

Done in Washington, DC, this 18th day of August 2004.

**Kevin Shea,**

*Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.*

[FR Doc. 04-19236 Filed 8-20-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 04-070-1]

#### Notice of Request for Extension of Approval of an Information Collection

**AGENCY:** Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Extension of approval of an information collection; comment request.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's intention to request an extension of approval of an information collection associated with regulations for the importation of Hass avocados from Mexico.

**DATES:** We will consider all comments that we receive on or before October 22, 2004.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

- **Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery:** Please send four copies of your comment (an original and three copies) to Docket No. 04-070-1, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238. Please state that your comment refers to Docket No. 04-070-1.

- **E-mail:** Address your comment to [regulations@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:regulations@aphis.usda.gov). Your comment must be contained in the body of your message; do not send attached files. Please include your name and address in your message and "Docket No. 04-070-1" on the subject line.

- **Agency Web Site:** Go to <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppd/rad/cominst.html> for a form you can use to submit an e-mail comment through the APHIS Web site.

**Reading Room:** You may read any comments that we receive on this docket in our reading room. The reading room is located in room 1141 of the USDA South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC. Normal reading room hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. To be sure someone is there to help you,

please call (202) 690-2817 before coming.

**Other Information:** You may view APHIS documents published in the **Federal Register** and related information, including the names of groups and individuals who have commented on APHIS dockets, on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppd/rad/webrepor.html>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For information regarding regulations for the importation of Hass avocados from Mexico, contact Ms. Karen Bedigian, Import Specialist, Phytosanitary Issues Management, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 140, Riverdale, MD 20737; (301) 734-4382. For copies of more detailed information on the information collection, contact Mrs. Celeste Sickles, APHIS' Information Collection Coordinator, at (301) 734-7477.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

**Title:** Importation of Hass Avocados from Mexico.

**OMB Number:** 0579-0129.

**Type of Request:** Extension of approval of an information collection.

**Abstract:** The Plant Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 7701-7772) authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to regulate the importation of plants, plant products, and other articles into the United States to prevent the introduction of plant pests and noxious weeds.

The regulations in "Subpart-Fruits and Vegetables" (7 CFR 319.56 through 319.56-8) allow the importation of Hass avocados from Michoacan, Mexico, into the United States, including 31 States and the District of Columbia, under certain conditions. The regulations require the use of permits, cooperative agreements, phytosanitary certificates, and box marking to indicate the States where distribution is prohibited.

We are asking the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve our use of these information collection activities for an additional 3 years.

The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public (as well as affected agencies) concerning our information collection. These comments will help us:

- (1) Evaluate 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) Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the burden of the information collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

- (3) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(4) Minimize the burden of the information collection on those who are to respond, through use, as appropriate, of automated, electronic, mechanical, and other collection technologies, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

**Estimate of burden:** The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 0.00006633 hours per response.

**Respondents:** Mexican plant health officials; importers, shippers, distributors, and handlers of fresh Hass avocados imported from Michoacan, MX, into the United States.

**Estimated annual number of respondents:** 3,058.

**Estimated annual number of responses per respondent:** 23,780.754.

**Estimated annual number of responses:** 72,721,546.

**Estimated total annual burden on respondents:** 4,823 hours. (Due to averaging, the total annual burden hours may not equal the product of the annual number of responses multiplied by the reporting burden per response.)

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Done in Washington, DC, this 18th day of August 2004.

**Kevin Shea,**

*Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 04-074-1]

#### Confinement of Genetically Engineered Crops During Field Testing; Workshop

**AGENCY:** Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** This is to notify parties involved in those fields associated with the confinement of genetically engineered crops, as well as other interested persons, that a workshop will be held to review past results and obtain an update on the most recent scientific results relevant to biological dispersal and confinement of genetically engineered crops during field testing. The workshop is being organized by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

**DATES:** The workshop will be held September 13 through 15, 2004, from

8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. The sessions on September 13 and 14, 2004, will include panels of invited scientific experts. The session on September 15, 2004, will be open to the public.

**ADDRESSES:** The workshop will be held at the USDA Center at Riverside, 4700 River Road, Riverdale, MD.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Robyn Rose, Biotechnology Regulatory Services, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 147, Riverdale, MD 20737-1236; (301) 734-0489, or e-mail: [Robyn.L.Rose@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:Robyn.L.Rose@aphis.usda.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The regulations in 7 CFR part 340, "Introduction of Organisms and Products Altered or Produced Through Genetic Engineering Which Are Plant Pests or Which There Is Reason to Believe Are Plant Pests," (referred to below as the regulations) regulate, among other things, the introduction (importation, interstate movement, or release into the environment) of organisms and products altered or produced through genetic engineering that are plant pests or that there is reason to believe are plant pests. Such genetically engineered organisms and products are considered "regulated articles."

