

Notices

Federal Register

Vol. 68, No. 105

Monday, June 2, 2003

This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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

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

AGENCY: Agricultural Research Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App., the United States Department of Agriculture announces a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Biotechnology and 21st Century Agriculture (AC21).

DATES: August 16 and 17, 2003, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days.

ADDRESSES: Vista C Room at the Wyndham Washington Hotel, 1400 M Street, NW., Washington, DC 20005.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael Schechtman, Designated Federal Officer, 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 first meeting of the AC21 has been scheduled for August 16-17, 2003. The AC21 consists of 18 members representing the biotechnology industry, the seed industry, international plant genetics researchers, farmers, food manufacturers, commodity processors and shippers, environmental and consumer groups, along with academic researchers including a bioethicist. In addition, representatives from the Departments of Commerce, Health and Human Services, and State, and the Environmental Protection Agency, the Council on Environmental Quality, and the Office of the United States Trade

Representative have been invited to serve as "ex officio" members. The Committee meeting will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on each day. The topics to be discussed will include: (1) Rules of procedure for the AC21; (2) assessment of informational needs of AC21 members; (3) organization of the AC21's work in examining the impacts of agricultural biotechnology on American agriculture and USDA over the next 5 to 10 years and expected outputs from the committee; and (4) preliminary presentations and introductory discussions on two sub-areas of that work, namely new biotechnology-derived non-food uses of row crops and impacts of biotechnology along the overall food production and distribution system.

Background information regarding the work of the AC21 will be available on the USDA Web site at <http://www.usda.gov/agencies/biotech/ac21.html>. Members of the public who wish to make oral statements should also inform Dr. Schechtman in writing or via E-mail at the indicated addresses at least three business days before the meeting. On August 16, 2003, if time permits, reasonable provision will be made for oral presentations of no more than five minutes each in duration.

The meeting will be open to the public, but space is limited. If you would like to attend the meetings, you must register by contacting Ms. Dianne Harmon at (202) 720-4074, by fax at (202) 720-3191 or by E-mail at dharmon@ars.usda.gov at least 5 days prior to the meeting. Please provide your name, title, business affiliation, address, telephone, and fax number when you register. If you require a sign language interpreter or other special accommodation due to disability, please indicate those needs at the time of registration.

Joseph J. Jen,

Under Secretary, Research, Education and Economics.

[FR Doc. 03-13761 Filed 5-30-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-03-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Commodity Credit Corporation

Notice of Request for Extension and Revision of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Commodity Credit Corporation, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the intention of the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) to request an extension for and revision to a currently approved information collection in support of the CCC's Export Enhancement Program (EEP) and the CCC's Dairy Export Incentive Program (DEIP) based on re-estimates.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by August 1, 2003.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS: Contact William S. Hawkins, Director, Program Administration Division, Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, AgBox 1031, Washington, DC 20250-1031, telephone (202) 720-3241.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: CCC's Export Enhancement Program (EEP) and CCC's Dairy Export Incentive Program (DEIP).

OMB Number: 0551-0028.

Expiration Date of Approval: September 30, 2003.

Type of Request: Extension and revision of a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: The major objective of the EEP and DEIP is to expand U.S. agricultural exports by paying cash to exporters as bonuses, allowing them to sell U.S. agricultural products in targeted countries at competitive prices. Currently, 120 countries and 3 country regions are targeted export destinations and 850 exporters are eligible to participate under either or both programs. Under 7 CFR part 1494, exporters are required to submit the following: (1) Information required for program participation (section 1494.301), (2) performance security (section 1494.401), (3) export sales information in connection with applying for a CCC bonus (section 1494.501), and (4) evidence of export and related information (section 1494.701). In addition, each exporter

must maintain accurate records showing sales and deliveries of the eligible commodity exported in connection with an agreement made under the EEP or DEIP as outlined in section 1494.1001. The information collected is used by CCC to manage, plan for, evaluate the use of, and account for Government resources. The reports and records are required to ensure the proper and judicious use of public funds.

Estimate of Burden: The public reporting burden for these collections is estimated to average 1.08 hours per response.

