

Summary of Collection: The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) has been delegated the authority to exercise the functions of the Secretary as provided in the Federal Meat Inspection Act (FMIA) (21 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*) and the poultry Products Inspection Act (PPIA) (21 U.S.C. 451 *et seq.*) These statutes mandate that FSIS protect the public by ensuring that meat and poultry products are safe, wholesome, unadulterated, and properly labeled and packaged. A firm that has produced or imported meat or poultry that is adulterated or misbranded and is being distributed in commerce, may voluntarily recall the product in question. When a firm voluntarily recalls a product, FSIS will conduct a recall effectiveness check.

Need and Use of the Information: In conducting a recall, the establishment will be asked to provide FSIS with some basic information, including the identity of the recalled product, the reason for the recall, and information about the distributors and customers of the product. FSIS will check on the effectiveness of the recall to ensure that all products subject to recall are accounted for. FSIS field personnel will use FSIS form 8400-4 A to determine (1) if the retail consignee received notification of the recall and (2) the amount of recalled products received. FSIS field personnel will also use FSIS form 8400-4 B to verify that product held by the retail consignee was properly disposed.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit.

Number of Respondents: 3,060.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 3,700.

Ruth Brown,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. E9-5302 Filed 3-11-09; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS-2009-0003]

Notice of Request for Extension of Approval of an Information Collection; Importation of Tomatoes From Certain Central American Countries

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Extension of approval of an information collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's intention to request an extension of approval of an information collection associated with regulations for the importation of tomatoes from certain Central American countries.

DATES: We will consider all comments that we receive on or before May 11, 2009.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by either of the following methods:

- **Federal eRulemaking Portal:** Go to <http://www.regulations.gov/fdmspublic/component/main?main=DocketDetail&d=APHIS-2009-0003> to submit or view comments and to view supporting and related materials available electronically.

- **Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery:** Please send two copies of your comment to Docket No. APHIS-2009-0003, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3A-03.8, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238. Please state that your comment refers to Docket No. APHIS-2009-0003.

Reading Room: 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.

Other Information: Additional information about APHIS and its programs is available on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information on regulations for the importation of tomatoes from certain Central American countries, contact Ms. Donna L. West, Senior Import Specialist, Commodity Import Analysis and Operations, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 133 Riverdale, MD 20737; (301) 734-8758. For copies of more detailed information on the information collection, contact Mrs. Celeste Sickles, APHIS' Information Collection Coordinator, at (301) 851-2908.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Importation of Tomatoes from Certain Central American Countries.

OMB Number: 0579-0286.

Type of Request: Extension of approval of an information collection.

Abstract: The Plant Protection Act (PPA, 7 U.S.C. 7701 *et seq.*) authorizes

the Secretary of Agriculture to restrict the importation, entry, or interstate movement of plants, plant products, and other articles to prevent the introduction of plant pests into the United States or their dissemination within the United States. Regulations authorized by the PPA concerning the importation of fruits and vegetables into the United States from certain parts of the world are contained in "Subpart—Fruits and Vegetables" (7 CFR 319.56-1 through 319.56-48).

Under these regulations, pink or red tomatoes from Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama may be imported into the United States only under certain conditions to prevent the introduction of plant pests into the United States. The regulations require information collection activities, including phytosanitary certificates with an additional declaration statement, production site and packinghouse inspection records, monitoring and auditing of the trapping program, trapping records, and labeling of boxes.

We are asking the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve our use of these information collection activities for an additional 3 years.

The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public (as well as affected agencies) concerning our information collection. These comments will help us:

(1) Evaluate whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(2) Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the burden of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(3) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(4) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, through use, as appropriate, of automated, electronic, mechanical, and other collection technologies; *e.g.*, permitting electronic submission of responses.

Estimate of Burden: The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 0.0027516 hours per response.

Respondents: Importers and Central American national plant protection organizations and producers.

Estimated Annual Number of Responses: 24.

Estimated Annual Number of Responses per Respondent: 4,345.8333.

Estimated Annual Number of Responses: 104,300.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 287 hours. (Due to averaging, the total annual burden hours may not equal the product of the annual number of responses multiplied by the reporting burden per response.)

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.

Done in Washington, DC, this 6th day of March 2009.

Kevin Shea,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. E9-5371 Filed 3-11-09; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS-2009-0008]

Availability of an Environmental Assessment for a Biological Control Agent for Russian Knapweed

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of availability and request for comments.

