

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

Office of the Secretary

Notice of Solicitation for Membership to the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board

AGENCY: Research, Education, and Economics, USDA.

ACTION: Solicitation for membership.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. app., the United States Department of Agriculture announces the appointments to the 10 vacancies on the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board.

DATES: Appointments are for a 3-year term, effective from October 1, 2000, until September 30, 2003 (pending reauthorization of the Advisory Board beyond September 30, 2002, Pub. L. 104-127, Sec. 802).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 802 of the Federal Agricultural Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (The Farm Bill) authorized the creation of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board. The Board is composed of 30 members, each representing a specific category related to farming or ranching, food production and processing, forestry research, crop and animal science, land-grant institutions, food retailing and marketing, rural economic development, and natural resource and consumer interest groups, among many others. The Board was first appointed in September 1996 and one-third of the 30 members were appointed for a 1, 2, and 3-year term, respectively.

As a result of the staggered appointments, the terms for 10 of the 30 members who represent 10 specific categories expired September 30, 2000. The Secretary of Agriculture made 3-year appointments for all 10 of the

vacant categories. Appointees by category of the 10 new members are as follows: Representing Category A, National Farm Organization, Ronald R. Warfield, President of the Illinois Farm Bureau and Director of the American Farm Bureau Federation Executive Committee, was reappointed to a second term, Bloomington, Illinois; Category C. Food Animal Commodity Producer, Patricia Blum, beef rancher for 40 years and past President of South Dakota Beef Industry Council, Reliance, South Dakota; Category F. National Crop Commodity Organization, Marc S. Curtis, National and State President of the American Soybean Association, and farmer of rice, wheat, corn and soybeans, Leland, Mississippi; Category K. National Human Health Association, Judith S. Stern, Professor, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Endocrinology, Clinical Nutrition and Vascular Medicine, University of California-Davis, California; Category P. Hispanic-Serving Institutions, John Cordova, President, South Mountain Community College, Maricopa Community College System, Phoenix, Arizona; Category Q. American Colleges of Veterinary Medicine, Oscar J. Fletcher, Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine and Professor of Farm Animal Health and Resource Management, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, North Carolina; Category S. Transportation of Food and Agricultural Products to Domestic and Foreign Markets, Emma Jean Cervantes, President of Cervantes Enterprises/Agribusiness, 35-year producer of chile peppers, cotton, alfalfa, vegetables, and pecans, La Mesa, New Mexico, previously appointed to a 1-year term and was reappointed to a full term; Category U. Food and Fiber Processors, John Rogers Farquharson, President of the International Food Safety Council, and Executive Emeritus, ARAMARK Corporation, Sewell, New Jersey, was reappointed to a second term; Category Z. Private Sector Organization involved in International Development, Shirley Dunlap Bowser, a diversified family farmer, engaged in the international dimension of agriculture, and Chair of W.K. Kellogg Foundation Board, Williamsport, Ohio; and Category CC. National Social Science Association, Jean Clarkson-Frisbie, Pratt County Extension Agent, Family and Consumer Sciences & R-H and Youth, Cooperative

Extension Service, Kansas State University, Pratt, Kansas. Appointees term will begin on October 1, 2000 and end September 30, 2003 (pending reauthorization of the Advisory Board beyond September 30, 2002). They will actively participate in their first meeting October 16-18, 2000, beginning at 9 a.m. October 16-17 and from 8 a.m.-12 noon October 18, at the Loew's L'Enfant Plaza Hotel, Ballroom A, Section A, 480 L'Enfant Plaza, SW., Washington, DC.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Deborah Hanfman, Executive Director, National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board, Research, Education, and Economics Advisory Board Office, and Economics Advisory Board Office, Room 344A, Jamie L. Whitten Building, U.S. Department of Agriculture, STOP: 2255, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-2255. Telephone: 202-720-3684. Fax: 202-720-6199, or e-mail: lshea@reeusda.gov.

Eileen Kennedy,

Deputy Under Secretary, Research, Education, and Economics.

