

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Agricultural Research Service****Notice of Intent To Grant Exclusive License**

AGENCY: Agricultural Research Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service, intends to grant to Oregon State University of Corvallis, Oregon, an exclusive license to the variety of blackberry described in U.S. Plant Patent Application Serial No. 15/731,503, "BLACKBERRY PLANT NAMED 'ECLIPSE,'" filed on June 20, 2017.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before January 16, 2018.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to: USDA, ARS, Office of Technology Transfer, 5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Rm. 4-1174, Beltsville, Maryland 20705-5131.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Brian T. Nakanishi of the Office of Technology Transfer at the Beltsville address given above; telephone: 301-504-5989.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Federal Government's patent rights in this plant variety are assigned to the United States of America, as represented by the Secretary of Agriculture. The prospective exclusive license will be royalty-bearing and will comply with the terms and conditions of 35 U.S.C. 209 and 37 CFR 404.7. The prospective exclusive license may be granted unless, within thirty (30) days from the date of this published Notice, the Agricultural Research Service receives written evidence and argument which establishes that the grant of the license would not be consistent with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 209 and 37 CFR 404.7.

Mojdeh Bahar,

Assistant Administrator.

[FR Doc. 2017-27054 Filed 12-14-17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-03-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Food Safety and Inspection Service**

[Docket No. FSIS-2017-0046]

**Codex Alimentarius Commission:
Meeting of the Codex Committee on
Food Additives**

AGENCY: Office of the Deputy Under Secretary for Food Safety, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Office of the Deputy Under Secretary for Food Safety, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services are sponsoring a public meeting on February 13, 2018. The objective of the public meeting is to provide information and receive public comments on agenda items and draft United States (U.S.) positions to be discussed at the 50th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA) of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex), taking place in Xiamen, Fujian, Province China, March 26-30, 2018. The Deputy Under Secretary for Food Safety and the FDA recognize the importance of providing interested parties with the opportunity to obtain background information on the 50th Session of the CCFA and to address items on the agenda.

DATES: The public meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 13, 2018, from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will take place at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Harvey Wiley Federal Building, 5001 Campus Drive, Rooms 1A-001 and 1A-002, College Park, MD 20740.

Documents related to the 50th Session of the CCFA will be accessible via the internet at the following address: <http://www.codexalimentarius.org/meetings-reports/en/>.

Paul Honigfort, U.S. Delegate to the 50th Session of the CCFA and the FDA invite U.S. interested parties to submit their comments electronically to the following email address: ccfa@fda.hhs.gov.

Registration: Attendees may register to attend the public meeting by emailing ccfa@fda.hhs.gov by February 9, 2018. Early registration is encouraged as it will expedite entry into the building and parking area. If you require parking, please include the vehicle make and tag number when you register. The meeting will be held in a Federal building. Attendees should bring photo identification and plan for adequate time to pass through the security screening systems. Attendees who are not able to attend the meeting in person, but wish to participate, may do so by phone. Attendees who plan to participate by phone should request the call-in number and participant code when they register for the meeting.

For Further Information About the 50th Session of the CCFA Contact:

Paul Honigfort, Ph.D., Consumer Safety Officer, Division of Food Contact

Notifications, Office of Food Additive Safety, FDA, 5001 Campus Drive, College Park, MD 20740, Telephone: (240) 402-1206, Fax: (301) 436-2965, Email: Paul.Honigfort@fda.hhs.gov.

For Further Information About the Public Meeting Contact: Daniel E. Folmer, Ph.D., Review Chemist, Division of Petition Review, Office of Food Additive Safety, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, FDA, HFS-265, 5001 Campus Drive, College Park, MD 20740, Telephone: (240) 402-1269, Fax: (301) 436-2972, Email: daniel.folmer@fda.hhs.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Codex was established in 1963 by two United Nations organizations, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO). Through adoption of food standards, codes of practice, and other guidelines developed by its committees, and by promoting their adoption and implementation by governments, Codex seeks to protect the health of consumers and ensure that fair practices are used in trade.

The CCFA establishes or endorses permitted maximum levels for individual food additives; prepares priority lists of food additives for risk assessment by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA); assigns functional classes and International Numbering System (INS) numbers to individual food additives; recommends specifications of identity and purity for food additives for adoption by Codex; considers methods of analysis for the determination of additives in food; and considers and elaborates standards or codes for related subjects, such as labeling of food additives when sold as such. The CCFA is hosted by China.

