

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 Research Service

Notice of the Advisory Committee on Biotechnology and 21st Century Agriculture Meeting

AGENCY: Agricultural Research Service, Office of the Under Secretary, Research, Education, and Economics.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. II, the United States Department of Agriculture announces a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Biotechnology and 21st Century Agriculture (AC21).

DATES: August 29–30, 2006, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on August 29 and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on August 30. Written requests to make oral presentations at the meeting must be received by the contact person identified herein at least three business days before the meeting.

ADDRESSES: Room 107A, USDA Jamie L. Whitten Building, 12th Street and Jefferson Drive, SW., Washington, DC 20250. Members of the public should enter the building through the Jefferson Drive entrance. Requests to make oral presentations at the meeting may be sent to the contact person at USDA, Office of the Deputy Secretary, 202 B Jamie L. Whitten Federal Building, 12th Street and Jefferson Drive, SW., Washington, DC 20250.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael Schechtman, Designated Federal Official, Office of the Deputy Secretary, USDA, Telephone (202) 720–3817; Fax (202) 690–4265; e-mail michael.schechtman@ars.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The thirteenth meeting of the AC21 has been scheduled for August 29–30, 2006. The AC21 consists of 19 members representing the biotechnology industry, international plant genetics research,

farmers, food manufacturers, commodity processors and shippers, environmental and consumer groups, and academic researchers. In addition, representatives from the Departments of Commerce, Health and Human Services, and State, and the Environmental Protection Agency, the Council on Environmental Quality, the Office of the United States Trade Representative, and the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture serve as “ex officio” members. At this meeting, the Committee plans to: transmit its latest consensus report, entitled, “Opportunities and Challenges for Agricultural Biotechnology: The Decade Ahead” to the Office of the Secretary, USDA; and consider outside presentations, organize, and begin work on the effects (in terms of planting decisions, markets, and rural communities) of coexistence issues on the development and use of new crops derived through modern biotechnology.

Background information regarding the work of the AC21 will be available on the USDA Web site at http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/_s.7_0_A/7_0_1OB?navid=BIOTECH&parent_nav=AGRICULTURE&navtype=RT.

On August 29, 2006, if time permits, reasonable provision will be made for oral presentations of no more than five minutes each in duration. The meeting will be open to the public, but space is limited. If you would like to attend the meetings, you must register by contacting Ms. Debra Lindsay at (202) 720–4074, by fax at (202) 720–3191 or by E-mail at debra.lindsay@ars.usda.gov at least 5 days prior to the meeting. Please provide your name, title, business affiliation, address, and telephone and fax numbers when you register. If you require a sign language interpreter or other special accommodation due to disability, please indicate those needs at the time of registration.

Michael Schechtman,

*Acting Special Assistant for Biotechnology,
Office of the Secretary, Biotechnology
Coordinator, Agricultural Research Service.*
[FR Doc. E6–12071 Filed 7–27–06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–03–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS–2006–0030]

National Animal Identification System (NAIS); Availability of a Revised Cooperative Agreement for Private Animal Tracking Databases

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the availability of a revised cooperative agreement that organizations may enter into with the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service in order to participate in the animal tracking database component of the National Animal Identification System (NAIS). This revised cooperative agreement is intended to facilitate the integration of private and State animal tracking databases into the NAIS, which remains a voluntary program.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Neil Hammerschmidt, National Coordinator, National Animal Identification System, VS, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 200, Riverdale, MD 20737–1231; (301) 734–5571.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

As part of its ongoing efforts to safeguard animal health, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) initiated implementation of the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) in 2004. The NAIS is a cooperative State-Federal-industry program administered by USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). The main objective of the NAIS is to develop and implement a comprehensive information system which will support ongoing animal disease programs and enable State and Federal animal health officials to respond rapidly and effectively to animal health emergencies such as foreign animal disease outbreaks or emerging domestic diseases.

NAIS is a voluntary program and is being established through a phased-in approach by implementing three key components: Premises registration, animal identification, and animal tracking. The USDA has already developed information systems to

support the first two components. The third component will be developed through a government/industry partnership, in which animal movement information will be maintained in private and/or State databases. USDA will operate a portal system that will enable animal health officials to submit requests for information to the animal tracking databases (ATDs) when investigating an animal disease event. The USDA's objective is to support the privatization of the animal tracking information component of the NAIS in the most practical, timely, and least burdensome manner possible.

