

# 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

[Docket No. 96-016-2]

#### Declaration of Emergency Because of Karnal Bunt

An exotic fungal disease, Karnal bunt, has been detected in the United States. The disease was detected in Arizona, and potentially contaminated seed was sent to New Mexico and Texas. The disease had not previously been detected in the United States.

Karnal bunt (*Tilletia indica*) is a serious disease of wheat, durum wheat, and triticale, a hybrid of wheat and rye. The disease affects both yield and grain quality. It adversely affects the color, odor, and palatability of flour and other foodstuffs made from wheat. It does not present a risk to human health.

If Karnal bunt is allowed to spread, the overall crop loss and impact on quality may be significant. The disease could affect United States grain exports. The United States is the world's leading wheat exporter, accounting for one-third of the world wheat exports. Wheat exports from the United States were valued at \$4.9 billion in Fiscal Year 1995. At least 21 countries are known to regulate or prohibit grain movement on the basis of Karnal bunt.

Control and eradication of Karnal bunt is difficult. Management of the disease is through quarantine and containment of regulated articles. Initial emergency action was taken by the Arizona Department of Agriculture (ADA) and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). APHIS and ADA have instituted emergency quarantines on the infected premises and are regulating the movement of seed, farm equipment, and soil associated with the infected wheat.

To conduct a management and eradication program, funds are needed to conduct surveys, and establish regulatory controls and other activities

deemed necessary to protect wheat production areas and export markets. APHIS has insufficient funds to meet the needs of the proposed program. Once funded, APHIS can continue management programs in Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas, and regulate areas that have received infected seed, soil, and equipment to prevent further spread. Delimiting surveys are planned to determine the extent of the infection. A national survey of grain elevators and a survey of grain export elevators is planned to verify Karnal bunt-free areas and to ensure continuation of exports.

Therefore, in accordance with the provisions of the Act of September 25, 1981, 95 Stat. 953 (7 U.S.C. 147b), I declare that there is an emergency which threatens the wheat, durum wheat, and triticale crops of this country, and I authorize the transfer and use of such sums as may be necessary from appropriations or other funds available to agencies or corporations of the Department of Agriculture for the conduct of a program to detect and identify Karnal bunt infested areas, and to control and prevent the spread of Karnal bunt to noninfested areas in the United States, and to eradicate Karnal bunt wherever it may be found in the United States.

*Effective Date:* This declaration of emergency shall become effective March 26, 1996.

Dan Glickman,

*Secretary of Agriculture.*

[FR Doc. 96-7737 Filed 3-28-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

## Agricultural Research Service

### Notice of Intent To Grant Exclusive License

**AGENCY:** Agricultural Research Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that the United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service, intends to grant to Peterson Seed Company, Inc., of Savage, Minnesota, an exclusive license for ARS-2620, a new plant variety entitled "Rhizomatous Birdsfoot Trefoil." Notice of Availability for this new plant variety, for which Plant Variety Protection is pending, was published in

the Federal Register on October 17, 1995.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before May 28, 1996.

**ADDRESSES:** Send comments to: USDA-ARS-Office of Technology Transfer, Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, Baltimore Boulevard, Building 005, Room 416, BARC-W, Beltsville, Maryland 20705-2350.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Andrew Watkins of the Office of Technology Transfer at the Beltsville address given above; telephone: 301/504-6786.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Federal Government's plant variety protection rights to this variety 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, for the Peterson Seed Company, Inc., 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 USC 209 and 37 CFR 404.7. The prospective exclusive license may be granted unless, within sixty days from the date of this published Notice, ARS 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.

R.M. Parry, Jr.,

*Assistant Administrator.*

[FR Doc. 96-7651 Filed 3-28-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-03-M

## Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 92-110-4]

### Veterinary Services Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

**AGENCY:** Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** We are advising the public that the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has prepared a draft programmatic environmental impact statement for the Veterinary Services Program, which is responsible for the protection of the Nation's livestock and

poultry. As part of this mission, Veterinary Services conducts ongoing programs designed to detect, prevent, control, and eradicate endemic and foreign animal diseases and pests that threaten these resources. The draft programmatic environmental impact statement addresses environmental impacts associated with these ongoing programs. We are requesting public comments on the draft programmatic environmental impact statement.

**DATES:** Consideration will be given only to comments received on or before May 28, 1996.

**ADDRESSES:** Please send an original and three copies of your comments to Docket No. 92-110-4, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Suite 3C03, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238. Please state that your comments refer to Docket No. 92-110-4. Comments received may be inspected 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 comments are requested to call ahead on (202) 690-2817 to facilitate entry into the comment reading room.

