

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 Marketing Service

[Document No. AMS-ST-17-0013]

Plant Variety Protection Board; Open Teleconference Meeting

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is announcing a meeting of the Plant Variety Protection Board (Board). The meeting is being held to discuss a variety of topics including, but not limited to, work and outreach plans, subcommittee activities, and proposals for procedure changes. The meeting is open to the public. This notice sets forth the schedule and location for the meeting.

DATES: Thursday, April 27, 2017, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Room 3543, South Building, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Maria Pratt, Program Analyst, USDA, AMS, Science and Technology Programs, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250. Telephone: (202) 260-898; Fax: (202) 260-8976, or Email: maria.pratt@ams.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to the provisions of section 10(a) of the FACA (5 U.S.C., Appendix 2), this notice informs the public that the Plant Variety Protection Office (PVPO) is sponsoring a meeting of the Board on April 27, 2017. The Plant Variety Protection Act (PVPA) (7 U.S.C. 2321 *et seq.*) provides legal protection in the form of intellectual property rights to developers of new varieties of plants, which are reproduced sexually by seed

or are tuber-propagated. A certificate of Plant Variety Protection is awarded to an owner of a crop variety after an examination shows that it is new, distinct from other varieties, genetically uniform and stable through successive generations. The term of protection is 20 years for most crops and 25 years for trees, shrubs, and vines. The PVPA also provides for a statutory Board (7 U.S.C. 2327). The Board is composed of 14 individuals who are experts in various areas of development and represent the seed industry sector, academia and government. The duties of the Board are to: (1) Advise the Secretary concerning the adoption of rules and regulations to facilitate the proper administration of the FACA; (2) provide advisory counsel to the Secretary on appeals concerning decisions on applications by the PVP Office and on requests for emergency public-interest compulsory licenses; and (3) advise the Secretary on any other matters under the Regulations and Rules of Practice and on all questions under Section 44 of the FACA, "Public Interest in Wide Usage" (7 U.S.C. 2404).

Meeting Agenda: The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss the PVPO 2017 achievements, the electronic application system, and PVP cooperation with other countries. The Board plans to discuss program activities that encourage the development of new plant varieties and address appeals to the Secretary. The meeting will be open to the public. Those wishing to participate are encouraged to pre-register by April 16, 2017, by contacting Maria Pratt, Program Analyst; Telephone: (202) 260-8983; Email: maria.prat@ams.usda.gov.

Meeting Accommodation: The meeting at USDA will provide reasonable accommodation to individuals with disabilities where appropriate. If you need reasonable accommodation to participate in this public meeting, please notify Maria Pratt at: Email: maria.pratt@ams.usda.gov or (202) 268-8983. Determinations for reasonable accommodation will be made on a case-by-case basis. Minutes of the meeting will be available for public review 30 days following the meeting on the internet at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/PVPO>.

Dated: April 5, 2017.

Bruce Summers,

Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 2017-07214 Filed 4-10-17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

April 6, 2017.

The Department of Agriculture has submitted the following information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. Comments are requested regarding (1) whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments regarding this information collection received by May 11, 2017 will be considered. Written comments should be addressed to: Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), New Executive Office Building, 725-17th Street NW., Washington, DC 20502. Commenters are encouraged to submit their comments to OMB via email to: OIRA_Submission@OMB.EOP.GOV or fax (202) 395-5806 and to Departmental Clearance Office, USDA, OCIO, Mail Stop 7602, Washington, DC 20250-7602. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling (202) 720-8958.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number and the agency informs potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information that such persons are not required to respond to

the collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Animal Plant and Health Inspection Service

Title: Importation of Fresh Citrus Fruit from Uruguay into the United States.

OMB Control Number: 0579-0401.

