

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

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Docket No. TB-03-01]

Burley Tobacco Advisory Committee—Notice of Reestablishment of Committee

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of reestablishment of committee.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Secretary of Agriculture has reestablished the Burley Tobacco Advisory Committee for an additional period of 2 years.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John P. Duncan III, Deputy Administrator, Tobacco Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), STOP 0280, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-0280; telephone number (202) 205-0567.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Committee, which reports to the Secretary through the Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, recommends opening dates and selling schedules for the burley tobacco marketing areas which aid the Secretary in making an equitable apportionment and assignment of tobacco inspectors. The Committee consists of 39 members; 21 producer representatives, 10 receiving station/auction warehouse representatives, and 8 buyer representatives, representing all segments of the burley tobacco industry and meets at the call of the Secretary. The Secretary has determined that reestablishment of this Committee is in the public interest.

To ensure that recommendations of the Committee take into account the needs of diverse groups served by USDA, membership should include, to

the extent practicable, persons with demonstrated ability to represent minorities, women, and persons with disabilities.

This notice is given in compliance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.).

Dated: May 6, 2003.

Bill Hawks,

Under Secretary, Marketing and Regulatory Program.

[FR Doc. 03-11705 Filed 5-9-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Docket No. TB-03-05]

Flue-Cured Tobacco Advisory Committee—Notice of Reestablishment of Committee

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of reestablishment of committee.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Secretary of Agriculture has reestablished the Flue-Cured Tobacco Advisory Committee for an additional period of 2 years.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John P. Duncan III, Deputy Administrator, Tobacco Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), STOP 0280, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-0280; telephone number (202) 205-0567.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Committee, which reports to the Secretary through the Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, recommends opening dates and selling schedules for the flue-cured tobacco marketing areas which aid the Secretary in making an equitable apportionment and assignment of tobacco inspectors. The Committee consists of 12 producer representatives, 7 buyer representatives, 1 auction warehouse representative, and 1 marketing center representative, representing all segments of the flue-cured tobacco industry and meets at the call of the Secretary. The Secretary has determined that reestablishment of this Committee is in the public interest.

To ensure that recommendations of the Committee take into account the needs of diverse groups served by USDA, membership should include, to the extent practicable, persons with demonstrated ability to represent minorities, women, and persons with disabilities.

This notice is given in compliance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.).

Dated: May 6, 2003.

Bill Hawks,

Under Secretary, Marketing and Regulatory Programs.

[FR Doc. 03-11706 Filed 5-9-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 03-012-1]

Animal Welfare; Animal Fighting Venture Prohibition

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 amended section 26 of the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) by adding specific provisions regarding the sale, purchase, transportation, delivery, or receipt of live birds in commerce for participation in animal fighting ventures in States where the practice is permitted by law. The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service is publishing this notice in order to increase the public visibility of these additional AWA provisions regarding animal fighting venture prohibitions.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Jerry DePoyster, Senior Veterinary Medical Officer, Animal Care, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 84, Riverdale, MD 20737-1234; (301) 734-7586.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. 2131 *et seq.*, referred to below as the AWA) authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to promulgate standards and other requirements governing the humane handling, care, treatment, and transportation of certain animals by

dealers, research facilities, exhibitors, carriers and intermediate handlers. The Secretary has delegated responsibility for administering the AWA to the Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). Within APHIS, the responsibility for administration of the AWA has been delegated to Animal Care. Regulations established under the AWA are contained in 9 CFR chapter 1, subchapter A, parts 1, 2, 3, and 4. Part 1 contains definitions for terms used in parts 2, 3, and 4; part 2 contains general requirements for regulated parties; part 3 contains specific requirements for the care and handling of certain animals; and part 4 contains rules of practice for the enforcement of the AWA.

