

OMB Control Number: 0596-0201.

**Summary of Collection:** Section 323 of Public Law 108-7 (16 U.S.C. 2104 Note) requires the Forest Service (FS) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to report to Congress annually on the role of local communities in the development of agreement or contract plans through stewardship contracting. To meet that requirement FS plans to conduct an annual telephone survey to gather the necessary information for use by both the FS and BLM in developing their separate annual reports to Congress.

**Need and Use of the Information:** The survey will collect information on the role of local communities in the development of agreement or contract plans through stewardship contracting. The survey will provide information regarding the nature of the local community involved in developing agreement or contract plans, the nature of roles played by the entities involved in developing agreement or contract plans, the benefits to the community and agency by being involved in planning and development of contract plans, and the usefulness of stewardship contracting in helping meet the needs of local communities.

**Description of Respondents:** Individuals or households; business or other for-profit; not-for-profit institutions; Federal Government; State, Local or Tribal Government.

**Number of Respondents:** 401.

**Frequency of Responses:** Reporting: Annually.

**Total Burden Hours:** 301.

**Charlene Parker,**

*Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS-2009-0027]

#### National Animal Identification System; Close of Comment Period

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This is a notice to inform the public that the comment period for the submission of stakeholder concerns related to the implementation of the National Animal Identification System will be closing on August 3, 2009. The comment period opened on May 1,

2009, with the publication of our first notice announcing public meetings on the subject. The last meeting was held on June 30, 2009, and it was our intention to continue to provide the public with the option of submitting written comments for at least 30 days following that final meeting.

**DATES:** We will consider all comments that we receive on or before August 3, 2009.

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

- **Federal eRulemaking Portal:** Go to <http://www.regulations.gov/fdmspublic/component/main?main=DocketDetail&d=APHIS-2009-0027> to submit or view comments and to view supporting and related materials available electronically.

- **Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery:** Please send two copies of your comment to Docket No. APHIS-2009-0027, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3A-03.8, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238. Please state that your comment refers to Docket No. APHIS-2009-0027.

**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:** Additional information about APHIS and its programs is available on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Adam Grow, Director, Surveillance and Identification Programs, National Center for Animal Health Programs, VS, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 200, Riverdale, MD 20737; (301) 734-3752.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** As part of its ongoing efforts to safeguard animal health, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) initiated implementation of a 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 purpose of the NAIS is to provide a streamlined information system that will help producers and animal health officials respond quickly and effectively to animal disease events in the United States.

The ultimate long-term goal of the NAIS is to provide State and Federal officials with the capability to identify all animals and premises that have had direct contact with a disease of concern within 48 hours after discovery. Meeting that goal requires a comprehensive animal-disease traceability infrastructure. An NAIS User Guide and a Business Plan, both available on our Web site at [http://animalid.aphis.usda.gov/nais/animal\\_id/index.shtml](http://animalid.aphis.usda.gov/nais/animal_id/index.shtml), provide detailed information about our plans for implementing the system.

Despite concerted efforts, APHIS has not been able to fully implement the NAIS. Many of the same issues that producers originally had with the system, such as the cost and impact on small farmers, privacy and confidentiality, and liability, continue to cause concern.

In order to provide individuals and organizations an opportunity to discuss their concerns regarding the NAIS and offer potential solutions, we have held 14 public meetings throughout the country and have been soliciting comments via our Web site.

Our goal is to gather feedback and input from a wide range of stakeholders to assist us in making an informed decision regarding both the future of the NAIS and the objectives and direction for animal identification and traceability. We would particularly welcome feedback on the following topics:

- **Cost.** What are your concerns about the cost of the NAIS? What steps would you suggest APHIS use to address cost?

- **Impact on small farmers.** What are your concerns about the effect of the NAIS on small farmers? What approaches would you suggest APHIS take to address the potential impact on small farmers?

- **Privacy and confidentiality.** What are your concerns regarding how the NAIS will affect your operation's privacy and/or the confidentiality of your operation? What steps or tactics would you suggest APHIS use to address privacy and confidentiality issues?

- **Liability.** What are your concerns about your operation's liability under the NAIS? What would you suggest APHIS consider to address liability concerns?

- **Premises registration.** Do you have any suggestions on how to make premises registration, or the identification of farm or ranch locations, easier for stakeholders? How should we address your concerns regarding premises registration?

• *Animal identification.* Do you have any suggestions on how to make animal identification practical and useful to stakeholders while simultaneously meeting the needs of animal health officials who must conduct disease tracebacks?

