

(2) Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the burden of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(3) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(4) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, through use, as appropriate, of automated, electronic, mechanical, and other collection technologies; e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

Estimate of burden: The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 0.3341847 hours per response.

Respondents: U.S. importers of fruits and vegetables, foreign plant protection authorities, individuals involved in growing, packing, handling, transporting, and exporting plants and plant products.

Estimated annual number of respondents: 90,781.

Estimated annual number of responses per respondent: 2.9583062.

Estimated annual number of responses: 268,558.

Estimated total annual burden on respondents: 89,748 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 28th day of July 2005.

Elizabeth E. Gaston,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 05-15288 Filed 8-2-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 03-110-2]

Saltcedar; Availability of an Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

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 prepared an environmental assessment relative to the control of saltcedar (*Tamarix* spp.). The environmental assessment

considers the effects of, and alternatives to, the release of a nonindigenous leaf beetle, *Diorhabda elongata*, into the environment to reduce the severity of saltcedar infestations. The environmental assessment provides a basis for our conclusion that the release into the environment of the biological control agent will not present a risk of introducing plant pests into the United States or disseminating plant pests within the United States and will not have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment. Based on its findings of no significant impact, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has determined that an environmental impact statement need not be prepared.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact are available for public inspection 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.

You may view APHIS documents published in the **Federal Register** and related information on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppd/rad/webrepor.html>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. William Kauffman, Western Region Program Manager, PPQ, APHIS, 2150 Centre Avenue Building B, Fort Collins, CO 80526-8117; (970) 494-7565.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On December 19, 2003, we published in the **Federal Register** (68 FR 70755-70756, Docket No. 03-110-1) a notice advising the public that a draft environmental assessment had been prepared by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) relative to the release of a nonindigenous leaf beetle, *Diorhabda elongata*, into the environment to reduce the severity of saltcedar (*Tamarix* spp.) infestations, a major weed pest of watercourses and riparian habitats.

We solicited comments on the draft environmental assessment for 30 days, ending January 20, 2004. We received 37 comments by that date. The comments were from researchers, State plant organizations, individuals, and industry groups. Of the comments received, 13 were supportive and 1 was a request for an extension of the

comment period. The remaining 23 commenters raised issues concerning water usage, endangered and protected species considerations, additional saltcedar eradication options, and projected results. We have taken the issues raised by the 23 commenters into consideration in formulating our final environmental assessment.

The environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact may be viewed on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppd/es/sltcedr.html>. You may request paper copies of the environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact by calling or writing to the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. Please refer to the title of the environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact when requesting copies. The environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact are also available for review 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).

The environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact have been prepared in accordance with: (1) The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, (2) as amended (43 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality for implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA (40 CFR parts 1500-1508), (3) USDA regulations implementing NEPA (7 CFR part 1b), and (4) APHIS' NEPA Implementing Procedures (7 CFR part 372).

Done in Washington, DC, this 28th day of July 2005.

Elizabeth E. Gaston,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 05-15287 Filed 8-2-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. 05-027N]

Public Meeting on Advances in Pre-Harvest Reduction of *Salmonella* in Poultry

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is announcing that it will hold a public meeting on Advances in Pre-Harvest Reduction of *Salmonella* in Poultry on August 25 and August 26, 2005, in Athens, GA. The

meeting will consist of presentations on research and practical experiences aimed at reducing *Salmonella* at the poultry production level, before poultry reaches federally inspected plants.

This meeting is the first in a series of public meetings that FSIS intends to hold to discuss new approaches for strengthening food safety.

DATES: The public meeting is scheduled for August 25, 2005, from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and August 26, 2005, from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at Richard B. Russell Research Center, 950 College Station Rd., Athens, GA, 30605. A tentative agenda will be available on the FSIS Web site at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/>. The official transcript of the meeting, when it becomes available, will be available in the FSIS Docket Room, Room 102 Cotton Annex, 300 12th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20250-3700.

FSIS welcomes comments on the topics to be discussed at the public meeting. Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

- Mail, including floppy disks or CD-ROM's, and hand- or courier-delivered items: Send to Docket Clerk, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, 300 12th Street, SW., Room 102 Cotton Annex, Washington, DC 20250.

- Electronic mail: fsis.regulationscomments@fsis.usda.gov.

All submissions received must include the Agency name and docket number 05-027N.