On April 7, 2006, we published in the **Federal Register** (71 FR 17805–17806, Docket No. APHIS–2006–0030) a notice announcing the availability of three documents related to the NAIS: A document providing an update on the implementation plans, including operational milestones and participation goals; a document describing how private and State animal tracking databases (ATDs) may be integrated into the NAIS to provide animal health officials with animal movement information when conducting a disease investigation; and a template for a cooperative agreement (CA) that organizations that wish to participate in the ATD component of the NAIS may enter into with APHIS for that purpose.

The second of the three documents referred to above, entitled "Integration of Private and State Animal Tracking Databases with the NAIS; Interim Development Phase," presented our initial plans for moving forward with the implementation of the Animal Trace Processing System (ATPS), a system for processing animal movement data. The document described a two-phase implementation plan, consisting of an interim/development phase, which began in 2006, and an implementation phase, which is targeted for early 2007. The document also provided data standards and basic technical requirements that databases must meet to be eligible for participation in the interim/development phase.

In order to participate in this interim/development phase, an organization with an ATD must complete a "Request for Evaluation of Interim Private/State Animal Tracking Database" to initiate an APHIS review of its system. If its system meets the interim requirements, the organization may then enter into a CA with APHIS. The CA provides for a government and industry collaborative process for the development of the technical details for the integration of private and State ATDs to ensure that animal health officials have the information when necessary to perform

their duties. Entering into a CA does not imply that an organization's ATD will be eligible to participate in the NAIS as a fully compliant system after ATPS implementation is completed and final eligibility requirements are established.

Since the April 2006 notice, we have revised the CA. This notice announces the availability of the revised CA.

The revised CA may be viewed on the Internet at <http://www.usda.gov/nais> or on the Regulations.gov Web site.¹ You may request paper copies of the document by calling or writing to the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. Please refer to the title of the document ("Cooperative Agreement Between APHIS and Organizations with Qualifying Systems for Interim/Development Phase") when requesting copies.

Done in Washington, DC, this 20th day of July 2006.

Kevin Shea,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. E6–12069 Filed 7–27–06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–34–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Foreign Agricultural Service

Notice of a Request for Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, this notice announces the Department's intention to request an extension for a currently approved information collection in support of the Dairy Tariff-Rate Import Quota Licensing program.

DATES: Comments should be submitted no later than September 26, 2006 to be assured of consideration.

Additional Information and Comments: Contact Bettyann Gonzales, Dairy Import Specialist, STOP 1021, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250–1021, telephone (202) 720–1344.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

¹ To view the revised CA and the other documents referenced in this notice, go to <http://www.regulations.gov>, click on the "Advanced Search" tab, and select "Docket Search." In the Docket ID field, enter APHIS–2006–0030, then click on "Submit." Clicking on the Docket ID link in the search results page will produce a list of all documents in the docket.

Title: Dairy Tariff-Rate Import Quota Licensing Program.

OMB Number: 0551–0001.

Expiration Date of Approval: December 31, 2006.

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

Abstract: The currently approved information collection supports the Dairy Tariff-Rate Import Quota Regulation (the Regulation) (7 CFR 6.20–6.37) which governs the administration of the import licensing system applicable to most dairy products subject to tariff-rate quotas (TRQs). The TRQs were established in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS) as a result of entry of certain provisions in the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (Pub. L. 103–465) that converted existing absolute quotas to TRQs. Imports of nearly all cheese made from cow's milk (except soft-ripened cheese such as Brie) and certain non-cheese dairy products (including butter and dried milk) are subject to TRQs and the Regulation. Licenses are issued each quota year to eligible applicants and are valid for twelve months (January 1 through December 31). Only licensees may enter specified quantities of the subject dairy articles at the applicable in-quota tariff-rates. Importers who do not hold licenses may enter dairy articles only at the over-quota tariff-rates.

Each quota year, all applicants must submit form FAS 923 (rev. 7–96). This form, available online, requires applicants to: (1) Certify they are either an importer, manufacturer or exporter of certain dairy products; (2) certify they meet the eligibility requirements of § 6.23 of the Regulation; and (3) submit documentation required by § 6.23 and § 6.24 as proof of eligibility for import licenses. Applicants for non-historical licenses must also submit form FAS 923–A (rev. 7–96) (cheese) and/or FAS 923–B (rev. 7–96) (non-cheese dairy products). This form requires applicants to request licenses in descending order of preference for specific products and countries listed on the form.

After licenses are issued, § 6.26 requires licensees to surrender by October 1 on form FAS 924–A, License Surrender Form, any license amount that a licensee does not intend to enter that year. These amounts are reallocated, to the extent practicable, to existing licensees for the remainder of that year based on requests submitted on form FAS 924–B, Application for Additional License Amounts. Form 924A and 924B requires the licensee to complete a scannable table listing the surrendered amount by license number,