

notification acknowledged before a regulated article may be introduced into the United States. The regulations set forth the permit application requirements and the notification procedures for the importation, interstate movement, and release into the environment of a regulated article.

In the course of reviewing the permit application, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) assessed the impact on the environment

that releasing the organisms under the conditions described in the permit application would have. APHIS has issued a permit for the field testing of the organisms listed below after concluding that the organisms will not present a risk of plant pest introduction or dissemination and will not have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment. The environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact, which is based

on data submitted by the applicant and on a review of other relevant literature, provides the public with documentation of APHIS' review and analysis of the environmental impacts associated with conducting the field test.

An environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact has been prepared by APHIS relative to the issuance of a permit to allow the field testing of the following genetically engineered organisms:

Permit No.	Permittee	Date issued	Organisms	Field test location
97-301-01r .....	ProdiGene, Inc .....	1-30-98	Tomato plants genetically engineered to express a novel protein of pharmaceutical interest.	Texas.

The environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact has been prepared 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).

Done in Washington, DC, this 11th day of March 1998.

**Craig A. Reed,**

*Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.*

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BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

encouraged to attend. Members of the public who wish to make a brief oral presentation at the meeting should contact Larry Hartmann, BMNRI, 1401 Gekeler Lane, La Grande, Oregon 97850, 541-962-6537, no later than 5:00 p.m. April 17, 1998, to have time reserved on the agenda.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Direct questions regarding this meeting to Larry Hartmann, Manager, BMNRI, 1401 Gekeler Lane, La Grande, Oregon 97850, 541-962-6537.

Dated: March 10, 1998.

**Lawrence A. Hartmann,**

*Manager.*

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local organizations; will share information and ideas about Committee members' assignments; will continue discussions on the scientific principles underlying land and resource management; and will conduct any other Committee business that may arise. The meetings are open to the public and opportunities for the public to address the Committee will be provided.

**DATES:** The Boston meeting will be held March 31-April 1, 1998, and the Albuquerque meeting will be held April 14-15, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** The Boston meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn Select, Government Center, 5 Blossom Street at Cambridge Street, Boston, Massachusetts. The Albuquerque meeting will be held at the Sheraton Hotel Old Town, 800 Rio Grande NW, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Written comments on improving land and resource management planning may be sent to the Committee of Scientists, P.O. Box 2140, Corvallis, OR 97339. Also, the Committee may be accessed via the Internet at [www.cof.orst.edu/org/scicomm/](http://www.cof.orst.edu/org/scicomm/).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Bob Cunningham, Designated Federal Official to the Committee of Scientists, telephone: 202-205-2494.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Boston meeting to discuss planning issues concerning the National Forests in the Eastern Region will begin at 9 a.m. and end at 7 p.m. on March 31. On April 1, the meeting will begin at 8 a.m. and end at 4 p.m. Citizens may address the Committee on March 31, beginning at 4 p.m., to present ideas on how to improve National Forest System land and resource management planning.

The Albuquerque meeting to discuss planning issues concerning the Southwestern Region will begin at 9

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Blue Mountains Natural Resources Institute, Board of Directors, Pacific Northwest Research Station, Oregon

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Blue Mountains Natural Resources Institute (BMNRI) Board of Directors will meet on April 24, 1998, at Agriculture Service Center Conference Room, 10507 N. McAlister Road, La Grande, Oregon. The meeting will begin at 9 a.m. and continue until 3:30 p.m. Agenda items to be covered will include: (1) Program status; (2) research results of specific projects; (3) outreach activities; (4) report on Initiatives; (5) presentations by guest speakers; (6) forum for issues discussion; (7) public comments. All BMNRI Board Meetings are open to the public. Interested citizens are

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Committee of Scientists Meetings

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of meetings.

**SUMMARY:** The Committee of Scientists is holding its next two meetings on March 31-April 1, 1998, in Boston, Massachusetts and on April 14-15, 1998, in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The purpose of the Boston meeting is to discuss planning issues concerning the National Forests in the Eastern Region (Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wisconsin). The purpose of the Albuquerque meeting is to discuss planning issues concerning the Southwestern Region (New Mexico and Arizona). The Committee will meet with representatives from federal, state, and

a.m. and end at 7 p.m. on April 14. On April 15, the meeting will begin at 8 a.m. and end at 4 p.m. Citizens may address the Committee on April 14, beginning at 4 p.m., to present ideas on how to improve National Forest System land and resource management planning.