Summary of Collection: Under the Plant Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 7701 *et seq.*), the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to carry out operations or measures to detect, eradicate, suppress, control, prevent, or retard the spread of plant pests new to the United States or not known to be widely distributed throughout the United States. The regulations in “Subpart—Fruits and Vegetables” (Title 7, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 319.56, referred to as the regulations), prohibit or restrict the importation of fruits and vegetables into the United States from certain parts of the world to prevent the introduction and dissemination of plant pests that are new to or not widely distributed with the United States. APHIS’ fruits and vegetables regulations allow, under certain conditions, the importation into the United States of commercial consignments of fresh citrus fruit from Uruguay

Need and Use of the Information: APHIS uses the following information activities to verify that citrus fruit from Uruguay is grown in production areas that are registered and monitored by the North American Plant Protection Organization (NPPPO) and to verify consignments have been produced with a systems approach: Bilateral Workplan, Production Site Registration, Phytosanitary Certificate, Labeling Boxes, Monitoring and Inspection, Investigation and Appropriate Remedial Action, Recordkeeping, Registration of Packinghouses, Certified Facility, and Monitoring. Failure to collect the information would cause millions of dollars in losses and cripple APHIS’ ability to ensure that fresh citrus from Uruguay is not carrying plant pests.

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

Number of Respondents: 16.

Frequency of Responses: Recordkeeping; Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 1,351.

Animal Plant and Health Inspection Service

Title: Importation of Fresh Beans, Shelled or in Pods from Jordan into the Continental United States.

OMB Control Number: 0579-0405.

Summary of Collection: Under the Plant Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 7701 *et seq.*), the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to carry out operations or measures to detect, eradicate, suppress, control, prevent, or retard the spread of plant pests new to the United States or not known to be widely distributed throughout the United States. The regulations in “Subpart—Fruits and Vegetables” (Title 7, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 319.56, referred to as the regulations), prohibit or restrict the importation of fruits and vegetables into the United States from certain parts of the world to prevent the introduction and dissemination of plant pests that are new to or not widely distributed with the United States. The fruits and vegetables regulations allow the importation of commercial shipments of fresh beans, shelled or in pods (French, green, snap, and string) from Jordan into the continental United States. As a condition of entry, the beans have to be produced in accordance with a system approach that includes requirements for packing, washing, and processing.

Need and Use of the Information: APHIS uses the following information activities to verify that fresh beans from Jordan are grown in production areas that are registered and monitored by the North American Plant Protection Organization (NPPPO) of Jordan: (1) Phytosanitary Certificate with/ Declaration, (2) Packinghouse Registration, (3) Box Labeling, and (4) Inspections.

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

Number of Respondents: 5.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 58.

Ruth Brown,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2017-07244 Filed 4-10-17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Office of Communications; Notice of Request for Approval of a New Information Collection

AGENCY: Office of Communications, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the intention of the Office of Communications to request approval for a new information

collection for Event Appearance Requests for the Secretary or members of his staff.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by June 12, 2017 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: The Office of the Secretary invites interested persons to submit comments on this notice. Comments may be submitted by one of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* This Web site provides the ability to type short comments directly into the comment field on this Web page or attach a file for lengthier comments. Go to <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the on-line instructions at that site for submitting comments.

- *Mail, including CD-ROMs, etc.:* Send to Docket Clerk, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of Communications, Docket Clerk, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Room 412A, Washington, DC 20250-3700.

- *Hand- or courier-delivered submittals:* Deliver to Docket Clerk, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of Communications, Docket Clerk, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Room 412A, Washington, DC 20250-3700.

Instructions: All items submitted by mail or electronic mail must include the Office of Communications and date and page number of this issue of the **Federal Register**. Comments received in response to this docket will be made available for public inspection and posted without change, including any personal information, to <http://www.regulations.gov>.

Docket: For access to background documents or comments received, go to the Office of Communications Docket Room at 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Room 412A, Washington, DC 20250-3700 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Tomasina Brown, Office of Communications U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Room 412A Washington, DC 20250 202-720-4623 and 202-720-5773 or Tomasina.brown@oc.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Event Appearance Requests for the Secretary or members of his staff.

OMB Number: 0506-New.

Expiration Date of Approval: Three years from approval date.

Type of Request: New information collection.

Abstract: A web form that collects information on events that the public would like the Secretary to participate in, or those in which the incoming Secretary may want to use to reach back