SUMMARY: We are advising the public that the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has prepared an environmental assessment relative to the control of Russian knapweed, *Acroptilon repens*. The environmental assessment considers the effects of, and alternatives to, the release of a gall midge, *Jaapiella ivannikovi*, into the continental United States for use as a biological control agent to reduce the severity of Russian knapweed infestations. We are making the environmental assessment available to the public for review and comment.

DATES: We will consider all comments that we receive on or before April 13, 2009.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by either of the following methods:

- **Federal eRulemaking Portal:** Go to <http://www.regulations.gov/fdmspublic/component/main?main=DocketDetail&d=APHIS-2009-0008> to submit or view comments and to view supporting and related materials available electronically.

- **Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery:** Please send two copies of your comment to Docket No. APHIS-2009-0008, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3A-03.8, 4700

River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238. Please state that your comment refers to Docket No. APHIS-2009-0008.

Reading Room: You may read any comments that we receive on the environmental assessment 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.

Other Information: Additional information about APHIS and its programs is available on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. L. Carmen Soileau, Senior Staff Entomologist, Permits, Registrations, Imports, and Manuals, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 133, Riverdale, MD 20737-1237; (866) 524-5421.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is proposing to issue permits for the release of a gall midge, *Jaapiella ivannikovi*, into the continental United States for use as a biological control agent to reduce the severity of Russian knapweed (*Acroptilon repens*) infestations.

Russian knapweed is a long-lived perennial in the plant tribe Asteraceae (sunflower, aster, or daisy family). The highly invasive weed was first introduced into North America in 1898. By 1998, the weed had spread to 313 counties in 45 of the 48 contiguous States in the United States with 80 percent of the infestation occurring in the States of Colorado, Idaho, Washington, and Wyoming. Russian knapweed thrives in a variety of habitats and is found in both irrigated and arid environments and in croplands, pastures, rangelands, and wastelands. The weed is a strong competitor and produces a chemical substance that inhibits the growth of other plant species, and, as a result, dense (100-300 plants/square meter) infestations may develop. It is generally not used for forage because of its bitter taste and because it presents a risk of causing neurological disorders in horses if consumed. Additionally, it reduces wildlife habitats, suppresses other plants, and has no beneficial qualities.

Existing Russian knapweed management options are ineffective, expensive, and temporary and have

negative impacts on other species of plants. Therefore, APHIS is proposing to issue permits for the release of a gall midge, *J. ivannikovi*, into the continental United States for use as a biological control agent to reduce the severity of Russian knapweed infestations.

The proposed biological control agent, *J. ivannikovi*, is an insect measuring 1.6 to 2.5 mm in length with relatively large wings, long legs, and a long ovipositor (egg-laying organ) that can be extended from the tip of the abdomen. The female gall midge deposits its eggs on the surface of the buds situated on the tips of the main and side shoots of the Russian knapweed. Larval feeding causes stunted growth of the shoot and fusion of leaves, resulting in a so-called "rosette gall."

Host specificity laboratory tests conducted at the CABI Bioscience Centre in Deleémont, Switzerland, and open-field experiments in Uzbekistan indicate that *J. ivannikovi* is host-specific to Russian knapweed. The list of plants tested in the laboratory consisted of the target plant, Russian knapweed, collected in the native range (Uzbekistan), a population of Russian knapweed collected in North America (Wyoming), and 50 non-target plant species or varieties. During these tests, several male and female *J. ivannikovi* gall midges were placed into a plastic cylinder that covered each plant. After exposure, the plants were inspected for gall formation. In these laboratory tests, galls occurred only on the target weed Russian knapweed and on the Eurasian knapweed.

In addition to the laboratory tests, gall formation tests were conducted under open-field conditions in an experimental garden at the Institute of Zoology, Tashkent, Uzbekistan. Test plant species were either grown from seed or collected in the local area and transplanted to the experimental sites and were arranged with Russian knapweed in a randomized design. *J. ivannikovi* galls were collected locally over an approximate span of 2 years. In these tests, gall formation was recorded in large numbers on Russian knapweed but on no other test plant species, including the Eurasian knapweed.

APHIS' review and analysis of the proposed action are documented in detail in an environmental assessment (EA) entitled "Field Release of *Jaapiella ivannikovi* (Diptera: Cecidomyiidae), an Insect for Biological Control of Russian Knapweed (*Acroptilon repens*), in the Continental United States" (December 2008). We are making the EA available to the public for review and comment. We will consider all comments that we