DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Notice of Decision To Issue Permits for the Importation of Fresh Strawberries From Jordan Into the Continental United States

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: We are advising the public of our decision to begin issuing permits for the importation into the continental United States of fresh strawberries from Jordan. Based on the findings of a pest risk analysis, which we made available to the public for review and comment through a previous notice, we believe that the application of one or more designated phytosanitary measures will be sufficient to mitigate the risks of introducing or disseminating plant pests or noxious weeds via the importation of fresh strawberries from Jordan.

DATES: Effective Date: February 16, 2011.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Donna L. West, Senior Import Specialist, RPM, PHP, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 133, Riverdale, MD 20737; (301) 734–0627.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Under the regulations in “Subpart-Fruits and Vegetables” (7 CFR 319.56–1 through 319.56–50, 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 (PRA), can be safely imported subject to one or more of the designated phytosanitary measures listed in paragraph (b) of that section. Under that process, APHIS publishes a notice in the Federal Register announcing the availability of the PRA that evaluates the risks associated with the importation of a particular fruit or vegetable. Following the close of the 60-day comment period, APHIS may begin issuing permits for importation of the fruit or vegetable subject to the identified designated measures if: (1) No comments were received on the PRA; (2) the comments on the PRA revealed that no changes to the PRA were necessary; or (3) changes to the PRA were made in response to public comments, but the changes did not affect the overall conclusions of the analysis and the Administrator’s determination of risk.

In accordance with that process, we published a notice 1 in the Federal Register on October 12, 2010 (75 FR 62500–62501, Docket No. APHIS–2010–0096), in which we announced the availability, for review and comment, of a PRA that evaluates the risks associated with the importation into the continental United States of fresh strawberries (Fragaria spp.) from Jordan. We solicited comments on the notice for 60 days ending on December 13, 2010. We received one comment by that date, from a State department of agriculture.

In the PRA, APHIS determined that six plant pests have a high risk potential of being introduced into the United States via the pathway of strawberries from Jordan. The PRA notes that two of these pests, Eutetranychus orientalis and Thrips major, could potentially avoid detection beneath the calyx of the strawberries due to their small size. The commenter referred to this potential risk and suggested that the national plant protection organization (NPPO) of Jordan be required to notify APHIS in the event of pest detections or changes in pest management practices they recommend to growers and packinghouses.

We acknowledge the risk that these plant pests could potentially evade detection and be introduced into the United States in the manner referred to by the commenter. However, while the pests themselves may potentially evade detection by their small size, their presence can be detected by visible signs of discoloration and damage to fruits and leaves. Moreover, APHIS has permitted the entry of commercial strawberries from several countries in Asia, Europe, and South America where one or both of these pests of concern occur. Over several decades, there have only been a few isolated interceptions of Eutetranychus orientalis and Thrips major in strawberry consignments.

For these reasons, together with Jordan’s use of integrated pest management practices in the production of commercial strawberries, APHIS has concluded that commercial strawberries

1 To view the notice, we received, go to http://www.regulations.gov/ fdmspublic/component/main/main?doctype=APHIS-2010-0096.

Animal Plant and Health Inspection Service

Title: Bees and Related Articles.

OMB Control Number: 0579–0207.

Summary of Collection: The Plant Protection Act (APA) (7 U.S.C. 7701 et seq.), authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to prohibit or restrict the importation, entry, or interstate movement of plants, plant products, and other articles to prevent the introduction of plant pests into the United States or their dissemination within the United States. Under the Honeybee Act (7 U.S.C. 281–286), the Secretary is authorized to prohibit or restrict the importation of honeybees, see (7 U.S.C. 281–286), the Secretary is authorized to prohibit or restrict the importation of honeybee semen to prevent the introduction into the United States of diseases and parasites harmful to honeybees and of undesirable species and subspecies of honeybees. The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ), is responsible for implementing the intent of these Acts, and does so through the enforcement of its pollinator regulations and honeybee regulations.

Need and Use of the Information: APHIS collects information from a variety of individuals who are involved in breeding, exporting, importing, and containing bees and related articles. The information APHIS collects serves as the supporting documentation needed to issue required PPQ forms and documents that allow importation of bees and related articles or authorizes the release of bees. This documentation is vital to helping APHIS ensure that exotic bee diseases and parasites, and undesirable species and subspecies of honeybees, do not spread into or within the United States. Without the information APHIS could not verify that imported bees and related articles do not present a significant risk of introducing exotic bee disease, parasites, and undesirable species and subspecies of honeybees.

