

Agriculture, Stop 0515, P.O. Box 2415, Washington, DC 20013-2415, or call (202) 720-8841.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The 1996 Act requires that a special import quota for upland cotton be determined and announced immediately if, for any consecutive 10-week period, the Friday through Thursday average price quotation for the lowest-priced U.S. growth, as quoted for Middling 1³/₃₂ inch cotton, C.I.F. northern Europe (U.S. Northern Europe price), adjusted for the value of any cotton user marketing certificates issued, exceeds the Northern Europe price by more than 1.25 cents per pound. This condition was met during the consecutive 10-week period that ended February 6, 1997. Therefore, a quota referenced as the Secretary of Agriculture's Special Cotton Import Quota Announcement Number 10, effective May 1, 1997, is hereby established.

Previously there were only 20 subheadings available for designating upland cotton special import quotas in subchapter III of chapter 99 of the HTS. Therefore, at most, only 20 such quotas could be in effect at one time and any additional quota which had been triggered could not become effective until the earliest of the 20 quotas ended. However, Presidential Proclamation 6948 dated October 29, 1996, added six new HTS subheadings for quotas—21 through 26. A maximum of 26 quotas may now be in effect at one time.

To be effective as soon as possible, Quota 10 is established as of May 1, 1997, and applies to upland cotton purchased not later than July 29, 1997, and entered into the United States not later than October 27, 1997. The quota amount, 45,099,152 kilograms (99,426,691 pounds), is equal to 1 week's consumption of upland cotton by domestic mills at the seasonally-adjusted average rate of the most recent 3 months for which data are available—October 1996 through December 1996. The special import quota identifies a quantity of imports that is not subject to the over-quota tariff rate of a tariff-rate quota. The quota is not divided by staple length or by country of origin. The quota does not affect existing tariff rates or phytosanitary regulations. The quota does not apply to Extra Long Staple cotton.

Authority: Sec. 136, Pub. L. 104-127 and U.S. Note 6(a), Subchapter III, Chapter 99 of the HTS.

Signed at Washington, D.C., on March 18, 1997.

Dan Glickman,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-7412 Filed 3-24-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-05-P

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 97-026-1]

Availability of an Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: We are advising the public that an environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact have been prepared by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service relative to the review of an application for a permit to allow the release into the environment of a nonindigenous biological control agent. The environmental assessment provides a basis for our conclusion that the release into the environment of the biological control agent will not present a risk of introducing plant pests into the United States or disseminating plant pests within the United States and will not have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment. Based on its finding of no significant impact, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has determined that an environmental impact statement need not be prepared.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact are available for public inspection at USDA, room 1141, South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Persons wishing to inspect those documents are requested to call ahead on (202) 690-2817 to facilitate entry into the reading room.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Ronald D. Hennessey, Entomologist, Biological Assessment and Taxonomic Support, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road, Unit 133, Riverdale, MD 20737-1236,

(301) 734-7839; or E-mail: rhenness@aphis.usda.gov. For copies of the environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact, write to Ms. Deborah Knott at the same address. Please refer to the title of the environmental assessment when ordering copies.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the Federal Plant Pest Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 150aa *et seq.*), and the Plant Quarantine Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 151 *et seq.*) (the Acts), the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has broad authority to regulate the importation, interstate movement, and release into the environment of organisms in order to prevent the dissemination of plant pests into the United States or interstate. The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) regulates plant pests under regulations promulgated pursuant to the Acts and contained in 7 CFR part 330 (referred to below as the regulations). The regulations require, among other things, that a permit be obtained for the movement of a plant pest into or through the United States or interstate. The regulations and Acts also allow the Department to include in the permit conditions to prevent the dissemination of plant pests.

Under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), APHIS typically prepares an environmental assessment before issuing a permit for the release in the United States of nonindigenous organisms.