Section 26 of the AWA (7 U.S.C. 2156) concerns animal fighting ventures. Paragraph (a) of that section has provided that "[i]t shall be unlawful for any person to knowingly sponsor or exhibit an animal in any animal fighting venture to which any animal was moved in interstate or foreign commerce." However, the Farm and Security Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Pub. L. 107-171, signed into law on May 13, 2002), revised paragraph (a) to read:

(a) SPONSORING OR EXHIBITING AN ANIMAL IN AN ANIMAL FIGHTING VENTURE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), it shall be unlawful for any person to knowingly sponsor or exhibit an animal in an animal fighting venture, if any animal in the venture was moved in interstate or foreign commerce.

(2) SPECIAL RULE FOR CERTAIN STATES.—With respect to fighting ventures involving live birds in a State where it would not be in violation of the law, it shall be unlawful under this subsection for a person to sponsor or exhibit a bird in the fighting venture only if the person knew that any bird in the fighting venture was knowingly bought, sold, delivered, transported, or received in interstate or foreign commerce for the purpose of participation in the fighting venture.

To increase the public visibility of these new AWA provisions, which are to become effective on May 13, 2003, APHIS is publishing this notice pursuant to its authority under the AWA.

Done in Washington, DC, this 6th day of May, 2003.

Peter Fernandez,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 03-11708 Filed 5-9-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Farm Service Agency

Commodity Credit Corporation

Information Collection; Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program

AGENCY: Farm Service Agency, USDA.

ACTION: Notice; request for comment.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Farm Service Agency and the Commodity Credit Corporation are seeking comments from all interested individuals and organizations on the extension of a currently approved information collection in support of the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP). The information collected is needed to determine eligibility to obtain NAP assistance.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before July 11, 2003 to be assured of consideration. Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

ADDRESSES: Comments concerning this notice should be addressed to John Newcomer, Program Specialist, Production, Emergencies and Compliance Division, Noninsured Assistance Program Branch, Farm Service Agency, USDA, Mail Stop 0517, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-0522 and to the Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503. Comments also may be submitted by e-mail to: John_Newcomer@usda.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Newcomer, Program Specialist, Noninsured Assistance Program Branch, (202) 720-5172.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Description of Information Collection

Title: Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program.

OMB Number: 0560-0175.

Expiration Date of Approval: September 30, 2003.

Type of Request: Extension with revision.

Abstract: The Noninsured Crop Assistance Program is authorized under 7 U.S.C. 7333 and implemented under regulations issued at 7 CFR part 1437. The NAP is administered under the general supervision of the Executive Vice-President of CCC (who also serves as Administrator, FSA), and is carried out by FSA State and County committees. The information collected allows CCC to provide assistance under

NAP for losses of commercial crops or other agricultural commodities (except livestock) for which catastrophic risk protection under 7 U.S.C. 1508 is not available, and that is produced for food or fiber. Additionally, NAP provides assistance for losses of floriculture, ornamental nursery, Christmas tree crops, turfgrass sod, seed crops, aquaculture (including ornamental fish), sea oats and sea grass, and industrial crops. The information collected is necessary to determine whether a producer and crop or commodity meet applicable conditions for assistance and to determine compliance with existing rules. Producers must annually: (1) Request NAP coverage by completing an application for coverage and paying a service fee by the CCC-established application closing date; (2) file a current crop-year report of acreage for the covered crop or commodity; and (3) certify production of each covered crop or commodity. When damage to a covered crop or commodity occurs, producers must file a notice of loss with the local FSA administrative county office within 15 calendar days of occurrence or 15 calendar days of the date damage to the crop or commodity becomes apparent. Producers must also file an application for payment and certification of income with the local FSA administrative county office.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this information collection is estimated to average 0.6 hours per response.

Type of Respondents: Producers of commercial crops or other agricultural commodities (except livestock).

Estimated Annual Number of Respondents: 497,000.

Estimated Annual Number of Responses per Respondent: 3.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 3,521,258.

Comment is invited on: (1) Whether this collection of information is necessary for the stated purposes and the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical or scientific utility; (2) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.