

# Proposed Rules

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains notices to the public of the proposed issuance of rules and regulations. The purpose of these notices is to give interested persons an opportunity to participate in the rule making prior to the adoption of the final rules.

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

#### 7 CFR Part 319

[Docket No. 98-035-2]

#### Importation of Orchids in Growing Media

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

**ACTION:** Proposed rule; extension of comment period.

**SUMMARY:** We are advising the public that we are extending by 30 days the comment period for our proposed rule that would add orchids of the genus *Phalaenopsis* to the list of plants that may be imported in an approved growing medium subject to specified growing, inspection, and certification requirements. This extension will provide interested parties additional time to prepare their comments on the proposed rule.

**DATES:** Consideration will be given only to comments on Docket No. 98-035-1 that are received on or before December 2, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Please send an original and three copies of your comments to Docket No. 98-035-1, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, suite 3C03, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238. Please state that your comments refer to Docket No. 98-035-1. 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:** Mr. Peter M. Grosser, Senior Import Specialist, Phytosanitary Issues Management Team, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 140, Riverdale, MD

20737-1236; (301) 734-6799; fax (301) 734-5786; e-mail:

Peter.M.Grosser@usda.gov.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### Background

On September 1, 1998, we published in the **Federal Register** (63 FR 46403-46406, Docket No. 98-035-1) a proposed rule to amend the regulations governing the importation of plants and plant products to add orchids of the genus *Phalaenopsis* to the list of plants that may be imported in an approved growing medium subject to specified growing, inspection, and certification requirements.

Comments on the proposed rule were required to be received on or before November 2, 1998. However, in response to requests received following the publication of the proposed rule, we are extending by 30 days the comment period for the proposed rule. Therefore, we will consider all comments that are received on or before December 2, 1998.

Done in Washington, DC, this 23rd day of October, 1998.

**Joan M. Arnoldi,**

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

[FR Doc. 98-28997 Filed 10-28-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Rural Housing Service

#### Rural Business-Cooperative Service

#### Rural Utilities Service

#### Farm Service Agency

#### 7 CFR Parts 1940 and 1944

RIN 0575-AC19

#### Processing Requests for Farm Labor Housing (LH) Loans and Grants

**AGENCIES:** Rural Housing Service, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, Rural Utilities Service, and Farm Service Agency, USDA.

**ACTION:** Proposed rule.

**SUMMARY:** The Rural Housing Service (RHS), formerly Rural Housing and Community Development Service (RHCD), a successor Agency to the Farmers Home Administration (FmHA), proposes to amend its regulations for

the Farm Labor Housing (LH) program. This action is taken to implement a simplified application process in conjunction with an annual competitive funding cycle that will be announced in the **Federal Register**. The intended outcome is a streamlined application process that will be simpler and less costly for the applicant and will enable the Agency to process applications in a more efficient and timely manner.

**DATES:** Written comments on this proposed rule must be received on or before December 28, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments may be submitted, *in duplicate*, to the Branch Chief, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, Rural Development, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Stop 0742, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-0742. Comments may be submitted via the Internet by addressing them to "comments@rus.usda.gov" and must contain the word "LH" in the subject. All written comments will be available for public inspection at 3rd floor, 300 E Street, SW, Washington, D.C. 20546 during normal working hours.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Linda Armour, Senior Loan Specialist, Multi-Family Housing Processing Division, Rural Housing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 5349—South Building, Stop 0781, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-0781, telephone (202) 720-1608.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### Classification

This rule has been determined to be significant for purposes of Executive Order 12886 and therefore has been reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

#### Paperwork Reduction Act

The reporting requirements contained in this regulation have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget under OMB Control Number 0575-0045. A Notice of Request for Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection was published in the **Federal Register** (63 FR 28984) on May 27, 1998. This Notice did not contain the new provision of the regulation. Therefore, in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, RHS is opening a 60-Day