Issues To Be Discussed at the Public Meeting

The following items on the agenda for the 50th Session of the CCFA will be discussed during the public meeting:

- Matters referred by the Codex and other subsidiary bodies;
- Matters of Interest arising from FAO/WHO and from the 84th Meeting of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA)
- Proposed draft specifications for identity and purity of food additives arising from the 84th JECFA meeting
- Endorsement and/or revision of maximum levels for food additives and processing aids in Codex Standards
- Alignment of the food additive provisions of commodity standards/ Report of the EWG on Alignment;

- General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA): Report of the EWG on the GSFA;
- General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA): Proposals for new and/or revision of food additive provisions
- Discussion paper on the use of nitrates and nitrites
- Discussion paper on the use of the terms “unprocessed” and “plain” in the GSFA
- Proposed draft revision to the International Numbering System (INS) for Food Additives
- Proposals for additions and changes to the Priority List of Substances Proposed for evaluation by JECFA
- Discussion paper on “Future Strategies for CCFA”
- Other Business and Future Work.

Each issue listed will be fully described in documents distributed, or to be distributed, by the Codex Secretariat before the meeting. Members of the public may access these documents at <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings-reports>.

Public Meeting

At the February 13, 2018 public meeting, draft U.S. positions on the agenda items will be described, discussed, and attendees will have the opportunity to pose questions and offer comments. Written comments may be offered at the meeting or sent to the U.S. Delegate for the 50th Session of the CCFA, Paul Honigfort, Ph.D. at the following address: ccfa@fda.hhs.gov. Written comments should state that they relate to activities of the 50th Session of the CCFA.

Additional Public Notification

Public awareness of all segments of rulemaking and policy development is important. Consequently, FSIS will announce this **Federal Register** publication on-line through the FSIS web page located at: <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/federal-register>.

FSIS also will make copies of this publication available through the FSIS Constituent Update, which is used to provide information regarding FSIS policies, procedures, regulations, **Federal Register** notices, FSIS public meetings, and other types of information that could affect or would be of interest to our constituents and stakeholders. The Update is available on the FSIS web page. Through the web page, FSIS is able to provide information to a much broader, more diverse audience. In addition, FSIS offers an email subscription service which provides automatic and customized access to

selected food safety news and information. This service is available at: <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/subscribe>. Options range from recalls to export information, regulations, directives, and notices. Customers can add or delete subscriptions themselves, and have the option to password protect their accounts.

USDA Non-Discrimination Statement

No agency, officer, or employee of the USDA shall, on the grounds of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, or political beliefs, exclude from participation in, deny the benefits of, or subject to discrimination any person in the United States under any program or activity conducted by the USDA.

How To File a Complaint of Discrimination

To file a complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, which may be accessed online at http://www.ocio.usda.gov/sites/default/files/docs/2012/Complain_combined_6_8_12.pdf, or write a letter signed by you or your authorized representative.

Send your completed complaint form or letter to USDA by mail, fax, or email:

Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410.

Fax: (202) 690-7442.

Email: program.intake@usda.gov.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.), should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

Done at Washington, DC, on: December 12, 2017.

Paulo Almeida,

Acting U.S. Manager for Codex Alimentarius.

[FR Doc. 2017-27096 Filed 12-14-17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-DM-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. FSIS-2017-0050]

Notice of Request for Renewal of an Approved Information Collection (Marking, Labeling and Packaging)

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations, the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is announcing its intention to renew an approved information collection regarding the regulatory requirements for marking, labeling, and packaging of meat, poultry, and egg products and for establishments that produce mechanically separated poultry. This approval covers the labeling approval process whereby establishments are to submit their labels to FSIS for approval or maintain files related to generic labeling. This collection also covers the recordkeeping burden for packaging material letters of guarantee for safety. Lastly, this collection contains the recordkeeping burden imposed on establishments that produce mechanically separated poultry. There are no changes to the existing information collection.

DATES: Submit comments on or before February 13, 2018.

ADDRESSES: FSIS invites interested persons to submit comments on this information collection. Comments may be submitted by one of the following methods:

- **Federal eRulemaking Portal:** This website 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, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Docket Clerk, Patriots Plaza 3, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Mailstop 3782, Room 8-163A, Washington, DC 20250-3700.

- **Hand- or courier-delivered submittals:** Deliver to Patriots Plaza 3, 355 E Street SW, Room 8-163A, Washington, DC 20250-3700

Instructions: All items submitted by mail or electronic mail must include the Agency name and docket number FSIS-2017-0050. 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 FSIS Docket Room at Patriots Plaza 3, 355 E Street SW, Room 8-164, Washington, DC 20250-3700 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.