In accordance with applicable regulations, APHIS has received an application for a permit for the release into the environment of a nonindigenous biological control agent. In the course of reviewing the permit application, APHIS assessed the plant pest risk posed by the organism and the impact on the environment of releasing the organism under the conditions described in the permit application. To provide the public with documentation of APHIS' review and analysis of the environmental impact and plant pest risk associated with releasing the biological control agent into the environment, we have prepared an environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact relative to the issuance of a permit for the release into the environment of the following biological control agent:

Organism	Title of environmental assessment	Date of finding of no significant impact
<i>Psylliodes chalconera</i> (Illiger)	"Field Release of <i>Psylliodes chalconera</i> (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae), a Nonindigenous Leaf Beetle for Biological Control of Musk Thistle, <i>Carduus nutans</i> (Asteraceae)" (March 1997).	3/7/97

The environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact have been prepared in accordance with: (1) NEPA, (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).

Done in Washington, DC, this 18th day of March 1997.

Terry L. Medley,

Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 97–7382 Filed 3–24–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–34–P

Food and Consumer Service

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request—Study of the Implementation of the School Meals Initiative for Healthy Children

AGENCY: Food and Consumer Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Food and Consumer Service's intention to request Office of Management and Budget approval of the Study of the Implementation of the School Meals Initiative for Healthy Children.

DATES: Written comments on this notice must be received by May 27, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Comments are invited on: (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, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (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 appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection

techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to: Michael E. Fishman, Acting Director, Office of Analysis and Evaluation, Food and Consumer Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, VA 22302.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for additional information or copies of the proposed information collection forms should be directed to Michael E. Fishman, (703) 305–2117.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: The Study of the Implementation of the School Meals Initiative for Healthy Children.

OMB Number: Not yet assigned.

Expiration Date: N/A.

Type of Request: New collection of information.

Abstract: The Study of the Implementation of the School Meals Initiative (SMI) for Healthy Children is a three-year study designed to collect information needed to address current policy issues including those associated with the School Meals Initiative for Healthy Children and Team Nutrition. A major part of this study is intended to provide the Food and Consumer Service (FCS) with descriptive data on the status of School Food Authorities' (SFAs) implementation of the School Meals Initiative for Healthy Children and the changes that have occurred in the food service operations as a result of implementing this new regulation. FCS will examine trends in SMI implementation and characteristics of SFAs implementing certain elements of SMI and Team Nutrition.

A nationally representative sample of approximately 1,750 public school districts will be selected to participate in a three-year longitudinal survey beginning in School Year 1997–98. Data will be collected from the SFA directors using a mixed mode approach of mail/telephone surveys. The study combines elements of longitudinal research and cross-sectional surveys. A brief telephone survey of all State Child Nutrition Directors will be included

each year. On-site data collection activities to supplement the primary data collection efforts have been included as contract options in the second and third years should an issue need to be examined that requires direct observation or in-depth interviewing at the SFA or school level. However, this request for OMB approval is for the first year data collection instrumentation only. Separate OMB packages will be submitted for data collection instruments in the second and third years.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden is estimated to range between 45 and 60 minutes for School Food Service Authority directors; and range between 20 and 30 minutes for State Child Nutrition directors;

Respondents: State Child Nutrition directors will be asked to confirm contact names, addresses and telephone numbers of selected SFAs and respond to a brief telephone survey. SFA directors will be asked to respond to a self-administered mail survey with telephone follow-up.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 50 State Child Nutrition directors, 1,750 SFA directors.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: One.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 1,775 hours.

Dated: March 19, 1997.

William E. Ludwig,

Administrator, Food and Consumer Service.

[FR Doc. 97–7516 Filed 3–24–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–30–P

Food Stamp Program, Regulatory Review: Food Stamp Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) Systems—Interoperability

AGENCY: Food and Consumer Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice: Request for Information.

SUMMARY: The Department is reviewing policy and seeking information related to interoperable food stamp EBT systems. In particular, the Department is asking for information on the costs and transaction fees that are now or may in the future be associated with food stamp EBT interoperability, as well as any