

**Respondents:** Wheat growers, shippers, seed companies, State plant regulatory authorities, and Farm Service Agency personnel.

**Estimated annual number of respondents:** 170.

**Estimated annual number of responses per respondent:** 1.

**Estimated annual number of responses:** 170.

**Estimated total annual burden on respondents:** 85 hours. (Due to averaging, the total annual burden hours may not equal the product of the annual number of responses multiplied by the reporting burden per response.)

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.

Done in Washington, DC, this 8th day of March 2004.

**Kevin Shea,**

*Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.*

[FR Doc. 04-5627 Filed 3-11-04; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-34-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

**[Docket No. 04-019-1]**

#### Availability of a Draft Document Pertaining to the Risks Associated With the Introduction of Soybean Rust Into the Continental United States

**AGENCY:** Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

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

**SUMMARY:** We are advising the public that the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has prepared a draft document entitled "Status of Scientific Evidence on Risks Associated with the Introduction into the Continental United States of *Phakopsora pachyrhizi* with Imported Soybean Grain, Seed and Meal." We are making this document available to the public for review and comment.

**DATES:** We will consider all comments that we receive on or before April 12, 2004.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

- Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery: Please send four copies of your comment (an original and three copies) to Docket No. 04-019-1, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71, 4700 River Road, Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238.

Please state that your comment refers to Docket No. 04-019-1.

- E-mail: Address your comment to [regulations@aphis.usda.gov](mailto: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. 04-019-1" on the subject line.

• Agency Web Site: Go to <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppd/rad/cominst.html> for a form you can use to submit an e-mail comment through the APHIS Web site.

- Federal eRulemaking Portal: Go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and follow the instructions for locating this docket and submitting comments.

**Reading Room:** You may read any comments that we receive on this docket 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.

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

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Arnold T. Tschanz, Senior Staff Officer, Regulatory Coordination, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road, Unit 141, Riverdale, MD 20737-1236, (301) 734-5306.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

Soybean rust is caused by two different fungal species—*Phakopsora pachyrhizi* Sydow and *Phakopsora meibomiae* (Arthur) Arthur. *P. pachyrhizi* is an aggressive pathogen and spreads rapidly under conducive environmental conditions. It is referred to as the Asian, Australian, or Old World rust strain. *P. meibomiae* is a less aggressive pathogen on soybean. It is referred to as the tropical, Latin American, or New World rust strain. Soybean rusts caused by one or both of these species have been reported in most soybean producing areas of the world, except for North America and Europe.

In light of recent outbreaks in South America of the Asian strain of soybean rust (*P. pachyrhizi*), U.S. soybean producers have asked APHIS to reevaluate the entry status of soybean

grain, seed, and meal from countries where soybean rust is known to occur. To evaluate the risks associated with the introduction of soybean rust into the continental United States, a draft document, entitled "Status of Scientific Evidence on Risks Associated with the Introduction into the Continental United States of *Phakopsora pachyrhizi* with Imported Soybean Grain, Seed and Meal" (February 23, 2004), has been prepared. We are making the draft document available to the public for review and comment.

You may view the draft document on the Internet at [http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ep/soybean\\_rust/sbr\\_riskevidoc2\\_23\\_04.pdf](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ep/soybean_rust/sbr_riskevidoc2_23_04.pdf). You may request copies from the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

**CONTACT.** Please refer to the title of the draft document when requesting copies. Finally, the draft document is available for review in our reading room (information on the location and hours of the reading room is provided under the heading **ADDRESSES** at the beginning of this notice).

In addition, we are soliciting comments addressing the following questions:

1. What conditions at harvest and during cleaning, drying, storage, or transport would change the risk of introducing *P. pachyrhizi* with imported soybean grain, seed, and meal?

2. Is there additional specific information on industry and agricultural practices that would affect the risk of introducing the soybean rust pathogen with imported soybean grain, seed, and meal?

3. Are most soybeans that are grown in areas infested with soybean rust sprayed with fungicides? How effective is this control?

4. What other practical treatments could be used to address the risk of introducing the soybean rust pathogen in imported soybean grain, seed, and meal?

5. Is there any other information APHIS should consider in determining the risk of introducing *P. pachyrhizi* with imported soybean grain, seed, and meal?