All comments submitted in response to this notice, as well as the official transcript, when it becomes available, will be available for public inspection in the FSIS Docket Room at the address listed above between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. The comments also will be posted on the Agency's Web site at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations_&_policies/2005_Notices_Index/index.asp.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Alice Thaler at (202) 690-2687.

Pre-registration is encouraged for this meeting. Participants who are pre-registered will have building access badges prepared in advance to facilitate their entry through security to the Richard B. Russell Research Center. To pre-register, call (800) 485-4424. Persons requiring a sign language interpreter or other special accommodations should contact Sheila Johnson at (202) 690-6498, fax: (202) 690-6500, or e-mail: Sheila.johnson@fsis.usda.gov as soon as possible.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The scientific community continues to work with animal producers to investigate methods to reduce food safety hazards at federally inspected meat and poultry establishments through the use of specific production practices. A food safety hazard is defined in 9 CFR 417 as any biological, chemical or physical property that may cause a food to be unsafe for human consumption. FSIS' public health mandate requires that the Agency consider hazards that could arise during animal production as part of a comprehensive strategy to prevent foodborne illness. Therefore, FSIS believes that a prudent establishment will address food safety hazards on the farm, including the use of animal production technologies and practices, as a means to control and reduce pathogen hazards at slaughter. Although much has been learned about the ecology of biological, chemical, and physical hazards during animal production, there are, as yet, no specific poultry production practices addressing biological hazards that consistently and predictably lead to improvement in food safety. Results are promising in some cases, but these avenues are still under investigation.

A key point to recognize is that future hazard reduction interventions will likely arise from those areas currently under research or from new areas added to the research agenda. It is important, therefore, for producers to be aware of the practices being explored, so that they can provide input into the process and raise concerns about (1) areas that are not under investigation, (2) the economic impact of implementing new practices on the farm, and (3) the impact of food safety hazards on the marketability of their products.

One food safety hazard that seems susceptible to attack through interventions at the producer level is *Salmonella*. FSIS is looking at *Salmonella* as a pathogen of concern because of the risks that it presents for public health. *Salmonella*, a group of bacteria that can cause diarrheal illness in humans, is the most frequently reported cause of foodborne illness. Contaminated foods are often of animal origin, such as beef, poultry, milk, or eggs, but all foods, including vegetables, may become contaminated. FSIS Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) verification testing for all meat and poultry product categories in calendar year 2003, the most recent year for which FSIS has data, showed that the percentage of samples positive for *Salmonella* was lower than the pre-HACCP baselines which were derived from a statistical sampling of plants

nationwide. However, based on current regulatory verification samples in classes of poultry, the percentage of samples positive for *Salmonella* in calendar year 2003 increased from calendar year 2002 for broilers, ground chicken, and ground turkey. FSIS is concerned about the food safety hazard associated with the increased percentage of positive regulatory verification samples in these classes of poultry.¹

To pursue initiatives related to production practices that will result in lower, more controlled levels of *Salmonella* in and on birds when they are offered for slaughter, FSIS is holding a public meeting on Advances in Pre-Harvest Reduction of *Salmonella* in Poultry. The meeting has three goals.

The first goal is to determine whether interventions available to producers can form the basis for best management practices to reduce the load of *Salmonella* in poultry before slaughter. The second goal is to identify promising interventions and to determine what steps need to be taken to make these interventions to limit and control *Salmonella* available at the poultry production level. The third goal is to identify which research gaps with respect to *Salmonella* control at the production level should be the focus of the research community, including government, academia, and industry.

Based on the input from the meeting, and any other information available to the Agency, FSIS will develop compliance guideline materials for producers that address pre-harvest food safety issues and *Salmonella*.

Additional Public Notification

Public awareness of all segments of rulemaking and policy development is important. Consequently, in an effort to better ensure that minorities, women, and persons with disabilities are aware of this notice, FSIS will announce it online through the FSIS Web page located at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov>. FSIS will also make copies of this **Federal Register** publication available through the FSIS Constituent Update, which is used to provide information regarding FSIS policies, procedures, regulations, **Federal Register** Notices, FSIS public meetings, recalls, and other types of information that could affect or would be of interest to our constituents/stakeholders. The update is communicated via Listserv, a free e-mail subscription service consisting of

¹ FSIS, Progress Report on *Salmonella* Testing of Raw Meat and Poultry Products, 1998-2003. Available at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PDF/Salmonella_Progress_Report_1998-2003.pdf.

industry, trade, and farm groups, consumer interest groups, allied health professionals, scientific professionals, and other individuals who have requested to be included. The update is also available on-line through the FSIS Web page located at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov>. Through Listserv and its Web page, FSIS is able to provide information to a much broader, more diverse audience.

