

interviews to establish usage baselines and monitor trends in some areas for critical use and user characteristics for representative Forest Service wilderness area.

*Need and Use of the Information:* FS will collect information from visitors to find out how many times they visit, when they plan their next visit, or if they plan to visit at all. Visitors will be asked, when visiting, if they come in groups, and if so, the size of those groups and how long they stay when visiting. Also, visitors will be asked do they use equipment such as stoves, wood for fires and do they have preferences for social conditions? If the information is not collected FS will have no basis for making management decisions and establishing policy for guiding wilderness management in general.

*Description of Respondents:* Individuals or households.

*Number of Respondents:* 1,000.

*Frequency of Responses:* Reporting: On occasion.

*Total Burden Hours:* 416.

### Rural Development

*Title:* Rural Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities (Ongoing Reporting Requirements).

*OMB Control Number:* 0570-0027.

*Summary of Collection:* The Community Renewal Tax Relief Act of 2000 extends the duration for all Empowerment Zone through December 2009. The Rural Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities program (EZ/EC) provides economically depressed rural areas and communities with opportunities for growth and revitalization. USDA has designated 120 Champion communities from the EZ/EC applicant communities that have agreed to implement their strategic plans in accordance with the principles of the program and report regularly on their progress.

*Need and Use of the Information:* Periodic reviews provide the basis for USDA to continue or revoke a designation during the life of the federal program. These reports provide progress on each project that the designee has specified in their implementation plans. A warning letter may be sent to recipients who have been regarded as noncompliance or have made insufficient progress in implementing the strategic plan.

*Description of Respondents:* State, Local or Tribal Government.

*Number of Respondents:* 178.

*Frequency of Responses:* Reporting: On occasion.

*Total Burden Hours:* 3,762.

**Sondra Blakey,**

*Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.*

[FR Doc. 03-9174 Filed 4-14-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-01-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Agricultural Research Service

#### Notice of Establishment of the Advisory Committee on Biotechnology and 21st Century Agriculture and Notice of Appointment of Committee Members

**AGENCY:** Office of the Under Secretary, Research, Education, and Economics, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of establishment of the Advisory Committee on Biotechnology and 21st Century Agriculture and notice of appointment of committee members.

**SUMMARY:** The Office of the Under Secretary, Research, Education, and Economics of the Department of Agriculture, in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. 2, announces the establishment of and appointment of members to the Advisory Committee on Biotechnology and 21st Century Agriculture ("AC21").

**ADDRESSES:** The public may send written comments to Michael Schechtman, Designated Federal Official, Office of the Deputy Secretary, USDA, 202B Jamie L. Whitten Federal Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Michael Schechtman, Telephone: (202) 720-3817, Fax: (202) 690-4265, or e-mail [mschechtman@ars.usda.gov](mailto:mschechtman@ars.usda.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Department of Agriculture is establishing a new committee, the Advisory Committee on Biotechnology and 21st Century Agriculture. The purpose of this new committee is to examine the long-term impacts of biotechnology on the U.S. food and agriculture system and USDA, and provide guidance to USDA on pressing individual issues, identified by the Office of the Secretary, related to the application of biotechnology in agriculture. The committee is necessary and in the public interest.

The Committee will report to the Secretary through an annual report and other means as necessary and appropriate.

The Committee will meet in Washington, DC, up to four (4) times per

year. Eighteen members were appointed from nominations of more than 100 well-qualified individuals, representing the biotechnology industry, the farming community, the seed industry, food manufacturers, commodity processors and shippers, environmental and consumer groups, along with academic researchers as well as experts on bioethics and legal issues. Equal opportunity practices were followed in appointing committee members. To assure that recommendations of the advisory committee take into account the needs of diverse groups served by the Department, membership includes, to the extent practicable, individuals with demonstrated ability to represent minorities, women, and persons with disabilities.

The following appointments to the Advisory Committee on Biotechnology and 21st Century Agriculture have been made:

Patricia A. Layton, Professor, Department of Forest Resources, Clemson University, in Clemson, South Carolina will serve as Chair of the AC21;

Daryl D. Buss, Dean, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Wisconsin in Madison, Wisconsin;

Leon C. Corzine, Farmer, and Chairman, Biotechnology Working Group, National Corn Growers Association, in Assumption, Illinois;

Carole Cramer, Professor, Virginia Tech, and Chief Scientific Officer, CropTech Corporation, in Blacksburg, Virginia;

Richard T. Crowder, Chief Executive Officer, American Seed Trade Association, in Alexandria, Virginia;

Michael D. Dykes, Vice President, Government Affairs, Monsanto Company, in Washington, DC;