Interested persons may obtain a copy of the draft environmental impact statement by writing to the addresses listed below under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Nancy Sweeney, Project Leader, Environmental Analysis and Documentation, BBEP, APHIS, Suite 5B05, 4700 River Road Unit 149, Riverdale, MD 20737-1237, (301) 734-8565; or Dr. William E. Ketter, Assistant to Director, Operational Support, VS, APHIS, Suite 3B08, 4700 River Road Unit 33, Riverdale, MD 20737-1231, (301) 734-4357.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Background**

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has prepared a draft programmatic environmental impact statement (EIS) for our Veterinary Services Program, which is responsible for the protection of the Nation's livestock and poultry. As part of this mission, (VS) conducts ongoing programs designed to detect, prevent, control, and eradicate endemic and foreign animal diseases and pests that threaten these resources. The draft programmatic EIS addresses environmental impacts associated with these ongoing programs.

We published a notice of intent to prepare a programmatic EIS in the

Federal Register on July 23, 1992 (57 FR 32771-32772, Docket No. 92-110-1). This notice advised the public that we intended to use in-house resources to study the disease prevention, surveillance, control, and eradication activities of the VS Program to identify any potential environmental effects. We published a notice of the proposed scope of study for the programmatic EIS in the Federal Register on October 9, 1992 (57 FR 46532-46534, Docket No. 92-110-2). This notice identified potential issues to be analyzed in the programmatic EIS, and requested public comment on these and other issues. Comments were to be received on or before November 23, 1992. We published a notice of the final scope of study for the programmatic EIS in the Federal Register on March 29, 1993 (58 FR 16520-16521, Docket No. 92-110-3).

**Major Issues**

The comments received from the public helped us to determine the principal focus of the draft programmatic EIS. The draft programmatic EIS identifies the following VS programs and activities as having the potential to affect the quality of the human environment: (1) Methods of animal carcass disposal; (2) disease eradication efforts of an emergency nature; (3) the use of disinfectants and pesticides; (4) the import-export program; (5) the vaccination program; (6) the construction, use, and expansion of facilities; and (7) methods of animal identification. The document analyzes these VS programs and activities and examines the potential impacts of the programs as currently implemented along with the alternative of taking no Federal action.

The draft programmatic EIS is now available for review and comment. We are seeking comments from the public; industry; environmental groups; and Federal, State, and local agencies, including Federal and State agencies that have either jurisdiction by law or special expertise regarding any program issue or environmental impact that is discussed in the draft programmatic EIS.

We will consider all comments received by the close of the comment period in the development of the final programmatic EIS. The availability of the final programmatic EIS will be announced in a subsequent Federal Register notice.

This notice is issued in accordance with: (1) The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4231 *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 22nd day of March 1996.

Terry L. Medley,  
*Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.*

[FR Doc. 96-7652 Filed 3-28-96; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-34-P**

**Forest Service**

**Intergovernmental Advisory Committee Meeting: Change of Meeting Location**

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of Meeting: Change of Meeting Location.

**SUMMARY:** Notice of the April 4, 1996, Intergovernmental Advisory Committee (IAC) was published in the Federal Register on March 21, 1996, 61 FR 11605. The purpose of this notice is announce a change in the location of the meeting to 350 of the State Capitol Building in Salem, Oregon. The meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m. on April 4 and continue until 4:00 p.m.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Questions regarding this meeting may be directed to Don Knowles, Executive Director, Regional Ecosystem Office, 333 SW 1st Avenue, P.O. Box 3623, Portland, OR 97208 (Phone: 503-326-6265).

Dated: March 22, 1996.

Donald R. Knowles,  
*Designated Federal Official.*

[FR Doc. 96-7627 Filed 3-28-96; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-11-M**

**Oregon Coast Provincial Advisory Committee Meeting**

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Oregon Coast Provincial Advisory Committee (PAC) will meet on April 19, 1996, in Newport, Oregon, at the Hotel Newport, 3019 N. Coast Highway. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. and continue until 3:30 p.m. Agenda items to be covered include: (1) Current events, (2) Flood update, (3) Northern Coast Range AMA Update, and (4) open public forums. All Oregon Coast Provincial Advisory Committee meetings are open to the public. Two "open forums" are scheduled; one at 9:45 a.m. and another near the conclusion of the meeting. Interested citizens are encouraged to attend. The