

Determination

Based on an analysis of the data submitted by AgrEvo and a review of other scientific data and field tests of the subject corn event, APHIS has determined that corn event MS6: (1) Exhibits no plant pathogenic properties; (2) is no more likely to become a weed than male sterile corn developed by traditional breeding techniques; (3) is unlikely to increase the weediness potential for any other cultivated or wild species with which it can interbreed; (4) will not cause damage to raw or processed agricultural commodities; and (5) will not harm threatened or endangered species or other organisms, such as bees, that are beneficial to agriculture. Therefore, APHIS has concluded that corn event MS6 and any progeny derived from crosses with other corn varieties will be as safe to grow as corn that is not subject to regulation under 7 CFR part 340.

Since APHIS has determined that corn event MS6 does not present a plant pest risk based on its similarity to the antecedent organism, AgrEvo's corn event MS6 will no longer be considered a regulated article under APHIS' regulations in 7 CFR part 340. Therefore, the requirements pertaining to regulated articles under those regulations no longer apply to the field testing, importation, or interstate movement of the subject corn event or its progeny. However, importation of corn event MS6 or seeds capable of propagation are still subject to the restrictions found in APHIS' foreign quarantine notices in 7 CFR part 319.

National Environmental Policy Act

An environmental assessment (EA) has been prepared to examine the potential environmental impacts associated with this determination. The EA was prepared in accordance with: (1) The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended (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). Based on that EA, APHIS has reached a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) with regard to its determination that AgrEvo's corn event MS6 and lines developed from it are no longer regulated articles under its regulations in 7 CFR part 340. Copies of the EA and the FONSI are available upon request from the individual listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

Done in Washington, DC, this 17th day of March, 1999.

Craig A. Reed,

Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 99-7077 Filed 3-23-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Forest Service****Willamette Provincial Advisory Committee (PAC); Meeting**

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Meeting.

SUMMARY: The Willamette PAC Advisory Committee will meet on Thursday, April 8, 1999. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 9 a.m., and will conclude at approximately 3 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Salem BLM Office; 1717 Fabry Road SE; Salem, Oregon 97306; phone (503) 375-5642. The tentative agenda includes: (1) Subcommittee Report on Mt. Hood Wilderness management proposal, (2) Public Forum, (3) Information presentation on Survey and Manage, (4) Forest Service 25% fund and payments to counties. The Public Forum is tentatively scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. Time allotted for individual presentation will limited to 3-4 minutes. Written comments are encouraged, particularly if the material cannot be presented within the time limits for the Public Forum. Written comments may also be submitted prior to the April 8 meeting by sending them to Designated Federal Official Neal Forrester at the address given below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For more information regarding this meeting, contact Designated Federal Official Neal Forrester; Willamette National Forest; 211 East Seventh Avenue; Eugene, Oregon 97401; (541) 465-6924.

Dated: March 17, 1999.

Randy A. Dunbar,

Acting Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 99-7021 Filed 3-22-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Rural Business-Cooperative Service****Notice of Request for Approval of New Information Collection.**

AGENCY: Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA.

ACTION: Proposed collection; comments requested.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces Rural Business-Cooperative Service's (RBS) intention to request approval of an information collection in support of the Mid- to Upper Level Management and Sales/Field Representatives Compensation Survey.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by May 24, 1999, to be assured of consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Beverly L. Rotan, Agricultural Economist, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, Cooperative Resources and Management Division, USDA, Stop 3253, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250, telephone number (202) 690-2413 (this is not a toll free number).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Mid- to Upper-Level Management and Sales/Field Representatives Compensation Survey.
Type of Request: New Information Collection.

Abstract: Changing agricultural markets, services, new farming techniques/technology (biotechnology, value-added products, etc.) available to cooperatives require them to closely examine methods to identify, attract, and retain the employment of competent, productive employees. The unique nature of the cooperative business requires the services of employees with special skills in addition to their areas of technical expertise. The "owner is customer" characteristic of cooperatives requires cooperative employees to have skills in education, communications, governance, and member relations that are not typically required of employees in any other type of business. Subsequently, compensation data on the general business population do not reflect the unique requirements of cooperatives. This study will also serve as a guide to established cooperatives.

RBS has received an increasing number of inquiries from cooperatives, farm organizations (National Council of Farmer Cooperatives (NCFC), University extension agents, etc.), and other interested clientele asking for updated data on employee compensation and comparable salary information for various job categories; with an added interest for cooperative directors' compensation. The most recent investigation into compensation for specified job classification was done in 1991. Before that time the most recent study was done in 1962.

