

announced immediately if, for any consecutive 10-week period, the Friday through Thursday average price quotation for the lowest-priced U.S. growth, as quoted for Middling 1³/₃₂ inch cotton, C.I.F. northern Europe (U.S. Northern Europe price), adjusted for the value of any cotton user marketing certificates issued, exceeds the Northern Europe price by more than 1.25 cents per pound. This condition was met during the consecutive 10-week period that ended April 25, 1996. Therefore, a quota referenced as the Secretary of Agriculture's Special Cotton Import Quota Announcement Number 15, effective June 10, 1996, is hereby established.

Because there are only 20 subheadings available for designating upland cotton special import quotas in subchapter III of chapter 99 of the HTS, only 20 such quotas can be in effect at one time. Each subheading corresponds to a Secretary of Agriculture's Special Cotton Import Quota Announcement specifying that a particular amount of upland cotton may be imported during a particular 180-day period. The special import quota described in this notice cannot take effect until HTS subheading 9903.52.15 becomes available upon the expiration of the Secretary of Agriculture's Special Cotton Import Quota Announcement Number 15, effective December 13, 1995, through June 9, 1996. Therefore, the special import quota described in this notice opens on June 10, 1996, the day after the previous special import quota 15 ends.

The quota amount, 42,728,074 kilograms (94,199,355 pounds), is equal to 1 week's consumption of upland cotton by domestic mills at the seasonally-adjusted average rate of the most recent 3 months for which data are available—January 1996 through March 1996. The special import quota identifies a quantity of imports that is not subject to the over-quota tariff rate of a tariff-rate quota. The quota is not divided by staple length or by country of origin. The quota does not affect existing tariff rates or phytosanitary regulations. The quota does not apply to Extra Long Staple cotton.

Authority: Sec. 136, Public Law 104-127 and U.S. Note 6(a), Subchapter III, Chapter 99 of the HTS.

Signed at Washington, D.C., on June 20, 1996.

Dan Glickman,
Secretary.

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BILLING CODE 3410-05-M

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 96-002-2]

Asgrow Seed Co.; Availability of Determination of Nonregulated Status for Squash Line Genetically Engineered for Virus Resistance

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: We are advising the public of our determination that the Asgrow Seed Company's squash line designed as CZW-3 that has been genetically engineered for virus resistance is no longer considered a regulated article under our regulations governing the introduction of certain genetically engineered organisms. Our determination is based on our evaluation of data submitted by the Asgrow Seed Company in its petition for a determination of nonregulated status, an analysis of other scientific data, and our review of comments received from the public in response to a previous notice announcing our receipt of the Asgrow Seed Company's petition. This notice also announces the availability of our written determination document and its associated environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 14, 1996.

ADDRESSES: The determination, an environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact, the petition, and all written comments received regarding the petition 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 those documents are asked to call in advance of visiting at (202) 690-2817.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. James White, Biotechnology Permits, BBEP, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 147, Riverdale, MD 20737-1237; (301) 734-7612. To obtain a copy of the determination or the environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact, contact Ms. Kay Peterson at (301) 734-7612; e-mail: mkpeterson@aphis.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On December 18, 1995, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) received a petition (APHIS Petition No. 95-352-01p) from the Asgrow Seed Company (Asgrow) of

Kalamazoo, MI, seeking a determination that a yellow crookneck squash line designated as CZW-3 (line CZW-3) that has been genetically engineered to contain genes that confer virus resistance does not present a plant pest risk and, therefore, is not a regulated article under APHIS' regulations in 7 CFR part 340.

On February 2, 1996, APHIS published a notice in the Federal Register (61 FR 3899-3900, Docket No. 96-002-1) announcing that the Asgrow petition had been received and was available for public review. The notice also discussed the role of APHIS and the Food and Drug Administration in regulating the subject squash line and food products derived from it. In the notice, APHIS solicited written comments from the public as to whether this squash line posed a plant pest risk. The comments were to have been received by APHIS on or before April 2, 1996. During the designated 60-day comment period, APHIS received four comments on the subject petition from universities, an office of the cooperative extension service, and an agricultural consultant. All of the comments were favorable to the petition.