Juan C. Enriquez-Cabot, Director, Life Sciences Project, Harvard Business School, in Boston, Massachusetts;

Randal W. Giroux, Staff Scientist, Cargill, Inc., in Wayzata, Minnesota;

Duane Grant, Farmer and Member, National Association of Wheat Growers and U.S. Wheat Inc. Biotechnology Committee, in Rupert, Idaho;

David A. Hoisington, Director, Applied Biotechnology Center and Bioinformatics, International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT), in Mexico City, Mexico;

Gregory A. Jaffe, Co-Director, Biotechnology Project, Center for Science in the Public Interest, in Washington, DC;

David C. Magnus, Assistant Professor, Center for Bioethics, University of Pennsylvania, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania;

Terry L. Medley, Vice President, Global Regulatory Affairs, DuPont

Agriculture and Nutrition, in  
Wilmington, Delaware;

Margaret G. Mellon, Director, Food  
and Environment Program, Union of  
Concerned Scientists, in Washington,  
DC;

Ronald D. Olson, Vice President,  
Grain Operations, General Mills, in  
Minneapolis, Minnesota;

Jerome B. Slocum, Farmer and  
General Manager, North Mississippi  
Grain Company, in Coldwater,  
Mississippi;

Keith C. Triebwasser, Manager,  
Product Safety and Regulatory Affairs,  
The Procter and Gamble Company, in  
Cincinnati, Ohio;

Lisa W. Zannoni, Head, Global  
Regulatory Affairs and Government  
Relations, BASF Plant Science, in  
Mount Olive, New Jersey.

Committee members will initially  
serve one- or two-year terms, and may be  
reappointed to serve up to six  
consecutive years. In the event of a  
vacancy, the Secretary will appoint a  
new member as appropriate and subject  
to the provisions of the Federal  
Advisory Committee Act. The duties of  
the Committee are solely advisory.

Committee members will serve  
without pay. Reimbursement of travel  
expenses and per diem costs shall be  
made to Committee members who  
would be unable to attend Committee  
meetings without such reimbursement.

**Joseph J. Jen,**

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

[FR Doc. 03-9173 Filed 4-14-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-03-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 03-007-1]

#### 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  
importation of animals and poultry,  
animal and poultry products, and  
animal germ plasm.

**DATES:** We will consider all comments  
that we receive on or before June 16,  
2003.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments  
by postal mail/commercial delivery or  
by e-mail. If you use postal mail/  
commercial delivery, please send four  
copies of your comment (an original and  
three copies) to: Docket No. 03-007-1,  
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. 03-007-1. If you  
use 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. 03-007-1" on the subject line.

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.

APHIS documents published in the  
**Federal Register**, and related  
information, including the names of  
organizations and individuals who have  
commented on APHIS dockets, are  
available on the Internet at [http://  
www.aphis.usda.gov/ppd/rad/  
webrepor.html](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppd/rad/webrepor.html).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For  
information regarding the importation of  
animals and poultry, animal and poultry  
products, and animal germplasm,  
contact Dr. Gary Colgrove, Director,  
National Center for Import and Export,  
VS, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 38,  
Riverdale, MD 20737-1231; (301) 734-  
4356. 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 Animals and  
Poultry, Animal and Poultry Products,  
Certain Animal Embryos, Semen, and  
Zoological Animals.

*OMB Number:* 0579-0040.

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

*Abstract:* The Animal and Plant  
Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of  
the United States Department of  
Agriculture is responsible for, among  
other things, preventing the  
introduction of exotic animal diseases  
into the United States and for rapidly

identifying, containing, and eradicating  
such diseases when feasible. In  
connection with this mission, APHIS  
collects pertinent information from  
those individuals who import animals  
or poultry, animal or poultry products,  
or animal germplasm into the United  
States.

This information includes data such  
as the origins of the animals or animal  
products to be imported, the health  
status of the animals or the processing  
methods used to produce animal  
products to be imported, and whether  
the animals or animal products were  
temporarily offloaded in another  
country during their transit to the  
United States. We need this information  
to help ensure that these imports do not  
introduce exotic animal diseases into  
the United States.

We use a variety of information  
collection procedures, devices, and  
forms including, but not limited to:  
Health certificates, import permits, ear  
tags, leg bands, specimen submission  
forms, inspection reports, cooperative  
and trust fund agreements, and  
certification statements.

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  
0.0369992 hours per response.

*Respondents:* Entities that import  
animals or poultry, animal or poultry  
products, and animal embryos,  
germplasm, and semen.

*Estimated annual number of  
respondents:* 169,806.