

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

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Docket No. FV01-81-2NC]

Notice of Request for OMB Approval and Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), this notice announces that the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is submitting to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for approval and extension the information collection on prune trees grown in California per clause (3) of Section 32 of the Act of August 24, 1935, as amended (7 U.S.C. 612c). This information collection was approved as an emergency package through May 31, 2002, and assigned OMB No. 0581-0201.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by May 13, 2002.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Contact Caroline C. Thorpe, Marketing Specialist, Marketing Order Administration Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, AMS, USDA, room 2525-S, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Stop 0237, Washington, DC 20090-6456; Tel: (202) 720-2491, Fax: (202) 720-8983, or E-mail: moab.docketclerk@usda.gov.

Small businesses may request information on this notice by contacting Jay Guerber, Regulatory Fairness Representative, Marketing Order Administration Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, AMS, USDA, room 2525-S, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Stop 0237, Washington, DC 20090-6456; telephone (202) 720-2491, Fax:

(202) 720-5698, or E-mail: Jay.Guerber@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: California Prune/Plum Tree Removal Program ("the program").

OMB Number: 0581-0201.

Expiration Date of Approval: May 31, 2002.

Type of Request: Approval and extension of a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: The information collection requirements in this request are applied only to those growers who voluntarily participate in the tree removal program. The information is essential to carry out the program, and to administer release of payments to participating growers.

This program is intended to reestablish prune/plum growers' purchasing power and is authorized under clause (3) of section 32 of the Act of August 24, 1935, as amended (Section 32). Clause (3) of Section 32 authorizes USDA to "reestablish farmers' purchasing power by making payments in connection with the normal production of any agricultural commodity for domestic consumption." Section 32 also authorizes USDA to use Section 32 funds "* * * at such times, and in such manner, and in such amounts, as * * *" is found to "* * * effectuate substantial accomplishments of any one or more of the purposes of this section." Furthermore, "Determinations by the Secretary as to what constitutes * * * normal production for domestic consumption shall be final."

The forms covered under this information collection require the minimum information necessary to effectively carry out the requirements of the program, and their use is necessary to fulfill the intent of clause (3) of Section 32 and the rules and regulations issued thereunder.

The California prune industry has requested a tree removal program estimated to cost \$20 million. The industry asked the Department of Agriculture (USDA) to provide \$17 million in Section 32 funds. The industry has contributed \$3 million. California's prune bearing acreage is expected to reach 94,000 acres next year if no acreage is removed. The industry's objective is to remove a minimum of 20,000 bearing acres of prune trees. Prune trees are generally planted 100 to 140 trees per acre. With an average yield

of 2.2 tons per acre (5-year average), about 44,000 tons of prune variety plums would be removed from production under the program. Such a decrease will more closely align prune supply with demand while assuring an adequate supply for all market needs. If less productive acres are removed (yields less than 2.2 tons per acre) or less than 20,000 acres are removed, then the reduction in production would be less than 44,000 tons. With prune supplies more in line with market needs, market conditions are expected to stabilize and producer prices are expected to rise to more remunerative levels.

Two forms are needed to implement the program. The first form is "Application for Prune Tree Removal Program" (FV-298). Growers who wish to participate in the program must submit this form to the Prune Marketing Committee (Committee), which administers the program. Upon receipt of FV-298, the Committee will send the grower a "Notification of Prune Tree Removal" (FV-299) that requires only the grower's signature certifying that the trees were removed, and the date of removal. The notification also must be signed by a Committee staff member to verify actual removal of the trees. Growers are required to maintain copies of both forms for at least three years.

These forms require the minimum amount of information necessary to carry out the program. In addition, USDA has developed these forms in consultation with the Committee on behalf of the California prune industry. Because this program is not maintained by any other agency, the information collected is not available from any other existing records.

The information collected will be used only by authorized representatives of the USDA, including AMS' Fruit and Vegetable Programs' regional and headquarters staff, and authorized employees of the Committee. All information collected will be treated as confidential (as indicated on the forms), and will be in conformance with the Privacy Act and the Freedom of Information Act.

