

consistent with sound financial management practices.

*Description of Respondents:* Individuals or households.

*Number of Respondents:* 98.

*Frequency of Responses:* Reporting: On occasion.

*Total Burden Hours:* 62.

### Rural Housing Service

*Title:* Annual Survey of Housing Conditions for Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers.

*OMB Control Number:* 0575-NEW.

*Summary of Collection:* Migrant and seasonal farmworkers are among the poorest and worst-housed groups in the United States. Only limited information has been collected on farmworker demographics and working conditions, and even less on the housing in which they live. The Rural Housing Service (RHS) plans to conduct a survey to collect data on the housing conditions of farmworkers in the Midwestern and Western migrant streams including types of structures occupied, proportion of households crowded, proportion of households cost burdened, proportion lacking full appliances and sanitary facilities, proportion residing in grower-provided housing, and other characteristics. In combination with a previous study of migrant workers in the East Coast, a national perspective on housing conditions for migrant and seasonal farmworkers will be gained. More detailed information concerning farmworker housing conditions is necessary in order to determine the significant health risks associated with farmworker housing and effectively focus housing resources on the areas of greatest need. The collection of housing data will greatly benefit farmworkers by improving the information available to organizations and federal agencies that address farmworker health and housing needs. The Rural Housing Service will collect information using a survey on Farmworker Housing.

*Need and Use of the Information:* RHS will collect information on the types of housing occupied by farmworkers, the quality of that housing, its cost, and whether or not overcrowding is prevalent in farmworkers housing. The data collected will be used to improve how farmworker housing and health programs are used so that farmworkers' needs may be better met by the government and private organizations.

*Description of Respondents:* Individuals or households.

*Number of Respondents:* 6,000.

*Frequency of Responses:* Reporting: Annually.

*Total Burden Hours:* 1,500.

**Nancy B. Sternberg,**

*Departmental Clearance Officer.*

[FR Doc. 99-6419 Filed 3-17-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-01-M

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 99-006-1]

#### Notice of Request for Extension of Approval of an Information Collection

**AGENCY:** Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Extension of approval of an information collection; comment request.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's intention to request an extension of approval of an information collection in support of regulations and standards issued under the Animal Welfare Act for guinea pigs, hamsters, and rabbits.

**DATES:** We invite you to comment. We will consider all comments that we receive by May 17, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Send comments regarding the accuracy of burden estimate, ways to minimize the burden (such as through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology), or any other aspect of this collection of information to: Docket No. 99-006-1, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, suite 3C03, 4700 River Road, Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238. Please send an original and three copies, and state that your comments refer to Docket 99-006-1. Comments received 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 comments are requested to call ahead on (202) 690-2817 to facilitate entry into the comment reading room.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For information on the regulations and standards for guinea pigs, hamsters, and rabbits, 9 CFR, part 3, subparts B and C, contact Mr. Stephen Smith, Animal Care Staff Officer, Animal Care, APHIS, 4700 River Road, Unit 84, Riverdale, MD 20737-1234, (301) 734-7833; or e-mail: steve.n.smith@usda.gov. For copies of more detailed information on the information collection, contact Ms.

Cheryl Groves, APHIS' Agency Support Services Specialist, at (301) 734-5086.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Title:* Animal Welfare.

*OMB Number:* 0579-0092.

*Expiration Date of Approval:* July 31, 1999.

*Type of Request:* Extension of approval of an information collection.

*Abstract:* Regulations and standards have been promulgated under the Animal Welfare Act (the Act) to promote and ensure the humane care and treatment of regulated animals under the Act. Title 9, part 3, subparts B and C, of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) address specific care and handling regulations for guinea pigs, hamsters, and rabbits. To enforce the Act and regulations, we need to collect information concerning the transportation of these animals.

The regulations for transporting guinea pigs, hamsters, and rabbits require intermediate handlers and carriers to accept shipping enclosures only if they meet the minimum requirements set forth in § 3.36 of the regulations or if they are accompanied by documentation signed by the consignor verifying that the shipping enclosures comply with the regulations. If guinea pigs, hamsters, or rabbits are transported in cargo space in which the temperature falls below 45 °F (7.2 °C), the regulations specify that the animals must be accompanied by a certificate of acclimation signed by a U.S. Department of Agriculture-accredited veterinarian.

In addition, all shipping enclosures must be marked "Live Animals" and have arrows indicating the correct upright position of the container. Intermediate handlers and carriers of any live animals are required to attempt to contact the consignee at least once every 6 hours upon arrival. Intermediate handlers and carriers must document their attempts to contact the consignor and must maintain that documentation for inspection by Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) personnel.