• *Animal tracing.* Do you have any suggestions on how to make the animal tracing component practical, in particular the reporting of animal movements to other premises, while meeting the needs of animal health officials who must conduct disease tracebacks?

During the time that the public meetings were being held, we provided members of the public who were not able to attend a meeting with the option of submitting comments via the Regulations.gov Web site. The last meeting was held on June 30, 2009, and it was our intention to continue to provide the public with the option of submitting written comments for at least 30 days following that final meeting. As noted in the heading **DATES** at the beginning of this notice, we will consider all comments that we receive on or before August 3, 2009.

Done in Washington, DC, this 21st day of July 2009.

**Kevin Shea,**

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

[FR Doc. E9-17797 Filed 7-24-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS-2009-0037]

#### Determination of Pest-Free Areas in the Republic of South Africa; Request for Comments

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** We are advising the public that we have received a request from the Government of the Republic of South Africa to recognize 16 additional magisterial districts in 3 provinces as pest-free areas for citrus black spot. After reviewing the documentation submitted in support of this request, the Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has determined that these areas meet the criteria in our regulations for recognition as pest-free areas. We are making that determination, as well as an evaluation document we have prepared

in connection with this action, available for review and comment.

**DATES:** We will consider all comments we receive on or before September 25, 2009.

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

• *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to <http://www.regulations.gov/fdmspublic/component/main?main=DocketDetail&d=APHIS-2009-0037> to submit or view comments and to view supporting and related materials available electronically.

• *Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery:* Please send two copies of your comment to Docket No. APHIS-2009-0037, 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. APHIS-2009-0037.

*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:* Additional information about APHIS and its programs is available on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Phillip B. Grove, Regulatory Coordination Specialist, Regulatory Coordination and Compliance, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 156, Riverdale, MD 20737; (301) 734-6280.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Under the regulations in "Subpart-Fruits and Vegetables" (7 CFR 319.56 through 319.56-49, referred to below as the regulations), the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture prohibits or restricts the importation of fruits and vegetables into the United States from certain parts of the world to prevent plant pests from being introduced into and spread within the United States.

Section 319.56-4 of the regulations contains a performance-based process for approving the importation of commodities that, based on the findings of a pest risk analysis, can be safely imported subject to one or more of the designated phytosanitary measures listed in paragraph (b) of that section. One of the designated phytosanitary measures is that the fruits or vegetables are imported from a pest-free area in the

country of origin that meets the requirements of § 319.56-5 for freedom from that pest and are accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate stating that the fruits or vegetables originated in a pest-free area in the country of origin.

Under the regulations in § 319.56-5, APHIS requires that determinations of pest-free areas be made in accordance with the criteria for establishing freedom from pests found in International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) No. 4, "Requirements for the establishment of pest-free areas." The international standard was established by the International Plant Protection Convention of the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization and is incorporated by reference in our regulations in 7 CFR 300.5. In addition, APHIS must also approve the survey protocol used to determine and maintain pest-free status, as well as protocols for actions to be performed upon detection of a pest. Pest-free areas are subject to audit by APHIS to verify their status.

APHIS has received a request from the Government of the Republic of South Africa to recognize additional areas of that country as being free of *Guignardia citricarpa*, citrus black spot.<sup>1</sup> Currently, we only allow importation of citrus fruit from the Republic of South Africa when it is grown in the Western Cape Province and the magisterial districts of Hartswater and Warrenton of the Northern Cape Province, which are areas that APHIS has determined to be free of citrus black spot.<sup>2</sup> Specifically, the Government of the Republic of South Africa asked that we recognize the magisterial districts of Boshof, Fauresmith, Jacobsdal, Koffiefontein, and Philippolis in the Free State Province; Christiania and Taung in the North West Province; and Barkly-wes/west, Gordonia, Hay, Herbert, Hopetown, Kenhardt, Kimberely, Namakwaland, and Prieska in the Northern Cape Province as areas that are free of citrus black spot.

In accordance with our regulations and the criteria set out in ISPM No. 4, we have reviewed and approved the survey protocols and other information provided by the Republic of South Africa relative to its system to establish freedom, phytosanitary measures to maintain freedom, and system for the verification of the maintenance of freedom. Because this action concerns the expansion of a currently recognized pest-free area in the Republic of South

<sup>1</sup> A list of pest-free-areas currently recognized by APHIS can be found at [http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import\\_export/plant/manuals/ports/downloads/DesignatedPestFreeAeas.pdf](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/plant/manuals/ports/downloads/DesignatedPestFreeAeas.pdf).