

with the proposed release of these transgenic grasses, an environmental assessment (EA) has been prepared. The EA was prepared in accordance with: (1) The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), (2) 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). Copies of the EA are available from the individual listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 7701–7772 and 7781–7786; 31 U.S.C. 9701; 7 CFR 2.22, 2.80, and 371.3.

Done in Washington, DC, this 1st day of March 2006.

Kevin Shea,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. E6–3166 Filed 3–6–06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–34–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS–2006–0003]

Horse Protection; Public Meeting in Springfield, MO

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: We are advising the public that the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's Animal Care program will host a meeting to present current information on the enforcement of the Horse Protection Act (HPA) and provide a forum for horse industry members and other interested persons to comment on the Horse Protection Program, development of the HPA Operating Plan for 2007 and beyond, and other Horse Protection matters. This notice provides the meeting's agenda, location, and date.

DATES: The meeting will be held from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on March 13, 2006. Registration will take place from 12:30 p.m. to 1 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the University Plaza Hotel and Convention Center, 333 South John Q Hammons Parkway, Springfield, MO 65806.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Darby G. Holladay, APHIS Legislative and Public Affairs, 4700 River Road

Unit 51, Riverdale, MD 20737; (301) 734–3265.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Animal Care, is announcing a meeting to discuss the enforcement of the Horse Protection Act (HPA). This meeting is designed to provide a forum for information dissemination on current initiatives by Animal Care. Further, this meeting will provide the opportunity for industry members and other interested parties to provide suggestions for the HPA Operating Plan for 2007 and beyond and comments on other Horse Protection Program matters during the listening session period on the agenda. Each speaker will indicate at registration their intention to address the Deputy Administrator during the listening session and will be allotted a set amount of time. Additional meetings of this type are tentatively scheduled to occur on the following dates and times: April 19, 2006, in Dallas, TX; May 17, 2006, in Somerset, KY; June 12, 2006, in Pomona, CA; and September 11, 2006, in Chattanooga, TN. These meetings will be announced in future **Federal Register** notices.

The meeting will, with the exception of possible minor modifications, follow the agenda below:

12:30 p.m. to 1 p.m.—Registration.

1 p.m. to 1:15 p.m.—Welcome and Overview.

1:15 p.m. to 3 p.m.—Horse Protection Program Update.

3 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.—Listening Session.

4:45 p.m. to 5 p.m.—Remarks and Closing.

Meeting notices, copies of the Horse Protection Act, HPA regulations, the HPA Operating Plan for 2004–2006, and other relevant documents are available on the Animal Care Web site at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ac/hpainfo.html>.

Please note that this meeting is being held to provide for the exchange of information on the enforcement of the Horse Protection Act and is not an opportunity to submit formal comments on proposed rules or other regulatory initiatives. Written comments will be accepted and should be mailed to: USDA, APHIS, Animal Care, 4700 River Road Unit 84, Riverdale, MD 20737.

Done in Washington, DC, this 2nd day of March 2006.

Kevin Shea,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. E6–3169 Filed 3–6–06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–34–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food and Nutrition Service

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request—FNS–543, National Hunger Clearinghouse Database Form

AGENCY: Food and Nutrition Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) invites the general public and other public agencies to comment on this information collection on which FNS intends to request approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by May 8, 2006.

ADDRESSES: 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 has 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 that were used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to Pam Phillips, Director, Consumer and Community Affairs, Office of Communications and Governmental Affairs, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 912, Alexandria, VA 22302.

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.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Pam Phillips, (703) 305–2298. Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Gregory Walton at the address listed above.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: National Hunger Clearinghouse Database Form.

OMB Number: 0584–0474.

Form Number: FNS–543.

Expiration Date: 7/31/2006.

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

Abstract: Section 26(d) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1769g(d)), which was added to the Act by section 123 of Public Law 103-448 on November 2, 1994, mandated that FNS enter into a four-year contract with a non-governmental organization to establish and maintain an information clearinghouse (named "USDA National Hunger Clearinghouse" or "Clearinghouse") for groups that assist low-income individuals or communities regarding nutrition assistance programs or other assistance. Section 26(d) was amended by section 112 of Public Law 105-336 on October 31, 1998 to extend funding for the Clearinghouse (now called "National Hunger Clearinghouse" or "Clearinghouse") through fiscal year 2003. This Act was amended by section 128 of Public Law 108-265 on June 30, 2004, and provided increased funding for the Clearinghouse. FNS awarded this contract to the national hunger advocacy organization World Hunger Year (WHY) of New York, NY.

