SUMMARY: We are advising the public that the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service is making available for public comment our environmental assessment for the field release of diamondback moths which have been genetically engineered for repressible female lethality and to express red fluorescence as a marker. The purpose of the field release is to assess the feasibility and efficacy of these moths in reducing populations of non-genetically engineered diamondback moths.

DATES: We will consider all comments that we receive on or before September 29, 2014.

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

1. Federal eRulemaking Portal: Go to http://www.regulations.gov/
   #docketDetail;D=APHIS-2014-0056.
2. Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery: Send your comment to Docket No. APHIS–2014–0056, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3A–03.8, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737–1238.

Supplemental Information: The regulations in 7 CFR part 340, “Introduction of Organisms and Products Altered or Produced Through Genetic Engineering Which Are Plant Pests or Which There Is Reason to Believe Are Plant Pests,” regulate, among other things, the introduction (importation, interstate movement, or release into the environment) of organisms and products altered or produced through genetic engineering that are plant pests or that there is reason to believe are plant pests. Such genetically engineered (GE) organisms and products are considered “regulated articles.” A permit must be obtained or a notification acknowledged before a regulated article may be released into the environment. The regulations set forth the permit application requirements and the notification procedures for the importation, interstate movement, or release into the environment of a regulated article.

On October 24, 2013, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) received a permit application from Cornell University (APHIS Permit Number 13–297–102r) seeking the permitted field release of three strains of GE diamondback moth (DBM), Platellia xylostella, strains designated as OX4316L-Pxy, OX4319N-Pxy, and OX4767A-Pxy. The GE DBM have been genetically engineered to exhibit red fluorescence (DsRed2) as a marker and repressible female lethality, also known as female autocide. The GE DBMs are considered a regulated article under the regulations in 7 CFR part 340 because the recipient organism is or may be a plant pest. APHIS has previously issued a notification acknowledged before a regulated article may be released into the environment.

The purpose of the requested field release is to assess the efficacy of GE DBM strains OX4316L-Pxy, OX4319N-Pxy, and OX4767A-Pxy in reducing pest populations of non-GE DBM. The female autocide trait permits the selection of DBM males during rearing. When released, it is likely that any female progeny produced from GE DBM males and non-GE DBM females will die.

The proposed release would be at NYSAES and would not exceed 3 years. The release would be limited to 6 sites not exceeding 10 acres per site, surrounded by other agricultural fields within NYSAES’ 870 total acres. The release of 20,000 GE DBMs per release per site would be allowed, with up to 5 releases per week per site. Post-experiment monitoring of DBM with traps would continue for 2 weeks after the conclusion of each release to assess field longevity of GE DBM. The red fluorescent marker will allow the GE DBMs to be positively identified.

To provide the public with documentation of APHIS’ review and analysis of any potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed release of the GE DBM, an environmental assessment (EA) has been prepared. 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). APHIS will accept written comments on our EA regarding the proposed release of the GE DBM from interested or affected persons for a period of 30 days from the date of this notice. Copies of the EA are available as indicated in the ADDRESSES and FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT sections of this notice.

Done in Washington, DC, this 22nd day of August 2014.

Kevin Shea,
Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 2014–20496 Filed 8–27–14; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3410–34–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. FSIS–2014–0013]

Codex Alimentarius Commission: Meeting of the Codex Committee on Food Labeling

AGENCY: Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) are sponsoring a public meeting on September 23, 2014. The objective of the public meeting is to provide information and receive public comments on agenda items and draft United States (U.S.) positions to be discussed at the 42nd Session of the Codex Committee on Food Labeling in Foods (CCFL) of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex), taking place in Santiago, Chile October 21–24, 2014. The Under Secretary for Food Safety and FDA recognize the importance of providing interested parties the opportunity to obtain background information on the 42nd Session of CCFL, and to address items on the agenda.

DATES: The public meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 23, 2014 from 1:00–4:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will take place at the Jamie L. Whitten Building, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Room 107–A, Washington, DC 20250.

Documents related to the 42nd Session of CCFL will be accessible via the World Wide Web at the following address: http://www.codexalimentarius.org/meetings-reports/en/.

Felicia Billingslea, U.S. Delegate to the 42nd Session of the CCFL, invites U.S. interested parties to submit their comments electronically to the following email address: ccfi@fda.hhs.gov.

Call in Number: If you wish to participate in the public meeting for the 42nd Session of the CCFL by conference call, please use the call in number and participant code listed below:


FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE 42ND SESSION OF THE CCFL CONTACT: Office of Nutrition, Labeling, and Dietary Supplements, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, Food and Drug Administration, 5100 Paint Branch Parkway (HFS–800), College Park, MD 20740. Email: ccfi@fda.hhs.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE PUBLIC MEETING CONTACT: Barbara McNiff, U.S. Codex Office, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Room 4861, Washington, DC 20250, Phone: (202) 690–4719, Fax: (202) 720–3157, Email: Barbara.McNiff@fsis.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Codex was established in 1963 by two United Nations organizations, the Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Health Organization. Through adoption of food standards, codes of practice, and other guidelines developed by its committees, and by promoting their adoption and implementation by governments, Codex seeks to protect the health of consumers and ensure fair practices in the food trade.

The CCFL is responsible for:

(a) Drafting provisions on labeling applicable to all foods;

(b) Considering, amending if necessary, and endorsing draft specific provisions on labeling prepared by the Codex Committees drafting standards, codes of practice and guidelines;

(c) Studying specific labeling problems assigned to it by the Commission; and

(d) Studying problems associated with the advertisement of food with particular reference to claims and misleading descriptions. The Committee is hosted by Canada.

Issues To Be Discussed at the Public Meeting

The following items on the Agenda for the 42nd Session of the CCFL will be discussed during the public meeting:

• Matters referred to the Committee

• Organic Aquaculture

• General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods to address the issue of date marking

• Other Business and Future Work

Each issue listed will be fully described in documents distributed, or to be distributed by the Secretariat prior to the Committee meeting. Members of the public may access or request copies of these documents (see ADDRESSES).

Public Meeting

At the September 23, 2014, public meeting, draft U.S. positions on the agenda items will be described and discussed, and attendees will have the opportunity to pose questions and offer comments. Written comments may be offered at the meeting or sent to the U.S. Delegate for the 42nd Session of the CCFL, Felicia Billingslea (see ADDRESSES). Written comments should state that they relate to activities of the 42nd Session of the CCFL.

Additional Public Notification

FSIS will announce this notice online through the FSIS Web page located at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/international-affairs/us-codex-alimentarius/public-meetings.

FSIS will also make copies of this Federal Register publication available through the FSIS Constituent Update, which provides information on FSIS policies, procedures, regulations, Federal Register notices, FSIS public meetings, and other matters that could affect or would be of interest to constituents and stakeholders. The Update is communicated via Listserv, a free electronic mail subscription service for industry, trade groups, consumer interest groups, health professionals, and other individuals who have asked to be included. The Update is also available on the FSIS Web page. In addition, FSIS offers an email subscription service which provides automatic and customized access to selected food safety news and information. This service is available at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/regulations/federal-register.

Customers can add or delete subscriptions themselves, and have the option to password protect their accounts.

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