[FR Doc. 00-26650 Filed 10-16-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Research Service

Notice of Federal Invention Available for Licensing and Intent To Grant Exclusive License

AGENCY: Agricultural Research Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of availability and intent.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the table grape variety designated "Summer Royal" is available for licensing and that the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service, intends to grant to the California Table Grape Commission of Fresno, California, an exclusive license to this variety in selected countries outside the United States where breeder's rights are available.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before January 16, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to: USDA, ARS, Office of Technology Transfer, 5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Rm. 4-1158, Beltsville, Maryland 20705-5131.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: June Blalock of the Office of Technology

Transfer at the Beltsville address given above; telephone: 301-504-5257.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Federal Government's intellectual property rights to this invention are assigned to the United States of America, as represented by the Secretary of Agriculture. It is in the public interest to so license this invention as the California Table Grape Commission has submitted a complete and sufficient application for a license. The prospective exclusive license will be royalty-bearing and will comply with the terms and conditions of 35 U.S.C. 209 and 37 CFR 404.7. The prospective exclusive license may be granted unless, within ninety (90) days from the date of this published Notice, the Agricultural Research Service receives written evidence and argument which establishes that the grant of the license would not be consistent with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 209 and 37 CFR 404.7.

Richard M. Parry, Jr.,

Assistant Administrator.

[FR Doc. 00-26651 Filed 10-16-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 98-057-2]

Availability of Draft Pest Risk Assessment for the Importation of Solid Wood Packing Materials Into the United States

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: We are advising the public that a draft pest risk assessment has been prepared by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service for the importation of solid wood packing materials into the United States. We are making this draft pest risk assessment available to the public for review and comment.

DATES: We invite you to comment on the draft pest risk assessment. We will consider all comments that we receive by February 15, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Please send your comment and three copies to: Docket No. 98-057-2, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Suite 3C03, 4700 River Road, Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238

Please state that your comment refers to Docket No. 98-057-2.

You may also file comments on this docket electronically, and review comments filed electronically, at the World Wide Web site <http://comments.aphis.usda.gov>.

A copy of the draft pest risk assessment, and any comments that we receive on it, may be reviewed 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.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Judith E. Pasek, Center for Plant Health Science and Technology, PPQ, APHIS, 1017 Main Campus Drive, Suite 2500, Raleigh, NC 27606-5202; (919) 513-2400.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is considering amending the regulations on the importation of logs, lumber, and other unmanufactured wood articles to decrease the risk of solid wood packing material (e.g., crates, dunnage, wooden spools, pallets, packing blocks) introducing exotic plant pests into the United States. The regulations in 7 CFR 319.40-1 through 319.40-11 (referred to below as the regulations) are intended to mitigate the plant pest risk presented by the importation of logs, lumber, and other unmanufactured wood articles, including solid wood packing material (SWPM). Introductions into the United States of exotic plant pests such as the pine shoot beetle and the Asian longhorned beetle have been linked to the importation of SWPM. These and other plant pests that could be carried by imported SWPM pose a serious threat to U.S. agriculture and to natural, cultivated, and urban forests.

On January 20, 1999, we published an advance notice of proposed rulemaking in the **Federal Register** (64 FR 3049-3052, Docket No. 98-057-1) to seek information and develop regulatory options on the general problem of plant pests in SWPM imported from any country. In the notice, we requested public comment on what actions would be most effective and appropriate to further reduce the risk of SWPM introducing exotic plant pests into the United States. We received 102

comments in response to the advance notice of proposed rulemaking.

To evaluate the risks associated with the importation of solid wood packing materials so that we can propose regulations that are consistent with those risks, we have prepared a draft pest risk assessment entitled "Pest Risk Assessment for the Importation of Solid Wood Packing Materials Into the United States."

The specific objectives of this pest risk assessment are to:

- Describe the means by which pests could potentially be transported via SWPM (*i.e.*, pathways);
- Assess the potential for insect and pathogenic pests that may be transported with SWPM to enter the United States and become established; and
- Estimate the potential economic and environmental consequences these pests may have on forest and tree resources if they become established in the United States.

We are making this draft pest risk assessment available to the public for review and comment. In particular, we request feedback on the risk factors, methodology, and documentation used in the draft pest risk assessment. We will consider all comments that we receive by the date listed under the heading **DATES** at the beginning of this notice.

The draft pest risk assessment is available in our reading room (information on the location and hours of the reading room is listed under the heading **ADDRESSES** at the beginning of this notice) or on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/pr/swpm>. You may also request that a copy be mailed to you by registering at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/pr/swpm> or by contacting the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. If you request that a copy be mailed to you, please specify whether you desire a printed copy or a copy on compact disk.

Authority: Title IV, Pub. L. 106-224, 114 Stat. 438, 7 U.S.C. 7701-7772; 7 U.S.C. 166 and 450; 7 CFR 2.22, 2.80, and 371.3.

Done in Washington, DC, this 11th day of October 2000.

Craig A. Reed,

Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 00-26652 Filed 10-16-00; 8:45 am]

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