The Clearinghouse includes a database of non-governmental, grassroots programs that work in the areas of hunger and nutrition, as well as a mailing list of relevant local governmental agencies. Under the original contract, Clearinghouse staff established the database by reviewing relevant programs of organizations contained in several existing mailing lists. Program and mailing information about organizations culled from these lists were collected and entered into the database once each contract year (years one through four of the original contract and year one and two of the existing contract) through a series of electronically-processed survey questionnaires sent through the United States Postal Service. Clearinghouse staff followed up by phone or facsimile to ensure the highest possible return rate on the questionnaires. Surveys could also be completed on the World Wide Web. Returned surveys were scanned and data entered into the database. Survey questionnaires will continue to be sent out in the current contract. For this information collection, the following information was determined:

Estimate of the Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average five minutes for the survey (the survey includes one two-page instrument).

Respondents: The respondents are non-governmental organizations that have grassroots food and nutrition programs.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1,750.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: One response per respondent.

Estimated Total Annual Burden: 146 hours.

Dated: February 28, 2006.

Roberto Salazar,

Administrator.

[FR Doc. E6-3159 Filed 3-6-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-30-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Maximum Dollar Amount on Awards Under the Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program for Fiscal Year 2006

AGENCY: Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Rural Business-Cooperative Service hereby announces the maximum dollar amount on loan and grant awards under the Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant (REDLG) program for fiscal year (FY) 2006. The maximum dollar award on zero-interest loans for FY 2006 is \$740,000. The maximum dollar award on grants for FY 2006 is \$300,000. The maximum loan and grant awards stated in this notice are effective for loans and grants made during the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2005, and ending September 30, 2006. REDLG loans and grants are available to any electric or telecommunications cooperative eligible to receive guaranteed or direct loans under the Rural Electrification Act, and does not have any delinquent debt with the Federal Government that has not been resolved pursuant to 31 CFR 285.13. REDLG loans and grants are to assist in developing rural areas from an economic standpoint.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Todd S. Hubbell, Loan Specialist, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA, STOP 3225, Room 6866, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-3225. Telephone: (202) 690-2516, Fax: (202) 720-2213.

ADDRESSES: For further information, entities wishing to apply for assistance should contact a Rural Development State Office to receive further information and copies of the application package. A list of Rural Development State Offices follows:

District of Columbia

Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA, Specialty Lenders Division, 1400

Independence Avenue, SW., STOP 3225, Room 6867, Washington, DC 20250-3225. (202) 720-1400.

Alabama

USDA Rural Development State Office, Sterling Centre, Suite 601, 4121 Carmichael Road, Montgomery, AL 36106-3683. (334) 279-3400/TTD (334) 279-3495.

Alaska

USDA Rural Development State Office, 800 West Evergreen, Suite 201, Palmer, AK 99645-6539. (907) 761-7705/TDD (907) 761-8905.

Arizona

USDA Rural Development State Office, 230 N. First Avenue, Suite 206, Phoenix, AZ 85003-1706. (602) 280-8700/TTD (602) 280-8705.

Arkansas

USDA Rural Development State Office, 700 West Capitol Avenue, Room 3416, Little Rock, AR 72201-3225. (501) 301-3200/TTD (501) 301-3279.

California

USDA Rural Development State Office, 430 G Street, Agency 4169, Davis, CA 95616-4169. (530) 792-5800/TTD (530) 792-5848.

Colorado

USDA Rural Development State Office, 655 Parfet Street, Room E-100, Lakewood, CO 80215. (720) 544-2903/TDD (720) 544-2976.

Delaware-Maryland

USDA Rural Development State Office, 1221 College Park Drive, Suite 200, Dover, DE 19904. (302) 857-3580/TDD (302) 857-3585.

Florida/Virgin Islands

USDA Rural Development State Office, 4440 NW 25th Place, P.O. Box 147010, Gainesville, FL 32614-7010. (352) 338-3400/TDD (352) 338-3450.

Georgia

USDA Rural Development State Office, Stephens Federal Building, 355 E. Hancock Avenue, Athens, GA 30601-2768. (706) 546-2162/TDD (706) 546-2034.

Hawaii

USDA Rural Development State Office, Federal Building, Room 311, 154 Waiuanue Avenue, Hilo, HI 96720. (808) 933-8380/TDD (808) 933-8321.

Idaho

USDA Rural Development State Office, 9173 West Barnes Dr., Suite A1, Boise, ID 83709. (208) 378-5600/TDD (208) 378-5644.

Illinois

USDA Rural Development State Office, 2118 West Park Court, Suite A, Champaign, IL 61821. (217) 403-6200/TDD (217) 403-6240.

Indiana

USDA Rural Development State Office, 5975 Lakeside Boulevard, Indianapolis, IN