

has died, disappeared, or been declared incompetent.

Information is obtained only when a producer eligible to receive a payment or disbursement dies, disappears, or is declared incompetent, and documentation is needed to determine if any heirs or beneficiaries are entitled to receive such payments or disbursements.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .5 hours (1/2 hour) per response.

Respondents: Individual producers.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 2,000.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 1,000.

Proposed topics for comment include: (a) 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; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information collected; or (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of the 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 should be sent to the Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503 and to David Tidwell, Agricultural Program Specialist, Production, Emergencies, and Compliance Division, USDA, FSA, STOP 0517, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-0517, (202) 720-4542.

Copies of the information collection may be obtained from David Tidwell, at the above address.

Signed at Washington, DC, on April 12, 2004.

Verle E. Lanier,

Acting Executive Vice President, Commodity Credit Corporation.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Office of the Under Secretary, Research, Education, and Economics

Notice of Appointment to the Advisory Committee on Biotechnology and 21st Century Agriculture

AGENCY: Agricultural Research Service.

ACTION: Notice of appointment to the Advisory Committee on Biotechnology and 21st Century Agriculture.

SUMMARY: The Office of the Secretary of Agriculture announces members appointed to fill 9 vacancies on the Advisory Committee on Biotechnology and 21st Century Agriculture, in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. Those appointed are as follows: Daryl Buss, Dean, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI; Leon Corzine, Farmer/President, LPC Farms, Assumption, IL; Carole Cramer, Professor, Department of Plant Pathology, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA; Michael Dykes, Vice President, Government Affairs, Monsanto Company, St. Louis, MO; Carol Tucker Foreman, Director, Food Policy Institute, Consumer Federation of America; Randal Giroux, Scientific Lead, Corporate Agricultural Biotechnology, Cargill, Inc., Wayzata, MN; Margaret Mellon, Director, Food and Environment Program, Union of Concerned Scientists, Washington, DC; Ronald Olson, Vice President, Grain Division, General Mills, Minneapolis, MN; and Jerome Slocum, Farmer/President, North Mississippi Grain Company, Coldwater, MS.

DATES: Appointments by the Secretary are for a two-year term, effective February 13, 2004 until February 12, 2006.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael Schechtman, Designated Federal Official, Office of the Deputy Secretary, USDA, 202B Jamie L. Whitten Federal Building, 12th and Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250; Telephone (202) 720-3817; Fax (202) 690-4265; E-mail mschechtman@ars.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The members of the committee cover a broad range of agricultural disciplines and interests. The duties of the committee are solely advisory. The Advisory Committee on Biotechnology and 21st Century Agriculture (AC21) is charged with examining the long-term impacts of biotechnology on the U.S. food and agriculture system and USDA, and providing guidance to USDA on

pressing individual issues, identified by the Office of the Secretary, related to the application of biotechnology in agriculture.

The AC21 was first appointed in February 2003 and at the time half of the appointments were for a one-year term and half for a two-year term. Due to the staggered appointments, the terms for 9 of the 18 members expired on February 12, 2004. Members of the AC21 may be reappointed by the Secretary of Agriculture but no member may serve more than six consecutive years. Members serve without pay, but with reimbursement of travel expenses and per diem for attendance at AC21 and subcommittee functions for those committee members who require assistance in order to attend the meetings.

Dated: April 13, 2004.

Rodney J. Brown,

*Deputy Under Secretary, Research,
Education, and Economics.*

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Farm Service Agency

Request for Revision and Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection; Total Quality Systems Audit Program

AGENCY: Farm Service Agency, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the intention of the Farm Service Agency (FSA) to request a revision and extension of an information collection currently in effect with respect to the Total Quality Systems Audit (TQSA) program. This information collection allows FSA to determine compliance with the TQSA standards. The TQSA program was implemented to ensure that FSA commodity purchases meet customer requirements and needs. Suppliers of commodities covered by the TQSA program have had to meet quality control and food safety standards to assure the quality of the end product being purchased by FSA.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received on or before June 21, 2004, to be assured consideration.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS:

Contact Howard Froehlich, Chief, USDA, Farm Service Agency, Warehouse and Inventory Division, Program Development Branch, STOP