

(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 0.142857142 hours per response.

Respondents: Sheep, goat, and horse owners who may be eligible to participate in a brucellosis indemnity program; State and accredited veterinarians; and slaughter plant operators.

Estimated annual number of respondents: 4.

Estimated annual number of responses per respondent: 1.75.

Estimated annual number of responses: 7.

Estimated total annual burden on respondents: 1 hour. (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 13th day of July 2004.

W. Ron DeHaven,

Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 04-16279 Filed 7-16-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 04-062-1]

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 in support of the black stem rust quarantine and regulations.

DATES: We will consider all comments that we receive on or before September 17, 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. 04-062-1, 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. 04-062-1.

- **E-mail:** Address your comment to 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. 04-062-1" 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 black stem rust quarantine and regulations, contact Mr. Vedpal S. Malik, Agriculturist, Invasive Species and Pest Management, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 134, Riverdale MD 20737; (301) 734-6774. 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: Black Stem Rust; Identification Requirements and Addition of Rust-Resistant Varieties.

OMB Number: 0579-0186.

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

Abstract: The Information Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 7701-7772) authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to prohibit or restrict the importation, entry, or interstate movement of plants and plant products to prevent the introduction of plant pests into the United States or their dissemination within the United States.

Black stem rust is one of the most destructive plant diseases of small grains that is known to exist in the United States. The disease is caused by a fungus that reduces the quality and yield of infected wheat, oat, barley, and rye crops by robbing host plants of food and water. In addition to infecting small grains, the fungus lives on a variety of alternate host plants that are species of the genera *Berberis*, *Mahoberberis*, and *Mahonia*. The fungus is spread from host to host by wind-borne spores.

The black stem rust quarantine and regulations, contained in 7 CFR 301.38 through 301.38-8 (referred to below as the regulations), quarantine the conterminous 48 States and the District of Columbia and govern the interstate movement of certain plants of the genera *Berberis*, *Mahoberberis*, and *Mahonia*, known as barberry plants. The species of these plants are categorized as either rust-resistant or rust-susceptible. Rust-resistant plants do not pose a risk of spreading black stem rust or of contributing to the development of new races of the rust; rust-susceptible plants do pose such risks.

Persons who request APHIS to add a variety to the list of rust-resistant barberry varieties in the regulations must provide the Agency with a description of the variety, including a written description and color pictures that can be used by State nursery inspectors to clearly identify the variety and distinguish it from other varieties. This requirement helps to ensure that State plant inspectors can clearly determine whether plants moving into or through their States are rust-resistant varieties listed in 7 CFR 301.38-2.

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 4 hours per response.

Respondents: Nurseries.

Estimated annual number of respondents: 4.

Estimated annual number of responses per respondent: 2.

Estimated annual number of responses: 8.

Estimated total annual burden on respondents: 32 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 13th day of July 2004.

W. Ron DeHaven,

Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food and Nutrition Service

Food Distribution Program: Substitution of Donated Beef and Pork With Commercial Beef and Pork

AGENCY: Food and Nutrition Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the Food and Nutrition Service's (FNS) intent to continue a demonstration project through June 30, 2007, that allows selected processors to substitute commercial beef and pork for donated beef and pork supplied by the Department of Agriculture (the Department, or USDA). Commercial beef and pork used in the demonstration

project must meet the same specifications required of donated beef and pork. Processors wishing to participate in the demonstration project must submit proposals for FNS approval by April 30, 2006. The Department hopes to determine if allowing substitution of donated beef and pork will result in increased participation of processors, and provide a greater variety of processed end products to recipient agencies in a more timely manner and/or at lower costs.

DATES: The proposals described in this notice may be submitted to FNS through April 30, 2006. The demonstration project runs until June 30, 2007.

ADDRESSES: Proposals should be sent to Director, Food Distribution Division, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Park Office Center, Room 504, 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, Virginia 22302-1594.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David Brothers, Schools and Institutions Branch, at (703) 305-2668.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Executive Order 12866

This notice has been determined to be not significant and therefore was not reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget under Executive Order 12866.

Executive Order 12372

This program is listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under 10.550 and is subject to the provisions of Executive Order 12372, which requires intergovernmental consultation with State and local officials (7 CFR part 3015, subpart V and final rule-related notices published at 48 FR 29114, June 24, 1983 and 49 FR 22675, May 31, 1984).

Regulatory Flexibility Act

This action is not a rule as defined by the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601-612) and is thus exempt from the provisions of that Act.

Background

Food Distribution Program regulations at 7 CFR 250.30 establish the terms and conditions under which distributing agencies, subdistributing agencies, and recipient agencies may enter into contracts with commercial firms for the processing of USDA donated foods under the State processing program, and prescribe the minimum requirements to be included in such contracts. 7 CFR 250.30(f)(1) allows for the full or limited substitution of certain donated food items with commercial foods, with the exception of beef and pork. Processors

have stated that the regulations prohibiting the substitution of donated beef and pork reduce the quantity of donated beef and pork they are able to accept and process during a given period. Processors tend to schedule production around deliveries of the donated beef and pork, which decreases their flexibility in providing end products to recipients. Some processors must schedule production around deliveries of donated beef and pork for up to 30 States. Vendors do not always deliver donated beef and pork to the processors as scheduled, causing delays in production. These delays may be alleviated if processors can replace donated beef and pork with their commercial beef and pork.

Since June 30, 2001, the Department has exercised its waiver authority in 7 CFR 250.30(t) to waive the regulatory restriction under 7 CFR 250.30(f)(1) and conduct a demonstration project that allows selected processors to substitute commercial beef and pork for donated beef and pork in the State processing program. Commercial beef and pork used in the demonstration project must meet the same specifications required of USDA donated beef and pork. Other regulatory and contract requirements under 7 CFR 250.30 must also continue to be met by processors participating in the demonstration project.

To date, only a few processors have taken the opportunity to participate. FNS hopes to determine through this continuation of the demonstration project if the waiver of the regulations would increase the number of processors participating in the State processing program, or would increase the quantity of donated beef and pork that each processor accepts for processing. Additionally, FNS hopes to determine if the expected increase in competition, and in the quantities of donated beef and pork accepted for processing, would enable processors to function more efficiently, resulting in the production of a greater variety of processed end products more quickly and/or at lower costs.

Continuation of Demonstration Project

The demonstration project is scheduled to continue until June 30, 2005. However, FNS is further extending it through June 30, 2007, to continue to allow processors the opportunity to participate, and to determine if such an opportunity has an effect on the end products provided to schools and other recipients. All proposals to participate must be submitted by April 30, 2006. Except for the waiver of the prohibition on substitution of donated beef and pork in