

scheduled to be held in Washington, DC, on August 17 and 18, 1995. This hearing will focus exclusively on the APHIS pest risk assessment documents upon which the proposed rule is based, and will provide an opportunity for experts in relevant disciplines to present their views on those documents and the scientific issues raised by them.

The APHIS pest risk assessment documents upon which the proposed rule is based identify the plant pest risks associated with the importation of Hass avocados grown in approved orchards in approved municipalities in Michoacan, Mexico, discuss the mitigation measures identified as reasonable and necessary to prevent the introduction of plant pests into the United States, and contain a quantitative risk analysis examining the likelihood of plant pest introduction into the United States if Hass avocados are allowed to be imported under the conditions described in the proposed rule.

Participation in the Washington, DC, hearing will be limited to those who register and who identify themselves as having expertise in the areas of pest risk assessment and mitigation measures. Experts wishing to participate will be asked to furnish for the record their educational background and their expertise and qualifications relevant to pest risk assessment and mitigation measures. Such experts include scientists, technical experts, and academicians expert in entomology, plant health, plant pathology, risk assessment, and risk mitigation. Federal, State, and local officials, growers, and handlers who have experience with risk assessment, plant protection, quarantine, or risk mitigation measures will also be welcome to participate in this first public hearing.

Presenters are welcome to register as a panel if they believe a panel of experts from several fields would foster a more complete discussion and evaluation of issues related to the pest risk assessment underlying this proposal.

Additional Public Hearings

Four additional hearings will be held during the period between August 22, 1995, and August 31, 1995, to address all aspects of this proposed rule. These four public hearings are scheduled to be held in Flushing, NY, on August 22, 1995; Homestead, FL, on August 23, 1995; Chicago, IL, on August 28, 1995; and Escondido, CA, on August 30 and 31, 1995.

Any interested party may appear and be heard in person, or through an attorney or other representative. We are interested in obtaining the views of the

public on all aspects of the proposed rule, including the APHIS pest risk assessment documents and the conclusions contained therein.

General Information Applicable to All Five Public Hearings

The APHIS pest risk assessment documents upon which the proposed rule is based are available. Parties interested in receiving copies may obtain them by contacting APHIS' Legislative and Public Affairs Staff at (301) 734-3256 or by writing to Legislative and Public Affairs, 4700 River Road Unit 51, Riverdale, Maryland 20737-1232. Copies of the risk assessment documents will be available at each of the scheduled public hearings.

Persons who wish to speak at the hearings will be asked to provide their names and their affiliations. Those who wish to form a panel to present their views will be asked to provide the name of each member of the panel and the organizations the panel members represent. Parties wishing to make oral presentations may register in advance by calling the Regulatory Analysis and Development voice mail at (301) 734-4346 and leaving a message stating their name, telephone number, organization, and location of the hearing at which they wish to speak. If a party is registering for a panel, the party will also be asked to provide the name of each member of the panel and the organization each panel member represents.

The hearings will begin at 9 a.m. and are scheduled to end at 5 p.m. each day. The Washington, DC, and Escondido, CA, hearings may conclude at any time on the second day if all persons who have registered to participate have been heard. Similarly, the other three hearings may conclude earlier than 5 p.m. if all persons who have registered have been heard. The presiding officer may extend the time of any hearing or limit the time for each presentation so that everyone is accommodated and all interested persons appearing on the scheduled dates have an opportunity to participate.

Registration for each hearing may be accomplished in advance in accordance with the above-described instructions, or by registering with the presiding officer between 8:30 a.m. and 9 a.m. on any hearing day.

A representative of APHIS will preside at each public hearing. Written statements are encouraged, but not required. Any written statement submitted will be made part of the record of the public hearing. Anyone who reads a written statement should

provide two copies to the presiding officer at the hearing. A transcript will be made of each public hearing and the transcript will be placed in the rulemaking record and will be available for public inspection.

The purpose of these public hearings is to give all interested parties an opportunity to present data, views, and information to the Department concerning this proposed rule. Questions about the content of the proposal may be part of a commenter's oral presentation. However, neither the presiding officer nor any other representative of the Department will respond to the comments at the hearing, except to clarify or explain the proposed rule and the documents upon which the proposal is based.

Done in Washington, DC, this 31st day of July 1995.

Lonnie J. King,

Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

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9 CFR Part 94

[Docket No. 95-050-1]

Uruguay; Change in Disease Status

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: We are proposing to declare Uruguay free of rinderpest and foot-and-mouth disease. As part of this proposed action, we would add Uruguay to the list of countries that, although declared free of rinderpest and foot-and-mouth disease, are subject to restrictions on meat and other animal products offered for importation into the United States. Declaring Uruguay free of rinderpest and foot-and-mouth disease appears to be appropriate because the last outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in Uruguay occurred in 1989, there have been no vaccinations for foot-and-mouth disease in Uruguay since June 1994, and rinderpest has never existed in Uruguay. This proposed rule would remove the prohibition on the importation into the United States, from Uruguay, of ruminants and fresh, chilled, and frozen meat of ruminants, although those importations would be subject to certain restrictions. This proposed rule would also relieve certain prohibitions and restrictions on the importation, from Uruguay, of milk and milk products of ruminants.