

Notices

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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

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 98-090-4]

Recognition of Animal Disease Status of Regions in the European Union; Availability of Environmental Assessments and Request for Comments

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of availability and request for comments.

SUMMARY: We are informing the public that the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has prepared two environmental assessments for a proposal to do the following: (1) Recognize a region in the European Union as a region in which hog cholera (classical swine fever) is not known to exist, and from which breeding swine, swine semen, and pork and pork products may be imported into the United States under certain conditions; and (2) recognize Greece and certain Regions in Italy as free of swine vesicular disease. The environmental assessments document our review and analysis of environmental impacts associated with the proposal. We are making these environmental assessments available to the public for review and comment.

DATES: We invite you to comment on the environmental assessments. We will consider all comments that we receive on or before January 21, 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. 98-090-4, 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. 98-090-4. If you use 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. 98-090-4" 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>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Gary Colgrove, Assistant Director, Sanitary Trade Issues Team, VS, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 38, Riverdale, MD 20737-1231; (301) 734-8364.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of the United States Department of Agriculture regulates the importation of animals and animal products into the United States to guard against the introduction of animal diseases not currently present or prevalent in this country. The regulations pertaining to the importation of animals and animal products are set forth in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), title 9, chapter I, subchapter D (9 CFR parts 91 through 99).

On June 25, 1999, we published in the **Federal Register** (64 FR 34155-34168, Docket No. 98-090-1) a proposal to amend the regulations by recognizing—with the exception of specified areas in Germany and Italy—the countries of Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, and Spain as a region in which hog cholera (classical swine fever (CSF)) is not known to exist, and from which breeding swine, swine

semen, and pork and pork products may be imported into the United States under certain conditions.

We also proposed to add Greece and eight Regions in northern Italy to the list of regions recognized as free of swine vesicular disease (SVD). Additionally, we proposed to add Greece and the eight Regions in Italy to the list of SVD-free regions whose exports of pork and pork products to the United States are subject to certain restrictions because those regions either supplement their national pork supply with fresh (chilled or frozen) meat of animals from a region where SVD is considered to exist, have a common border with such regions, or conduct certain trade practices that are less restrictive than are acceptable to the United States.

In our proposed rule, we stated that we were preparing an environmental assessment in accordance with: (1) The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), (2) regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality for implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA (40 CFR parts 1500-1508), (3) USDA regulations implementing NEPA (7 CFR part 1b), and (4) APHIS' NEPA Implementing Procedures (7 CFR part 372). We also stated that when the environmental assessment was completed, we would inform the public through a notice in the **Federal Register** that it was available.

This notice announces the availability of two environmental assessments for public review and comment. They are titled "Proposed Rule for Importation of Live Swine, Swine Semen, and Pork and Pork Products from Certain Regions Within the European Union, Environmental Assessment," dated October 2002; and "Proposed Rule for Importation of Pork and Pork Products from Greece and Certain Regions of Italy, Environmental Assessment," also dated October 2002. The environmental assessments do not take into consideration any regions that had an outbreak of either CSF or SVD following publication of the June 1999 proposed rule and for which, consequently, import restrictions due to CSF or SVD would not be removed.

The environmental assessments may be viewed on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppd/es/vsdocs.html>. You may request paper copies of the environmental assessments

from the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. Please refer to the title of the environmental assessments when requesting copies. The environmental assessments are also available for review in our reading room (the location and hours of the reading room are listed under the heading **ADDRESSES** at the beginning of this notice).

Done in Washington, DC, this 16th day of December 2002.

Peter Fernandez,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 02-32059 Filed 12-19-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 02-118-1]

General Conference Committee of the National Poultry Improvement Plan; Meeting

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: We are giving notice of a meeting of the General Conference Committee of the National Poultry Improvement Plan.

DATES: The General Conference Committee will meet on January 22, 2003, from 1:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Georgia World Congress Center, Building B, Room 408, 285 Andrew Young International Boulevard, NW., Atlanta, GA.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Andrew R. Rhorer, Senior Coordinator, Poultry Improvement Staff, National Poultry Improvement Plan, VS, APHIS, 1498 Klondike Road, Suite 200, Conyers, GA 30094-5104; (770) 922-3496.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The General Conference Committee (the Committee) of the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP), representing cooperating State agencies and poultry industry members, serves an essential function by acting as liaison between the poultry industry and the Department in matters pertaining to poultry health.

The topic of discussion at the meeting will be the development of a low pathogenic avian influenza surveillance program for the commercial table egg, broiler, and turkey industries.

The meeting will be open to the public. However, due to time

constraints, the public will not be allowed to participate in the discussions during the meeting. Written statements on meeting topics may be filed with the Committee before or after the meeting by sending them to the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. Written statements may also be filed at the meeting. Please refer to Docket No. 02-118-1 when submitting your statements.

This notice of meeting is given pursuant to section 10 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

Done in Washington, DC, this 17th day of December, 2002.

Peter Fernandez,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 02-32058 Filed 12-19-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Commodity Credit Corporation

Notice of Request for Extension and Revision of Currently Approved Information Collections

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 Commodity Credit Corporation's (CCC) intention to request and extension for, and revision to, currently approved information collections in support of the Foreign Market Development Cooperation (Cooperator) Program and the Market Access Program (MAP) based on re-estimates.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by February 18, 2003.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS: Contact Director, Marketing Operations Staff, Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-1042, (202) 720-4327.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Foreign Market Development Cooperator Program and Market Access Program.

OMB Number: 0551-26 and 0551-0027, respectively. These will be combined into OMB Number 0551-0026 if this request is approved.

Expiration Date of Approval: March 31, 2003, for the Foreign Market Development Cooperator Program and June 30, 2003, for the Market Access Program.

Type of Request: Extension and revision of currently approved information collections, with change to combine 0551-0026 (Foreign Market Development Cooperator Program) and 0551-0027 (Market Access Program).

Abstract: The primary objective of the Foreign Market Development Cooperator Program and the Market Access Program is to encourage and aid in the creation, maintenance and expansion of commercial export markets for U.S. agricultural products through cost-share assistance to eligible trade organizations. The programs are a cooperative effort between CCC and the eligible trade organizations. Currently, there are about 70 organizations participating directly in the programs with activities in more than 100 countries.

Prior to initiating program activities, each Cooperator or MAP participant must submit a detailed application to Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) which includes an assessment of overseas market potential; market or country strategies, constraints, goals and benchmarks; proposed market development activities; estimated budgets; and performance measurements. Prior years' plans often dictate the content of current year plans because many activities are continuations of previous activities. Each Cooperator or MAP participant is also responsible for submitting: (1) Reimbursement claims for approved costs incurred in carrying out approved activities, (2) an end-of-year contribution report, (3) travel reports, and (4) progress reports/evaluation studies. Cooperators, or MAP participants must maintain records on all information submitted to FAS. The information collected is used by FAS to manage, plan, evaluate and account for Government resources. The reports and records are required to ensure the proper and judicious use of public funds.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 21 hours per response.

Respondents: Non-profit trade organizations, state groups, cooperatives, and commercial entities.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 71.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 62.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 91,442 hours.

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