Analysis

Line CZW-3 has been genetically engineered to contain the coat protein genes from cucumber mosaic virus, watermelon mosaic virus 2, and zucchini yellow mosaic virus for resistance to these viruses. The subject squash line also contains the *nptII* gene from the prokaryotic transposon Tn5, which encodes the enzyme neomycin phosphotransferase II and is used as a selectable marker for transformation. Expression of the added genes is controlled in part by 35S promoters and terminators from the plant pathogen cauliflower mosaic virus. The genes used to develop line CZW-3 were stably transferred into the genome of the yellow crookneck squash parental line through the use of the *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* transformation system.

The subject squash line has been considered a regulated article under APHIS' regulations in 7 CFR part 340 because it contains gene sequences derived from plant pathogens. However, evaluation of field data reports from field tests of line CZW-3 conducted in 1993 and 1994 under APHIS permits indicates that there were no deleterious effects on plants, nontarget organisms, or the environment as a result of the environmental release of this squash line.

Determination

Based on its analysis of the data submitted by Asgrow and a review of other scientific data, comments received, and field tests of the subject squash line, APHIS has determined that line CZW-3: (1) Exhibits no plant pathogenic properties; (2) is no more likely to become a weed than virus resistant squash 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; (5) will not increase the likelihood of the emergence of new plant viruses; and (6) will not harm threatened or endangered species or other organisms, such as bees, that are beneficial to agriculture. Therefore, APHIS has concluded that the subject squash line and any progeny derived from hybrid crosses with other nontransformed squash varieties will be as safe to grow as squash in traditional breeding programs that are not subject to regulation under 7 CFR part 340.

The effect of this determination is that Asgrow's yellow crookneck squash line CZW-3 is no longer 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 squash line or its progeny. However, importation of the subject squash line or seeds capable of propagation is 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) (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 Asgrow's yellow crookneck squash line CZW-3 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 21st day of June 1996.

Bobby R. Acord,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 96-16465 Filed 6-26-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

Farm Service Agency

Notice of Request for Extension and Revision of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Farm Service Agency, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13), this notice announces the Farm Service Agency's (FSA) intention to request an extension for and revision to an information collection currently approved for the farm credit programs guaranteed loan regulations of FSA, formerly administered by the USDA, Farmers Home Administration. These regulations are published under the authority of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, as amended (CONACT).

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received on or before August 26, 1996, to be assured consideration.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Steven Ford, Senior Loan Officer, Farm Credit Programs, Farm Service Agency, USDA, P. O. Box 2415, AgBox 0522, Washington, D.C. 20013-2415; telephone (202) 720-3889.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Guaranteed Farm Credit Programs.

OMB Control Number: 0560-0155.

Expiration Date of Approval: September 30, 1996.

Type of Request: Extension and Revision of a Currently Approved Information Collection.

Abstract: The information collected under Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Number 0560-0155, as identified above, is needed to enable FSA to effectively administer the guaranteed loan program under the CONACT.

The Agency requires some of the information it collects to be reported in a standard manner. Although lending institutions generally require and collect information similar to that requested by FSA, there is a wide diversity in reporting practices. The Agency requires some information to be reported on

standard forms in order to facilitate an effective and efficient decision making process.

Respondents generally consist of farm operators applying for loans and lenders. Compliance with local, State, and Federal laws is required; and evidence of compliance with these laws may be required. Evidence of compliance with zoning ordinances, environmental standards, equal opportunity standards, historic preservation requirements, etc., may be required when warranted.

The information collection required by this rule will be used by the Agency to approve or determine the need for loans and subordination in accordance with this rule. The Agency considers the information collected to be essential to prudent loan making decisions. Failure to make sound loans would jeopardize the Government's loan portfolio, result in large losses to both the borrower and the Government, and weaken the overall agricultural economy.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this information collection is estimated to average .71 hours per response.

Respondents: State or Federally chartered banks, Farm Credit System Institutions, and other lending institutions as well as farm operators.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 21,000 (3000 lenders; 18,000 loan applicants).

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 9.17.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 192,625.

Comments regarding (a) whether the 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 burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology should be sent to the Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, D.C. 20503 and to Steven Ford, Senior Loan Officer, Farm Credit Programs, Farm Service Agency, USDA, P. O. Box 2415, AgBox 0522, Washington, D.C. 20013-2415; telephone (202) 720-3889. Copies of the