Citizens who wish to speak at either meeting must register at that meeting before 5 p.m. Each speaker will be limited to a maximum of 5 minutes. Persons may also submit written suggestions to the Committee at either meeting or may mail suggestions to the addresses listed under the **ADDRESSES** heading.

The Committee of Scientists is chartered to provide scientific and technical advice to the Secretary of Agriculture and the Chief of the Forest Service on improvements that can be made to the National Forest System land and resource management planning process (62 FR 43691; August 15, 1997). Notice of the names of the appointed Committee members was published December 16, 1997 (62 FR 65795). Agendas and locations for future meetings will be published as separate notices in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: March 11, 1998.

**Gloria Manning,**

*Acting Deputy Chief for National Forest System.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### National Agricultural Statistics Service

#### Intent To Request Approval of an Information Collection

**AGENCY:** National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. No. 104-13) and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations at 5 CFR Part 1320 (60 FR 44978, August 29, 1995), this notice announces the National Agricultural Statistics Service's (NASS) intention to request approval for a new information collection, the 1998 Census of Horticultural Specialties.

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received by May 22, 1998 to be assured of consideration.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS:** Contact Rich Allen, Associate Administrator, National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of

Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Room 4117, South Building, Washington, D.C. 20250-2000, (202) 720-4333.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

**Title:** 1998 Census of Horticultural Specialties.

**Type of Request:** The 1998 Census of Horticultural Specialties, authorized by the Census of Agriculture Act of 1997 (Pub. L. No. 105-113), will include all operations in each State that produced and sold \$10,000 or more of horticultural specialty crops during 1998. The horticulture census will provide data on the number of farms, production and sales by type of plant, area in production, selected production expenses, hired workers, and value of land and equipment. Census data are used by the growers, their representatives, the government, and many other groups of people concerned with the horticulture industry. The census will provide detailed data on the production of specialty horticultural crops for each State. Results from the census will be used to evaluate new programs, disburse Federal funds, analyze market trends, and measure performance across States. The horticulture census will provide the only source of dependable, comparable data by State. The National Agricultural Statistics Service will use the information collected only for statistical purposes and will publish the data only as tabulated totals.

**Estimate of Burden:** Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 66 minutes per response.

**Respondents:** Farms.

**Estimated Number of Respondents:** 36,000.

**Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:** 39,600 hours.

Copies of this information collection and related instructions can be obtained without charge from Larry Gambrell, the Agency OMB Clearance Officer, at (202) 720-5778.

**Comments:** 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, such as through the use of appropriate

automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to: Larry Gambrell, Agency OMB Clearance Officer, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Room 4162, South Building, Washington, D.C. 20250-2000. 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, D.C., March 3, 1998.

**Donald M. Bay,**

*Administrator, National Agricultural Statistics Service.*

[FR Doc. 98-6941 Filed 3-17-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-20-P

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### National Agricultural Statistics Service

#### Intent To Request Approval of an Information Collection

**AGENCY:** National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. No. 104-13) and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations at 5 CFR Part 1320 (60 FR 44978, August 29, 1995), this notice announces the National Agricultural Statistics Service's (NASS) intention to request approval for a new information collection, the 1998 Farm and Ranch Irrigation Survey.

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received by May 22, 1998 to be assured of consideration.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS:** Contact Rich Allen, Associate Administrator, National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Room 4117 South Building, Washington, D.C. 20250-2000, (202) 720-4333.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

**Title:** 1998 Farm and Ranch Irrigation Survey.

**Type of Request:** The 1998 Farm and Ranch Irrigation Survey, authorized by the Census of Agriculture Act of 1997 (Pub. L. No. 105-113), will include a probability sample of farms reporting irrigation in the 1997 Census of Agriculture. This irrigation survey will provide detailed data relating to on-farm irrigation practices including acres irrigated by category of land use, acres and yields of irrigated and non-irrigated