources.

Estimate of Annual Burden: 5 minutes.

Type of Respondents: Current employees requesting certification or recertification as a firefighter (Red-Card) and applicants seeking Forest Service firefighter positions.

Estimated Annual Number of Respondents: 15,000.

Estimated Annual Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 1,250 hours.

Comment Is Invited

The agency invites comments on the following: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the stated purposes and the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical or scientific 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 respondents, including the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Use of Comments

All comments received in response to this notice, including names and addresses when provided, will become a matter of public record. Comments will be summarized and included in the request for Office of Management and Budget Approval.

Dated: March 21, 2001.

Michael T. Rains,

Deputy Chief, State and Private Forestry.

[FR Doc. 01-7724 Filed 3-28-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Southwestern Region, Arizona, Apache-Sitgreaves, Coconino, Kaibab, Prescott, and Tonto National Forests; Amendment to National Forest Land and Resource Management Plans To Determine How and if Cross-Country Travel by Off Highway Vehicles (OHVs) Should Be Allowed

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: The Apache-Sitgreaves, Coconino, Kaibab, Prescott, and Tonto National Forests will prepare an environmental impact statement to address cross-country travel by motorized wheeled vehicles and how to standardize road and trail signing conventions for OHVs. These five forests differ in their current direction for this type of recreational use. Confusion among OHV users over

permitted types of travel and road and trail signs is common. The EIS will evaluate the growing popularity of OHVs and their impacts to the Forests. Existing direction for OHV use will be replaced with these Forest Plan amendments if supported by the analysis. The intention of the EIS is to preserve options for OHV use in local transportation planning while reducing impacts to resources.

DATES: Comments in response to this Notice of Intent concerning the scope of the analysis should be received in writing by May 15, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to USDA Forest Service, Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest, P.O. Box 640, Springerville, Arizona 85938, ATTN: Land Management Planning.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS: The Forest Supervisors of the Apache-Sitgreaves, Coconino, Kaibab, Prescott and Tonto National Forests will decide if it is necessary to more restrictively manage cross-country travel by OHVs and how to do so while standardizing signing for open roads and trails that may be used by OHVs.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Land Management Planner, Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest (520) 333-6370.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The five national forests involved in this currently have different management direction for cross-country use by Off Highway Vehicles (OHVs). This diversity of approaches has led to some confusion by the public as to where they may use OHVs. The growing numbers of OHVs used on national forest has also increased the impacts to land and resources within national forests. The growing popularity of this use has created conflicts with other forest uses and prompted many individuals and groups to express concerns over this matter.

Many types of OHVs are common in Arizona's National Forests. Pickup trucks, motorcycles, and all-terrain vehicles have all become more prevalent and now are beyond the scope considered for their use in forest plans. According to industry experts more than half of all vehicles sold in Arizona are sport utility vehicles (SUVs) or light trucks. Additionally, all-terrain vehicles have increased in sales between 1995 and 1998 an average of 29% per year. The use of such vehicles on national forests has been a concern of government agencies, organized environmental and OHV groups and individuals. This concern has accelerated in a pattern similar to the expanded population of OHVs.