

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

Privacy Act of 1974; System of Records

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of revision of Privacy Act systems of records.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is revising three Privacy Act (PA) systems of records, is deleting one system of records, and proposes to create a new system of records entitled "Current Research Information System," USDA/CSREES-4, maintained by the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES).

EFFECTIVE DATE: This notice will be adopted without further publication in the **Federal Register** on January 12, 2004 unless modified by a subsequent notice to incorporate comments received from the public. Comments must be received by the contact person listed below on or before January 2, 2004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to the PA, 5 U.S.C. 552a, USDA hereby takes the following action:

I. Three systems of records maintained by CSREES are being revised for the following reasons:

1. USDA/CSREES-1, "Current Research Information System." The purposes of this revision to the system of records are to (1) change the designation from USDA/CSRS-1 to USDA/CSREES-1; (2) reflect organizational changes; (3) identify changes to system location, categories of

individuals covered by the system, purpose, record storage, retrievability, safeguards, notification procedures, and record access procedures; (4) delete three routine uses no longer necessary or compatible with the purpose for which information was collected; and (5) add a new routine use.

2. USDA/CSREES-2, "International Programs Recruitment Roster." The purposes of this revision to the system of records are to (1) change the designation from USDA/ES-1 to USDA/CSREES-2; (2) reflect organizational changes; (3) identify changes to system name and location, categories of records in the system, addresses for system manager and notification procedures, retention and disposal, and delete one routine use that is not a required routine use.

3. USDA/CSREES-3, "State Cooperative Extension Service Employees." The purposes of this revision to the system of records are to (1) change the designation from USDA/ES-3 to USDA/CSREES-3; (2) reflect organizational changes; (3) identify changes to system location, categories of records in the system, safeguards, system manager address, and storage; and (4) add three routine uses.

II. One System of Records is being added as follows:

1. USDA/CSREES-4, "CSREES Grants System." The purpose of this new system of records is to enable program offices to reference reviewers and maintain appropriate files and supporting material in processing, evaluating, and managing applications for grants or other support, including completing awards and distributing funds.

III. One System of Records is being deleted as follows:

1. USDA/ES-2, "Cooperative Extension Personnel Records System." This system is being deleted because these records are no longer relevant and necessary to accomplish a purpose of the Agency and the records are no longer maintained by USDA.

A Privacy Act Systems Report relating to the proposed changes and new system required by 5 U.S.C. 552a(r), as implemented by OMB Circular A-130, was sent to the Administrator, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget; the Chairwoman, Committee on Governmental Affairs, United States

Senate; and the Chairman, Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, U.S. House of Representatives.

Signed at Washington, DC, on November 20, 2003.

Ann M. Veneman,

Secretary of Agriculture.

Privacy Act System "Current Research Information System," USDA/CSREES-1 Report

The purpose of this system of records is to document the research activities of the USDA/State agricultural research system for various reporting purposes as well as to provide ready access to research information.

The revisions to the system of records are to change the designation from USDA/CSRS-1 to USDA/CSREES-1; reflect organizational changes; identify changes to system location, categories of individuals covered by the system, purpose, record storage, retrievability, safeguards, notification procedures, and record access procedures; delete three routine uses no longer necessary or compatible with the purpose for which information was collected, and add a new routine use.

The authorities for maintaining this system of records are 7 U.S.C. 361 a-i; 7 U.S.C. 3222; 7 U.S.C. 450; 7 U.S.C. 7621; 7 U.S.C. 7626; 7 U.S.C. 3152; 7 U.S.C. 3241; 7 U.S.C. 5811; and 7 U.S.C. 343.

Use of this system, as established, should not result in infringement of any individual's right to privacy.

Access to technical records are maintained on the CRIS Web site (<http://cris.csrees.usda.gov>) and available to anyone. Financial records will be in a safeguarded environment with access only by authorized personnel.

The system provides for one new routine use release, as follows:

Routine use 1 permits disclosure of the technical records in this system to the general public in order to inform them of agricultural related research, plan future research activities, avoid costly duplication of research, and establish valuable contacts within the research community.

The revised system of records will not be exempt from any provisions of the Privacy Act.