In addition, FSIS offers an electronic mail subscription service that provides an automatic and customized notification when popular pages are updated, including **Federal Register** publications and related documents. This service is available at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/news_and_events/email_subscription/ and allows FSIS customers to sign up for subscription options in eight categories. Options range from recalls to export information to regulations, directives and notices. Customers can add or delete subscriptions themselves and have the option to protect their accounts with passwords.

Done in Washington, DC, on: August 1, 2005.

Barbara J. Masters,

Acting Administrator.

[FR Doc. 05-15428 Filed 8-2-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-DM-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Olympic Provincial Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Olympic Province Advisory Committee (OPAC) will meet on Friday, August 26, 2005. The meeting will be held at the DNR/Forest Service Conference Room, 437 Tillicum Lane, Forks, Washington. The meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m. and end at approximately 3 p.m. Agenda topics are: Current Status of Key Forest Issues; Management of Late Successional Reserves; Pacific Ranger District's Recent and Planned Activities; Pacific Northwest Lab Update; Olympic Discovery Trail Update; Open forum; and Public comments. All Olympic Province Advisory Committee Meetings are open to the public. Interested citizens are encouraged to attend.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Direct questions regarding this meeting to Ken Eldredge, Province Liaison, USDA, Olympic National Forest

Headquarters, 1835 Black Lake Blvd., Olympia, WA 98512-5623, (360) 956-2323 or Virginia Grilley, Acting Forest Supervisor at (360) 956-2301.

Dated: July 27, 2005.

V. Grilley,

Acting Forest Supervisor, Olympic National Forest.

[FR Doc. 05-15274 Filed 8-2-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Tehama County Resource Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Tehama County Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) will meet in Red Bluff, California. Agenda items to be covered include: (1) Introductions, (2) Approval of Minutes, (3) Public Comment, (4) Project Proposal/Possible Action, (5) Sub-Committee Reports, (6) Organization/Comment on Projects, (7) General Discussion, (8) County Update, (9) Next Agenda.

DATES: The meeting will be held on August 11, 2005, from 9 a.m. and end at approximately 12 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Lincoln Street School, Conference Room A, 1135 Lincoln Street, Red Bluff, CA. Individuals wishing to speak or propose agenda items must send their names and proposals to Jim Giachino, DFO, 825 N. Humboldt Ave., Willows, CA 95988.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bobbin Gaddini, Committee Coordinator, USDA, Mendocino National Forest, Grindstone Ranger District, PO Box 164, Elk Creek, CA 95939. (530) 968-5329; e-mail ggaddini@fs.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting is open to the public. Committee discussion is limited to Forest Service staff and Committee members. However, persons who wish to bring matters to the attention of the Committee may file written statements with the Committee staff before or after the meeting. Public input sessions will be provided and individuals who made written requests by August 9, 2005 will have the opportunity to address the committee at those sessions.

Dated: July 27, 2005.

Art Quintana,

Acting Designated Federal Official.

[FR Doc. 05-15256 Filed 8-2-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Fresno County Resource Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Fresno County Resource Advisory Committee will meet in Prather, California. The purpose of the meeting is to review funded projects, discuss 2006 project submittal process and new committee appointments regarding the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-393) for expenditure of Payments to States Fresno County Title II funds.

DATES: The meeting will be held on September 27th from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Sierra National Forest, High Sierra District Ranger office, 29688 Auberry Road, Prather, California 93651. Send written comments to Robbin Ekman, Fresno County Resource Advisory Committee Coordinator, c/o Sierra National Forest, High Sierra Ranger District, 29688 Auberry Road, Prather, CA 93651 or electronically to rekman@fs.fed.us.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robbin Ekman, Fresno County Resource Advisory Committee Coordinator, (559) 855-5355 ext. 3341.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting is open to the public. Committee discussion is limited to Forest Service staff and Committee members. However, persons who wish to bring Payments to States Fresno County Title II project matters to the attention of the Committee may file written statements with the Committee staff before or after the meeting. Public sessions will be provided and individuals who made written requests by August 10, 2004 will have the opportunity to address the Committee at those sessions. Agenda items to be covered include: (1) Call for new projects process; (2) recruitment for new members; (3) review of funded projects and (4) public comment.

Dated: July 28, 2005.

Ray Porter,

District Ranger.

[FR Doc. 05-15273 Filed 8-2-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M