Description of Respondents: Business or other-for-profit; Federal Government.

Number of Respondents: 336.

Frequency of Responses: Recordkeeping; Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 567.

Ruth Brown,
Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2011–3444 Filed 2–15–11; 8:45 am]
for export from Jordan are unlikely to contain the identified quarantine pests. Accordingly, we have determined that no changes to the PRA are necessary based on the comment.

Therefore, in accordance with the regulations in § 319.56–4(c)(2)(iii), we are announcing our decision to begin issuing permits for the importation into the continental United States of fresh strawberries from Jordan subject to the following phytosanitary measures:

- Each consignment of strawberry fruit must be accompanied by a Phytosanitary Certificate (PC) issued by Jordan’s NPPO stating that the strawberries were grown in Jordan and bearing the following additional declaration: “This consignment has been inspected and found free of Cacoecimorpha pronubana, Chrysodeixis chalcites, Eutettix cyanalis, Monilinia fructigena, Spodoptera littoralis, and Thrips major.”

- The strawberries are imported as commercial consignments only.
- The strawberries are subject to inspection at the port of entry into the continental United States.


Done in Washington, DC, this 10th day of January 2011.

Kevin Shea, Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In August 2009, USDA established the Dairy Committee. The Dairy Committee reviews issues of farm milk price volatility and dairy farmer profitability. The Dairy Committee provides recommendations to the Secretary on how USDA can best address these issues to meet the dairy industry’s needs.

The Secretary of Agriculture selected a diverse group of members representing a broad spectrum of persons interested in providing suggestions and ideas on how USDA can tailor its programs to meet the dairy industry’s needs. Equal opportunity practices were considered in all appointments to the Dairy Committee in accordance with USDA policies. The Secretary announced the members on January 6, 2010. Representatives include: Producers and producer organizations, processors and processor organizations, consumers, academia, a retailer, and a state representative.

The Dairy Committee will hold its final public meeting via conference call on March 3, 2011, at 1 p.m. EST. The dairy industry and public are invited to listen in to the conference call and to provide written comments, but will not be allowed to provide oral comments at the meeting. Although the purpose of the March 3, 2011, meeting is for the Dairy Committee to vote on the final report, as required by the FACA regulation in 41 CFR 102–3.140(c), “any member of the public is permitted to file a written statement with the advisory committee,” therefore, written comments will be accepted. The final report will not be changed as a result of comments submitted for this final meeting, but all comments submitted on-line will be available on the Dairy Committee Web site.

Instructions for Attending the Meeting
Available conference call-in lines for the public are limited to the first 100 registered public attendees. All persons wishing to listen to the meeting via conference call must register through DIAC@wdc.usda.gov by March 2, 2011.

An e-mail confirmation will be sent to each registered public listener providing call-in instructions for the meeting. Due to logistical constraints, registration will close at 11:59 p.m. EST on March 2, 2011.

Additional information about the public meeting, meeting agenda, materials and minutes, and how to provide comments is available at the Dairy Committee Web site: http://www.fsa.usda.gov/DIAC. If you require special accommodations, please use the contact information above.

Notice of these meetings is provided in accordance with section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, (5 U.S.C. Appendix 2).

Signed in Washington, DC, on February 10, 2011.

Jonathan W. Coppess, Administrator, Farm Service Agency.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Amador County Resource Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Amador County Resource Advisory Committee will meet in Sutter Creek, California. The committee is meeting as authorized under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (Pub. L. 110–343) and in compliance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The RAC will review, discuss and vote on proposed projects.

DATES: The meeting will be held on March 3, 2011 beginning at 6 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at 10877 Conductor Blvd., Sutter Creek, CA. Written comments should be sent to Frank Mosbacher; Forest Supervisor’s Office; 100 Forni Road; Placerville, CA 95667. Comments may also be sent via e-mail to fmosbacher@fs.fed.us, or via facsimile to 530–621–5297.

All comments, including names and addresses when provided, are placed in the record and are available for public inspection and copying. The public may