Respondents: Exporters of U.S. agricultural commodities, banks or other financial institutions, producer associations, export trade associations, and U.S. Government agencies.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 40 per annum.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 47.4 per annum.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 2,047.68 hours.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Kimberly Chisley, the Agency Information Collection Coordinator, at (202) 720-2568.

Requests for comments: Send comments regarding (a) whether the proposed 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 the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to William S. Hawkins, Director, Program Administration Division, Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, AgBox 1031, Washington, DC 20250-1031, or to the Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503. 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.

Signed at Washington, DC, on May 23, 2003.

A. Ellen Terpstra,

Administrator, Foreign Agricultural Service.
[FR Doc. 03-13602 Filed 5-30-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-10-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Foreign Agricultural Service

Notice of a Request for Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, this notice announces the Department's intention to request an extension for a currently approved information collection in support of the Dairy Tariff-Rate Import Quota Licensing program.

DATES: Comments should be submitted no later than August 1, 2003 to be assured of consideration.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND COMMENTS: Contact Michael Hankin, Dairy Import Quota Manager, STOP 1021, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-1021, telephone (202) 720-9439.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Dairy Tariff-Rate Import Quota Licensing Program.

OMB Number: 0551-0001.

Expiration Date of Approval: October 31, 2003.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: The currently approved information collection supports the Dairy Tariff-Rate Import Quota Regulation (the Regulation) (7 CFR 6.20-6.37) which governs the administration of the import licensing system applicable to most dairy products subject to tariff-rate quotas (TRQs). The TRQs were established in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS) as a result of entry of certain provisions in the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (Pub. L. 103-465) that converted existing absolute quotas to TRQs. Imports of nearly all cheese made from cow's milk (except soft-ripened cheese such as Brie) and certain non-cheese dairy products (including butter and dried milk) are subject to TRQs and the Regulation. Licenses are issued each quota year to eligible applicants and are valid for twelve months (January 1 through December 31). Only licensees may enter dairy articles at low-tier TRQ tariff-rates. Importers who do not hold licenses may enter dairy articles only at high-tier TRQ tariff-rates.

Each quota year, all applicants must submit form FAS 923 (rev. 7-96). This

form requires applicants to: (1) Certify they are either an importer, manufacturer or exporter of certain dairy products; (2) certify they meet the eligibility requirements of § 6.23 of the Regulation; and (3) submit documentation required by § 6.23 and § 6.24 as proof of eligibility for import licenses. Applicants for non-historical licenses must also submit form FAS 923-A (rev. 7-96) (cheese) and/or FAS 923-B (rev. 7-96) (non-cheese dairy products). This form requires applicants to request licenses in descending order of preference for specific products and countries listed on the form.

After licenses are issued, § 6.26 requires licensees to surrender by October 1 on form FAS 924-A, License Surrender Form, any license amount that a licensee does not intend to enter that year. These amounts are reallocated, to the extent practicable, to existing licensees for the remainder of that year based on requests submitted on form FAS 924-B, Application for Additional License Amounts. Form 924A and 924B requires the licensee to complete a scannable table listing the surrendered amount by license number, or listing the additional amounts requested by dairy article, supplying country and amount requested, in descending order of preference.

The estimated total annual burden of 270 hours in the OMB inventory for the currently approved information collection will be increased by 156 hours to 426 hours. The estimated public reporting burden for this collection of currently approved FAS 923, FAS 923-A, and 923-B (one form) (rev. 7-96) is estimated to average 405 hours; and FAS 924-A and FAS 924-B (one form) is 21 hours. The estimated increase in burden hours is based on an increase in the number of respondents which has primarily resulted from the growing domestic interest in importing cheeses.

Estimate of burden: The average burden, including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering data needed, completing forms, and record keeping is estimated at .75 hour for form FAS 923, 923-A, 923-B (rev. 7-96) and .15 hour for form 924-A, 924-B.

Respondents: Importers and manufacturers of cheese and non-cheese dairy products, and exporters of non-cheese dairy products.

Estimated number of respondents: 540 for form FAS 923, 923-A, 923-B (rev. 7-96) and 140 for form 924-A, 924-B (rev. 7-96).

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden: 426 hours.