AMS estimates that the total annual burden are 250 hours. The proposed request for approval of the information collection under the program is as follows:

FV-298—Application for Prune Tree Removal Program Reporting:

Estimate of Burden per Response: 30 minutes.

Respondents: California prune growers.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 480.

Estimated Annual Number of Responses Per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 240 hours.

Recordkeeping:

Estimate of Burden: 1.2 minutes.

Respondents: California prune growers.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 480.

Estimated Annual Time per Respondent: 1 hour.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 10 hours.

Comments: Comments are invited on: (1) Whether the proposed collection of the information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of AMS, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of AMS estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) 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 should reference OMB No. 0581-0201 and the California Prune Tree Removal Program, and be mailed to the Docket Clerk, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, AMS, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Stop 0237, Washington, DC 20090-6456; Fax (202) 720-5698; or E-mail: moab.docketclerk@usda.gov. Comments should reference the docket number and the date and page number of this issue of the **Federal Register**. All comments received will be available for public inspection in the Office of the Docket Clerk during regular USDA business hours at room 2525-S, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Stop 0237, Washington, DC 20090-6456; or telephone: (202) 720-2491.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: March 8, 2002.

A.J. Yates,

Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 02-6099 Filed 3-13-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 00-078-1]

Monsanto Co.; Availability of Petition and Environmental Assessment for Determination of Nonregulated Status for Corn Genetically Engineered for Insect Resistance

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: We are advising the public that the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has received a petition from Monsanto Company seeking a determination of nonregulated status for corn designated as Event MON 863, which has been genetically engineered for insect resistance. The petition has been submitted in accordance with our regulations concerning the introduction of certain genetically engineered organisms and products. In accordance with those regulations, we are soliciting public comments on whether this corn presents a plant pest risk. We are also making available for public comment an environmental assessment for the proposed determination of nonregulated status.

DATES: We will consider all comments we receive that are postmarked, delivered, or e-mailed by May 13, 2002.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by postal mail/commercial delivery or by e-mail. If you use postal mail/commercial delivery, please send four copies of your comments (an original and three copies) to Docket No. 00-078-1, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238. Please state that your comments refer to Docket No. 00-078-1. If you use e-mail, address your comment to regulations@aphis.usda.gov. Your comment must be contained in the body of your message; do not send attached files. Please include your name and address in your message and Docket No. 00-078-1 on the subject line.

You may read a copy of the petition for a determination of nonregulated status submitted by Monsanto

Company, the environmental assessment, and any comments we receive on this notice of availability in our reading room. The reading room is located in room 1141, 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 that someone is available to help you, please call (202) 690-2817 before coming.

APHIS documents published in the **Federal Register**, and related information, including the names of organizations and individuals who have commented on APHIS dockets, are available on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppd/rad/webrepor.html>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. John Turner, PPQ, APHIS, Suite 5B05, 4700 River Road Unit 147, Riverdale, MD 20737-1236; (301) 734-8365. To obtain a copy of the petition or the environmental assessment, contact Ms. Kay Peterson at (301) 734-4885; e-mail: Kay.Peterson@aphis.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The regulations in 7 CFR part 340, "Introduction of Organisms and Products Altered or Produced Through Genetic Engineering Which Are Plant Pests or Which There Is Reason to Believe Are Plant Pests," regulate, among other things, the introduction (importation, interstate movement, or release into the environment) of organisms and products altered or produced through genetic engineering that are plant pests or that there is reason to believe are plant pests. Such genetically engineered organisms and products are considered "regulated articles."

The regulations in § 340.6(a) provide that any person may submit a petition to the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) seeking a determination that an article should not be regulated under 7 CFR part 340. Paragraphs (b) and (c) of § 340.6 describe the form that a petition for a determination of nonregulated status must take and the information that must be included in the petition.

On May 17, 2001, APHIS received a petition (APHIS Petition No. 01-137-01p) from Monsanto Company (Monsanto) of St. Louis, MO, requesting a determination of nonregulated status under 7 CFR part 340 for corn (*Zea mays* L.) designated as Corn Rootworm Protected Corn Event MON 863 (MON 863), which has been genetically engineered for resistance to the larvae of certain corn rootworm (CRW) species. The Monsanto petition states that the