In order to minimize burden on small businesses, an effort was made to identify any other private or government departments which collected data on specific cooperative salaries and benefit packages. After discussions with representatives of the Census Bureau, Population—National Statistics, Bureau of Labor Statistics, and the Bureau of Economic Analysis—Chief of Farm Income, Regional Economic Measurement Division, it was evident that the most relevant data available through these agencies were labor wages aggregated by county. This information isn't specific enough to supply adequate details pertaining to salary ranges, factors involved in setting salaries, and educational background for cooperative employees.

The initial users of the information collected will be managers, directors, and other cooperative leaders and policy makers of cooperatives. New cooperatives will use the resulting report primarily as a guide for setting their cooperative's benefit/compensation packages. Established cooperatives will use the resulting report primarily as a comparison of their present salary/benefit base. The report will also give new cooperatives a basis to evaluate their perspective employees' educational and/or work experience and backgrounds in order to formulate an adequate benefit/compensation package.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated at .75 hour per survey, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing survey

Respondents: Cooperative managers and human resources personnel.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 300.

Estimated Number of Responses per respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Burden on Respondent: 225 Hours.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Jean Mosely, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, at (202) 692-0041.

Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS), including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of RBS' 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 on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to Jean Mosely, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, STOP 0742, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250. Comments may be submitted via the Internet by addressing them to Comments@rus.usda.gov and must contain the word "compensation" in the subject. 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.

Dated: March 11, 1999.

Dayton J. Watkins,

Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service.

[FR Doc. 99-6998 Filed 3-22-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-XY-U

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Maximum Portion of Guarantee Authority Available for Fiscal Year 1999

AGENCY: Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: As set forth in 7 CFR part 4279, subpart B, each fiscal year the Agency shall establish a limit on the maximum portion of guarantee authority available for that fiscal year that may be used to guarantee loans with a guarantee fee of 1 percent or guaranteed loans with a guarantee percentage exceeding 80 percent.

Allowing the guarantee fee to be reduced to 1 percent or exceeding the 80 percent guarantee on certain guaranteed loans that meet the conditions set forth in 7 CFR 4279.107 and 4279.119 will increase the Agency's ability to focus guarantee assistance on projects which the Agency has found particularly meritorious, such as projects in rural communities that remain persistently poor, experience long-term population decline and job deterioration, are experiencing trauma as a result of natural disaster or are experiencing fundamental structural changes in the economic base.

Not more than 7 percent of the Agency quarterly apportioned guarantee

authority will be reserved for loan requests with a guarantee fee of 1 percent, and not more than 15 percent of the Agency quarterly apportioned guarantee authority will be reserved for guaranteed loan requests with a guaranteed percentage exceeding 80 percent. Once the above quarterly limits have been reached, all additional loans guaranteed during the remainder of that quarter will require a 2 percent guarantee fee and not exceed an 80 percent guarantee limit. As an exception to this paragraph and for the purposes of this notice, loans developed by the North American Development Bank (NADBank) Community Adjustment and Investment Program (CAIP) will not count against the 15 percent limit. CAIP loans are subject to a 50 percent limit of the overall CAIP loan program.

Written requests by the Rural Development State Office for approval of a guaranteed loan with a 1 percent guarantee fee or a guaranteed loan exceeding 80 percent must be forwarded to the National Office, Attn: Director, Business Programs Processing Division, for review and consideration prior to obligation of the guaranteed loan. The Administrator will provide a written response to the State Office confirming approval or disapproval of the request.

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 23, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Kenneth E. Hennings, Senior Loan Specialist, Business Programs Processing Division, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA, Stop 3221, Washington, DC 20250-3221, telephone (202) 690-3809.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This action has been reviewed and determined not to be a rule or regulation as defined in Executive Order 12866.

Dated: March 2, 1999.

Dayton J. Watkins,

Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service.

[FR Doc. 99-6997 Filed 3-22-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-XY-U

COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Consultation Proceeding on the "Crisis of the Young African American Male in the Inner Cities"

AGENCY: Commission on Civil Rights.

ACTION: Notice of consultation.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that a public consultation before the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights will commence on Thursday, April 15 through Friday, April 16, 1999, daily at 8:30 a.m. in the Holiday Inn,