The above reporting and recordkeeping requirements do not mandate the use of any official government form.

The burden generated by APHIS requirements that all shipping documents be attached to the container has been cleared by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under OMB control no. 0579-0036.

The reporting and recordkeeping requirements of 9 CFR, part 3, subparts B & C, are necessary to enforce regulations intended to ensure the

humane treatment of guinea pigs, hamsters, and rabbits during transportation in commerce.

The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public (as well as affected agencies) concerning our information collection. These comments will help us:

(1) Evaluate 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;

(2) Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(3) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(4) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, through use, as appropriate, of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other collection technologies, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

*Estimate of burden:* The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .125 hours per response.

*Respondents:* Intermediate handlers, carriers, "A" and "B" dealers (as consignors), USDA accredited veterinarians.

*Estimated annual number of respondents:* 1470.

*Estimated annual numbers of responses per respondent:* 1.408.

*Estimated annual number of responses:* 2070.

*Estimated total annual burden on respondents:* 260 hours. (Due to rounding, the total annual burden hours may not equal the product of the annual number of responses multiplied by the average reporting burden per response.)

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.

Done in Washington, DC, this 12th day of March 1999.

**Bobby R. Acord,**

*Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.*

[FR Doc. 99-6594 Filed 3-17-99;8:45am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 99-011-1]

#### Availability of a Draft Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

**AGENCY:** Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** We are advising the public that a draft environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact have been prepared by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service relative to the proposed release into the environment of nonindigenous leaf beetles for use as biological control agents to suppress saltcedar, a major weed pest of water courses and riparian habitats.

**DATES:** We invite you to comment. We will consider all comments that we receive by April 19, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Please send an original and three copies of your comments to Docket No. 99-011-1, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, suite 3C03, 4700 River Road Unit 133, Riverdale, MD 20737-1236. Please state that your comments refer to Docket No. 99-011-1. A copy of the draft environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact, and any comments we receive on them, 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 requested to call ahead on (202) 690-2817 to facilitate entry into the reading room.

Interested persons may obtain a copy of the draft environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact by writing to the address listed below under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Ronald D. Hennessey, Entomologist, Biotechnology and Biological Analysis, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 133, Riverdale, MD 20737-1236, (301) 734-7839; or e-mail: ronald.d.hennessey@usda.gov. For copies of the draft environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact, write to Dr. Ronald D. Hennessey at the same address. Please refer to the title of the draft environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact when ordering copies.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has received an application from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service, for a permit to release nonindigenous leaf beetles, *Diorhabda elongata* Brulle (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae), for biological control of deciduous saltcedar, *Tamarix ?ramosissima* Ledeb. and *T. parviflora* DC. (Tamaricaceae). Saltcedar is an introduced weed that grows as a tree or shrub in dense stands along waterways. The purpose of the proposed release is to reduce the severity of infestations of the weed.

Saltcedar is a major weed pest of water courses and riparian habitats within the United States. In 1998, saltcedar infested areas approached, if not exceeded, 1.0 million acres. Along many water courses, saltcedar now constitutes more than half of the vegetation. Saltcedar is less desirable than native vegetation because dense stands of the weed interfere with camping, hiking, and picnicking; dense infestations extract up to 5 feet of water annually; rodent density, bird density, and bird species diversity are lower in riparian saltcedar infestations than in riparian communities of native plants; saltcedar has poor value as a forage plant for livestock; and saltcedar causes flooding, either by blocking channels directly or by increasing the deposition of silt.

The applicant is proposing to release *D. elongata* initially at 12 sites in 7 States: California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas, Utah, and Wyoming. During the first year, the beetles will be released into field cages for study. In the second year, if all goes well in the first year, cages will be removed to allow beetles to move from one part of the site to another. Eventually, if all goes well, beetles will be released at many sites to promote rapid control of saltcedar.

To provide the public with documentation of APHIS' review and analysis of the environmental impact and plant pest risk associated with releasing *D. elongata* into the environment, we have prepared a draft environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact entitled, "Field Release of a Nonindigenous Leaf Beetle, *Diorhabda elongata* (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae), for Biological Control of Deciduous Saltcedar, *Tamarix ?ramosissima* and *T. parviflora* (Tamaricaceae)" (January 1999).

The draft environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact have been prepared in accordance with: (1) the National Environmental Policy