We welcome all comments on the issues outlined above and encourage the submission of scientific information that supports any statements and conclusions. We will consider all comments that we receive on or before the date listed under the heading **DATES** at the beginning of this notice. These comments will be considered during the development of a pest risk assessment for soybean rust.

**Authority:** 7 U.S.C. 450 and 7701–7772; 21 U.S.C. 136 and 136a; 7 CFR 2.22, 2.80, and 371.3.

Done in Washington, DC, this 8th day of March 2004.

**Kevin Shea,**

*Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.*

[FR Doc. 04–5628 Filed 3–11–04; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410–34–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Information Collection; Request for Comments; Publication Comment Cards

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Forest Service announces its intention to extend an information collection. The Southern Research Station disseminates research publications to individuals, institutions, organizations, and interest groups. Information is collected from those who receive the scientific research publications. The collected information enables the Forest Service to assess the value to the customer of these publications.

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received in writing on or before May 11, 2004.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments concerning this notice should be sent to Communications Office, Southern Research Station, Forest Service, USDA, P.O. Box 2680, Asheville, NC 28802.

Comments also may be submitted via facsimile to (828) 257–4838 or by e-mail to [mcarlson01@fs.fed.us](mailto:mcarlson01@fs.fed.us).

The public may inspect comments received at the Southern Research Station, 200 W.T. Weaver Boulevard, Asheville, North Carolina. Visitors are encouraged to call ahead to (828) 257–4838 to facilitate entry into the building.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Melissa Carlson, Communications Office, (828)257–4849. Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1–800–877–8339 twenty-four hours a day, every day of the year, including holidays.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

**Title:** Publication Comment Card. **OMB Number:** 0596–0163.

**Expiration Date of Approval:** July 31, 2004.

**Type of Request:** Extension.

**Abstract:** Executive Order 12862, issued September 11, 1993, directed

Federal agencies to change the way they do business, to reform their management practices, and to provide service to the public that matches or exceeds the best service available in the private sector. In response to this Executive Order, the Forest Service Southern Research Station developed a “Publication Comment Card” for inclusion when distributing scientific research publications.

Since the early 1920's, Forest Service scientists have published the results of their studies about national forests and forest resources and products, in addition to their conclusions about the dynamics of natural timber stands and plantations, watershed and wildlife management, and recreational activities. These studies have provided long-term data that have become increasingly valuable to landowners and others involved in natural resource and land management. Data from the Publication Comment Cards help Forest Service research stations determine if publications meet customers' expectations and address customers' needs. The collected information also helps scientists and authors provide relevant information on effective, efficient, responsible land management in the United States.

Forest Service research personnel enclose Publication Comment Cards when providing publications to recipients in person or by mail. Public Comment Cards and most research station publications also are made available via the Internet. Public Comment Cards include the following statements that will be rated on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being “Strongly Agree” and 5 being “Strongly Disagree.”

1. The information is what I expected, based on the title and abstract.
2. This publication is well organized.
3. The content is presented clearly.
4. The technical subject matter was explained sufficiently to meet my needs.
5. The graphics (photographs, tables, charts) were helpful.
6. This research information is useful to me.

7. I will continue to request Research Station publications.

Respondents complete Publication Comment Cards and return them in person or mail them back to the Forest Service via surface mail or electronically via the Internet.

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

**Estimate of Burden:** 5 minutes.

**Type of Respondents:** Respondents include citizens of the United States and of other countries; landowners or land lessees; timber and other forest-product

customers; research scientists; forestry consultants; educators, librarians, and historians; representatives of other Federal, State, county, or local government agencies and representatives of foreign governments.

**Estimated Number of Respondents:** 22,000.

**Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:** 1.

**Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:** 1,833 hours.

**Comment is invited on:** (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 name and address when provided, will become a matter of public record and will be available for public inspection and copying.

Comments will be summarized and included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval.

Dated: March 5, 2004.

**Ann M. Bartuska,**

*Deputy Chief for Research & Development.*

[FR Doc. 04–5629 Filed 3–11–04; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410–11–P**

## COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED

### Procurement List Proposed Additions

**AGENCY:** Committee for Purchase from People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled.

**ACTION:** Proposed additions to Procurement List.

**SUMMARY:** The Committee is proposing to add to the Procurement List products and services to be furnished by nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities.

**Comments Must be Received on or Before:** April 11, 2004.