

# 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]

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## 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