

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. 96-016-1]

Declaration of Extraordinary 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.

This infection of Karnal bunt represents a threat to United States wheat crops. It constitutes a real danger to the national economy and seriously

burdens interstate and foreign commerce. Therefore, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (the Department) has determined that an extraordinary emergency exists because of the existence of Karnal bunt in Arizona and possibly New Mexico and Texas.

The Department has reviewed the measures being taken by the States of Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas to survey, regulate, and control Karnal bunt and has consulted with the Governors of Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas. Based on such review and consultation, the Department has determined that measures being taken by the States of Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas are inadequate because these States are unable to take all of the measures required to obtain and maintain the cooperation of the owners of wheat crops necessary to effectively and efficiently control Karnal bunt.

Therefore, in accordance with 7 U.S.C. 150dd, this declaration of extraordinary emergency authorizes the Secretary to: (1) seize, quarantine, treat, apply other remedial measures to, destroy, or otherwise dispose of, in such manner as the Secretary deems appropriate, any product or article of any character whatsoever, or means of conveyance that the Secretary has reason to believe is infected by or contains Karnal bunt; (2) quarantine, treat, or apply other remedial measures to, in such manner as the Secretary deems appropriate, any premises, including articles on such premises, that the Secretary has reason to believe are infected by Karnal bunt. The Governors of Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas have been informed of these facts.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This declaration of extraordinary emergency shall become effective March 20, 1996.

Dan Glickman,

Secretary of Agriculture.

[FR Doc. 96-7217 Filed 3-21-96; 9:27 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

Food and Consumer Service

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request—Adolescent WIC Participants Study

AGENCY: Food and Consumer Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Pub. L. 104-13, this notice announces the Food and Consumer Service's (FCS) intention to request OMB approval of the Adolescent WIC Participants Study.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by May 24, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Send comments and requests for copies of this information collection to: Michael E. Fishman, Acting Director, Office of Analysis and Evaluation, Food and Consumer Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, VA 22302.

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's 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 to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of 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.

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.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael E. Fishman, (703) 305-2117.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Adolescent WIC Participants Study.

OMB Number: Not yet assigned.

Expiration Date: N/A.

Type of Request: New collection of information.

Abstract: The Adolescent WIC Participants Study will determine whether adolescent WIC participants have needs that (a) set them apart from other WIC clients, and (b) require special program measures. The needs of adolescent participants will be assessed for each of the following WIC program benefits:

- Knowledge of nutrition,