Field tests of genetically engineered crops planted under an Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) permit as plant-made pharmaceuticals (PMPs) and plant-made industrials (PMIs) are currently being conducted under the regulations. In order to provide a forum for the discussion of past and current information relevant to biological and physical factors that influence the design, implementation, efficacy, and feasibility of measures used to confine transgenic plants and their progeny to the authorized field sites, APHIS is organizing a workshop. This workshop will provide a forum for discussing measures that can be taken to limit gene flow beyond the authorized site, commingling with other crops, and persistence of transgenic plants in the environment following termination of the field trial. The workshop will primarily focus on plants most frequently used as PMPs and PMIs, such as corn, barley, rice, safflower, and tobacco, with three break-out groups that will examine wind pollination of crops using corn as a model, self-pollinated crops using rice as a model, and insect-pollinated crops using safflower as a model.

This workshop is scheduled for September 13 through 15, 2004. The sessions on the first 2 days of the workshop will include panels of invited scientific experts. The third day will be

open to the public and the results of the panel discussions will be summarized. Preregistration is required for all those who wish to attend the third day of the workshop. The deadline for preregistration is September 10, 2004. Information regarding the meeting and registration instructions are available on the Internet at [http://www.aphis.usda.gov/brs/new\\_info.html](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/brs/new_info.html). Questions that will be discussed during the workshop may be viewed on the Internet at [http://www.aphis.usda.gov/brs/confine\\_workshop/confine\\_questions.pdf](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/brs/confine_workshop/confine_questions.pdf).

The third day of the workshop will be open to the public. Persons interested in making an oral presentation during the third day of the workshop related to the topic of the workshop should submit a brief written statement or abstract of the science they wish to present, the name and address of each person who will participate in the presentation, and an estimate of the approximate length of time needed to make the presentation. This information should be submitted to the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** no later than September 6, 2004. The number of oral presentations on the third day of the workshop and the time allocated for each may be limited, depending upon the number of requests. Send all statements or abstracts to the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. Please state that your statement or abstract refers to Docket No. 04-074-1. If you use e-mail, your comment must be contained in the body of your message or sent as an attachment in WordPerfect or Microsoft Word format. Please include your name and address in your message and "Docket No. 04-074-1" on the subject line.

Following the workshop, a proceedings will be published that will summarize the information gathered during the workshop. The proceedings will outline methods for physical, temporal, spatial, and biological confinement of transgenes incorporated into wind-pollinated, insect-pollinated, and primarily self-pollinating crops along with information regarding their efficacy and feasibility of implementation. The effects of scale and use of models to predict or compare efficacy of options will also be addressed. Information gathered during the workshop will be summarized to illustrate the interaction of available tools for gene confinement to form a comprehensive and flexible approach to field testing. Scientific data and references will be included in a bibliography as part of the proceedings.

## Parking and Security Procedures

Please note that a fee of \$2.25 is required to enter the parking lot at the USDA Center at Riverside. The machine accepts \$1 bills or quarters.

Upon entering the building, visitors should inform security personnel that they are attending the Crop Field Testing workshop. Identification is required. Security personnel will direct visitors to the sign-in tables located outside of the Conference Center. All participants must sign in upon arrival. Conference badges must be worn throughout the day.

Done in Washington, DC, this 17th day of August 2004.

**Kevin Shea,**

*Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Notice of Resource Advisory Committee Meeting

**AGENCY:** Lassen Resource Advisory Committee, Susanville, California, USDA Forest Service.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to the authorities in the Federal Advisory Committees Act (Public Law 92-463) and under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-393) the Lassen National Forest's Lassen County Resource Advisory Committee will meet Thursday, September 9th, in Susanville, California for a business meeting. The meetings are open to the public.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The business meeting September 9th begins at 9 a.m., at the Lassen National Forest Headquarters Office, Caribou Conference Room, 2550 Riverside Drive, Susanville, CA 96130. Agenda topics will include: Update on 2003 projects; Report of Pine Creek Project field trip; and Meeting Schedule Changes. Time will also be set aside for public comments at the beginning of the meeting.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Robert Andrews, District Ranger and Designated Federal Officer, at (530) 257-4188; or Public Affairs Officer Heidi Perry, at (530) 252-6605.

**Jeff Withroe,**

*Acting Forest Supervisor.*

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