DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
[Docket No. APHIS–2021–0075]

Notice of Decision To Authorize the Importation of Ugu Leaves (Telfairia occidentalis Hook.f.) From Nigeria 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 authorize the importation of fresh Ugu leaves (Telfairia occidentalis Hook.f.) from Nigeria into the continental United States. Based on findings of a pest risk analysis, which we made available to the public for review and comment through a previous notice, we have determined 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 Ugu leaves from Nigeria.

DATES: Imports may be authorized beginning February 26, 2024.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Gina Stiltner, Senior Regulatory Policy Specialist, Regulatory Coordination and Compliance, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road, Unit 133, Riverdale, MD 20737–1231; (301) 851–2483; Gina.L.Stiltner@USDA.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Under the regulations in “Subpart L–Fruits and Vegetables” (7 CFR 319.56–1 through 319.56–12, referred to below as the regulations), the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) 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 or disseminated within the United States.

Section 319.56–4 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. Under that process, APHIS proposes to authorize the importation of a fruit or vegetable into the United States if, based on findings of a pest risk analysis, we determine that the measures can mitigate the plant pest risk associated with the importation of that fruit or vegetable. APHIS then publishes a notice in the Federal Register announcing the availability of the pest risk analysis that evaluates the risks associated with the importation of a particular fruit or vegetable. Following the close of the 60-day comment period, APHIS will issue a subsequent Federal Register notice announcing whether or not we will authorize the importation of the fruit or vegetable subject to the phytosanitary measures specified in the notice.

In accordance with that process, we published a notice 1 in the Federal Register on August 28, 2023 (88 FR 58542–58543, Docket No. APHIS–2021–0075) in which we announced the availability, for review and comment, of a pest risk analysis that evaluated the risks associated with the importation of fresh Ugu leaves (Telfairia occidentalis Hook.f.) from Nigeria into the continental United States. The pest risk analysis consisted of a risk assessment identifying pests of quarantine significance that could follow the pathway of the importation of fresh Ugu leaves (Telfairia occidentalis Hook.f.) from Nigeria into the continental United States and a risk management document (RMD) identifying phytosanitary measures to be applied to that commodity to mitigate the pest risk.

We solicited comments on the notice for 60 days, ending on October 27, 2023. We received no comments by that date. Therefore, in accordance with § 319.56–4(c)(3)(iii), we are announcing our decision to authorize the importation into the continental United States of fresh Ugu leaves from Nigeria subject to the phytosanitary measures identified in the RMD that accompanied the initial notice.

These conditions will be listed in the USDA, APHIS Agricultural Commodity Import Requirements (ACIR) database (https://acir.aphis.usda.gov/s/). 2 In addition to these specific measures, each shipment must be subject to the general requirements listed in § 319.56–3 that are applicable to the importation of all fruits and vegetables.

Paperwork Reduction Act

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.), the recordkeeping and burden requirements associated with this action are included under the Office of Management and Budget control number 0579–0049.

E-Government Act Compliance

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service is committed to compliance with the E-Government Act to promote the use of the internet and other information technologies, to provide increased opportunities for citizen access to Government information and services, and for other purposes. For information pertinent to E-Government Act compliance related to this notice, please contact Mr. Joseph Moxey, APHIS’ Paperwork Reduction Act Coordinator, at (301) 851–2483.

Congressional Review Act


Done in Washington, DC, this 20th day of February 2024.

Michael Watson,
Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service
[Docket Number: RUS–23–Telecom–0022]

Amended Notice of Funding Opportunity for the Rural eConnectivity Program for Fiscal Year 2024; Extension of Submission Deadline

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice, extension of submission deadline.

SUMMARY: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS, Agency), a Rural Development (RD) agency of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), announced its acceptance of applications under the Rural eConnectivity (ReConnect) program for fiscal year (FY) 2024 in the Federal Register on February 21, 2024. This

1 To view the notice and the supporting documents, go to www.regulations.gov. Enter APHIS–2021–0075 in the Search field.

2 On September 30, 2022, the APHIS Fruits and Vegetables Import Requirements (FAVIR) database was replaced by the ACIR database.
notice is extending the date by which applications can be submitted.

DATES: The deadline for submissions regarding the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) published on February 21, 2024 at 89 FR 13035 is extended from April 21, 2024, to May 21, 2024. The application window still opens March 22, 2024.

ADDRESS: Applications must be submitted electronically through the RUS Application Intake System located at usda.gov/reconnect. A synopsis of this NOFO will be made available on grants.gov.


SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Agency is extending the deadline for submissions regarding the NOFO for Rural eConnectivity (ReConnect) program for fiscal year (FY) 2024 published in the Federal Register on February 21, 2024, from April 21, 2024, to May 21, 2024. The application window still opens March 22, 2024. This change is being made to allow Applicants a full 60 days to prepare their complete applications.

Andrew Berke,
Administrator, Rural Utilities Service, USDA Rural Development.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Foreign-Trade Zones Board

[S–233–2023]

Approval of Subzone Status; GMA Accessories DBA Capelli New York; Pittston, Pennsylvania

On December 8, 2023, the Executive Secretary of the Foreign-Trade Zones (FTZ) Board docketed an application submitted by the Eastern Distribution Center, Inc., grantee of FTZ 24, requesting subzone status subject to the existing activation limit of FTZ 24, on behalf of GMA Accessories DBA Capelli New York, in Pittston, Pennsylvania.

The application was processed in accordance with the FTZ Act and Regulations, including notice in the Federal Register inviting public comment (88 FR 86623, December 14, 2023). The FTZ staff examiner reviewed the application and determined that it meets the criteria for approval. Pursuant to the authority delegated to the FTZ Board Executive Secretary (15 CFR 400.36(f)), the application to establish 24H was approved on February 21, 2024, subject to the FTZ Act and the Board’s regulations, including section 400.13, and further subject to FTZ 24’s 2,000-acre activation limit.

Dated: February 21, 2024.

Elizabeth Whitman,
Executive Secretary.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

Meeting of the Civil Nuclear Trade Advisory Committee

AGENCY: International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce.