

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

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

July 23, 1999.

The Department of Agriculture has submitted the following information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. 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 through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology should be addressed to: Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Washington, DC 20503 and to Departmental Clearance Office, USDA, OCIO, Mail Stop 7602, Washington, DC 20250-7602. Comments regarding these information collections are best assured of having their full effect if received within 30 days of this notification. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling (202) 720-6746.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number and the agency informs potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information that such persons are not required to respond to the collection of information unless it

displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Food and Nutrition Service

Title: 7 CFR Part 235, State Administrative Expense Funds.

OMB Control Number: 0584-0067.

Summary of Collection: Because the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is accountable for State Administrative Expense (SAE) funds by fiscal year, State Agencies (SAs) are requested to report their SAE budget information on that basis. If the State budgets coincide with a fiscal year other than that used by the Federal government, the SA must convert its State budget figures to amounts to be used during the applicable Federal fiscal year for this purpose. Under 7 CFR Part 235, State Administrative Expense Funds, there are five reporting requirements which necessitate the collection of information. They are as follows: SAE Plan, Reallocation Report, Coordinated Review Effort (CRE) Data Base Update, Report of SAE Funds Usage, and Responses to Sanctions. SAs also must maintain records pertaining to SAE. These include Ledger Accounts, Source Documents, Documentation of 10 Percent Transfer Limitation, and Equipment Records. FNS will collect information using forms FCS-74 and 525.

Need and Use of the Information: FNS will collect information on the total SAE cost the SA expects to incur in the course of administering the Child Nutrition Programs (CNP); the indirect cost rate used by the SA in charging indirect cost to SAE, together with the name of the Federal agency that assigned the rate and the date the rate was assigned; breakdown of the current year's SAE budget between the amount allocated for the current year and the amount carried over from the prior year; and the number and types of personnel currently employed in administering the CNPs. The information is used to determine whether SA intends to use SAE funds for purposes allowable under OMB Circular A-87, Cost Principles for State and Local Governments; does SA's administrative budget provides for sufficient funding from State sources to meet the Maintenance of Effort requirement; and is SA's staff adequate to effectively administer the programs covered by the SA's agreement with FNS.

Description of Respondents: State, Local or Tribal Government.

Number of Respondents: 87.

Frequency of Responses:

Recordkeeping; Reporting: Annually.

Total Burden Hours: 20,912.

Rural Housing Service

Title: 7 CFR 3575-A, Community Program Guaranteed Loans.

OMB Control Number: 0575-0137.

Summary of Collection: The Rural Housing Service (RHS) is authorized by Section 306 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926) to make loans to public agencies, nonprofit corporations, and Indian tribes for the development of essential community facilities primarily serving rural residents. The Community Facilities Division of the RHS is considered Community Programs under the 7 CFR, part 3575, subpart A. Implementation of the Community Programs guaranteed loan program was effected to comply with the Appropriations Act of 1990 when Congress allocated funds for this authority. The guaranteed loan program encourages lender participation and provides specific guidance in the processing and servicing of guaranteed community facilities loans. RHS will collect information using several forms.

Need and Use of the Information: RHS will collect information to determine applicant borrower eligibility, project feasibility, and to ensure borrowers operate on a sound basis and use loan funds for authorized purposes. Failure to collect proper information could result in improper determination of eligibility, improper use of funds, and/or unsound loans.

Description of Respondents: Not-for-profit institutions; State, Local or Tribal Government.

Number of Respondents: 125.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Quarterly.

Total Burden Hours: 76,977.

Agricultural Marketing Service

Title: Provisions Regulating the Quality of Domestically Produced Peanuts Handled by Persons Not Subject to the Peanut Marketing Agreement.

OMB Control Number: 0581-0163.

Summary of Collection: Public Law 101-220, enacted December 12, 1989, amended 608(b) of the Agricultural Agreement Act of 1937 (Act) to require all peanuts handled by persons who

have not entered into the Peanut Marketing Agreement (Agreement) to be subject to the same quality and inspection requirements as are in effect under the Agreement. The Agreement, a contract between handlers and the Secretary of Agriculture, requires inspection of peanuts coming from the farm to a handler (incoming inspection) and inspection of peanuts sold by the handler in commercial outlets (outgoing) inspection. Quality requirements include sizing and tolerances for damage, minor defects, moisture, and foreign material. Aflatoxin testing is also required. The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) will collect information using forms FV-117, Handlers Monthly Report of Farmers' Stock and FV-117-1, Monthly Report of Dispositions of Peanuts.

Need and use of the Information: AMS will collect information on a farmers' stock of their own production; a farmer's stock received from others and from the USDA loan program; the month of which peanuts are received, the source of the peanuts (farmer's name and address), whether the peanuts are custom shelled, remilled or blanched, or crushed for oil, and disposition of residuals. AMS will also collect information on total inedible peanut inventory yet the end of the month and total edible processed inventory at the end of the month; the shipping date of the disposed peanuts, and the location shipped to; lot number; milled certificate number; aflatoxin certification number; aflatoxin test results; and allowed a determination of the type of disposal—remilling or blanching, crushing for oil, animal feed, seed residuals, or exported. The information will be used for administrative assessing billing and compliance purposes as well as being input into the Non-Signer Peanut Program Databases. Without these forms, AMS will not be able to accurately assess each handler.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit.

Number of Respondents: 33.

Frequency of Responses: Recordkeeping; Reporting; Weekly; Monthly.

Total Burden Hours: 264.

National Agricultural Statistics Service

Title: Agricultural Labor Survey.

OMB Control Number: 0535-0109.

Summary of Collection: The 1938 Agricultural Adjustment Act, as amended in 1948, requires wage rate data for computation of an index component. This component is used in calculation of parity prices. General authority for these data collection

activities is granted under U.S. Code Title 7, Section 2204. Agricultural labor statistics are an integral part of National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) primary function of collecting, processing, and disseminating current state, regional, and national agricultural statistics. Comprehensive and reliable agricultural labor data are also needed by the Department of Labor in the administration of that H-2A program (non-immigrants who enter the United States for temporary or seasonal agricultural labor) and for setting Advance Effect Wage Rates. The Agricultural Labor Survey is the only timely and reliable sources of information on the size of the farm worker population. NASS will collect information using survey.

Need and Use of the Information NASS will collect information on wage rate estimates and the year-to-year changes in these rates and how change in wage rates help measure the changes in costs of production of major farm commodities. NASS will also collect information on data to measure the availability of national farm workers. The information is used by farm worker organizations to help set wage rates and negotiate labor contracts as well as determine the need for additional workers and help ensure federal assistance for farm worker assistance programs supported with government funding.

Description of Respondents: Farm.

Number of Respondents: 12,425.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting; Quarterly.

Total Burden Hours: 10,608.

Farm Service Agency

Title: Tobacco Marketing Quota Referenda Ballot—7 CFR 717.

OMB Control Number: 0560-0182.

Summary of Collection: The Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938, as amended, (1938 Act) requires the proclamation of national marketing quotas for tobacco and requires the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct referenda to determine whether producers favor or oppose marketing quotas. Section 312 of the 1938 Act requires the Secretary of Agriculture to proclaim national marketing quotas for tobacco and to conduct a referendum of the farmers who are engaged in the production of the crop of tobacco harvested immediately prior to the referendum to determine whether such farmers are in favor of, or opposed to, national marketing quotas for the next succeeding marketing years. The Farm Service Agency (FSA) will collect information using voting ballots.

Need and Use of the Information: FSA will collect information to determine whether marketing quotas will be in effect for certain kinds of tobacco and voters eligibility. Without conducting a referendum, the Secretary would be unable to administer statutory requirements regarding tobacco marketing quotas. If no referendum were held and approved by eligible voters, tobacco producers would not have the benefits of a marketing quota and thereby a price support program.

Description of Respondents:

Individuals or households; Farms.

Number of Respondents: 51,666.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting; Other (every 3 yr).

Total Burden Hours: 4,300.

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Title: Mid-To Upper Level Management and Sales/Field Representative Compensation.

OMB Control Number: 0570-NEW.

Summary of Collection: The Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS) provides technical assistance, research, and education to all types of agricultural cooperatives. RBS has been mandated the responsibility to acquire and disseminate information pertaining to cooperatives under the Cooperative Marketing Act of 1926; 7 U.S.C. 451-457, and Public Law No. 450. Section 3(b). RBS receives an increasing number of inquiries from cooperatives, farm organizations (NCFC, University extension agents, etc.), and other interested clientele asking for updated data on employee compensation and comparable salary information for various job categories; with an added interest for cooperative directors' compensation. The changing agricultural markets, services, and new farming techniques/technology available to cooperatives requires them to closely examine better methods to identify, attract, and retain the employment of competent, productive employees. To attract competent employees, salaries and benefits must be comparable to the skills they bring to the job and what other industries can offer them. RBS will collect information using a study.

Need and use of the Information: RBS will collect information to do a comparison of their present salary/benefits base; to evaluate perspective employees' educational and/or work experience and backgrounds in order to formulate an adequate benefit/compensation package. The information will be used by cooperative managers to set their cooperative's salary levels, used as a recruiting tool for new employees, used to analyze the cost effectiveness of their own employee

expenses, use for management planning-staffing costs for future activities, and to reevaluate their salary/benefits base in case of mergers and reorganizations. If the study is not undertaken, the salary and compensation structures adopted by many cooperatives will continue to be diverted from that necessary to attract and hold the quality and type of employees crucial to their ongoing economic success.

Description of Respondents: Not-for-profit institutions; Business or other for-profit; Farms; Individuals or households; Federal Government; State, Local or Tribal Government.

Number of Respondents: 300.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Annually.

Total Burden Hours: 300.

Agricultural Marketing Service

Title: Handling of Oranges, Grapefruit, Tangerines, and Tangelos Grown in Florida.

OMB Control Number: 0581-0094.

Summary of Collection: Marketing Order No. 905 (7 CFR Part 905), covering handling of oranges, grapefruit, tangerines, and tangelos grown in Florida, is authorized under the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937 (Act) (7 U.S.C. 601-674). The Act authorizes the regulation of certain agricultural commodities for the purpose of providing orderly marketing conditions in interstate commerce and to improve returns to growers. Regulatory provisions apply to varieties of citrus fruit grown in Florida shipped out of the production area to any market, except those specifically exempt. The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) will collect information using several forms.

Need and Use of the Information: AMS will collect information on the issuance of grade, size, quality, maturity, pack container, inspection, and reporting requirements. The Order is administered by an 18-member Florida Citrus Administrative Committee. The Committee has developed forms as a convenience to persons who are required to file information with the Committee relating to Florida Citrus fruit production, shipments, inspection and export. This information is needed to effectively carry out the administration of the program.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit; Farms.

Number of Respondents: 1,729.

Frequency of Responses: Recordkeeping; Reporting: On occasion; Weekly; Annually.

Total Burden Hours: 334.

Agricultural Marketing Service

Title: Livestock & Meat Market News.
OMB Control Number: 0581-0154.

Summary of Collection: The Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1621), Section 203(q), directs and authorizes the collection and dissemination of marketing information including adequate outlook information, on a market area basis, for the purpose of anticipating and meeting consumer requirements aiding in the maintenance of farm income and to bring about a balance between production and utilization. Livestock and Meat Market News provides a timely exchange of accurate and unbiased information on current marketing conditions (supply, demand, prices, trends, movement, and other information) affecting trade in livestock, meats, grain, and wool. Administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), this nationwide market news program is conducted in cooperation with 30 state departments of agriculture. AMS will collect information using market reports.

Need and Use of the Information: AMS will collect information on price, supply, and movement of livestock, meat carcasses, meat and pork cuts, and meat byproducts. The information collected is used by several agencies, agricultural universities and colleges to keep appraised of the current market conditions and movement of livestock and meat in the United States and also to determine available supplies and current pricing.

Description of Respondents: State, Local or Tribal Government; Farm; Individuals or households; Business or other for-profit.

Number of Respondents: 450.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Other (Daily).

Total Burden Hours: 7,020.

Rural Utilities Service

Title: 7 CFR Part 1724, Electric Engineering Architectural Services and Design Policies.

OMB Control Number: 0272-NEW.

Summary of Collection: The Rural Electrification Act (RE Act) of 1936, 7 U.S.C. 901 et seq., as amended provides authorities for the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) for carrying out its obligations and responsibilities. RUS is a credit agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It makes loans (direct and guaranteed) to finance electric, telecommunications, and water and waste water facilities in rural areas. RUS's electric program is a leader in lending to upgrade, expand, maintain, and replace the vast rural American

electric infrastructure. As a condition of a loan or loan guarantee under the RE Act, borrowers are normally required to enter into RUS loan agreements, whereby the borrowers agree to use RUS standard forms of contracts for construction, procurement, engineering services and architectural services financed in whole or in part by the RUS loan. RUS will collect information using RUS Forms 211, 220, and 236.

Need and Use of the Information: RUS will collect information on detailed contractual obligations and services to be provided and performed relating to construction, project design, construction management, compensation, and related information. The information is used by RUS electric borrowers, their engineering and architectural contractors, and RUS. The information is used to comply with the RUS standard loan contract and RUS regulations.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit.

Number of Respondents: 75.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 153.

Agricultural Marketing Service

Title: Cranberries Grown in the States of MA, RI, CT, NJ, WI, MN, OR, WA, and Long Island in the State of NY—Marketing Order No. 929.

OMB Control Number: 0581-0103.

Summary of Collection: Marketing Order No. 929 (7 CFR Part 929), regulates the handling of cranberries grown in 10 states and emanates from enabling legislation (the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, §§ 1-19, 48 Stat. 31, as amended; 7 U.S.C. 601-674). The act was designed to permit regulation of certain agricultural commodities for the purpose of providing orderly marketing conditions in interstate commerce and improving returns to growers. The objective of the marketing agreement and order is to correlate the supply of cranberries available for sale in the various trade channels with the demand in those outlets. The Agricultural Marketing Service will collect information using forms FV-53, -259, -260, and -263.

Need and Use of the Information: AMS will collect information from the form on cranberry production, shipments, inspection, and export. The Cranberry Marketing Committee, which represents growers and locally administers the order are responsible for keeping information on individual handlers' inventories and receipt confidential. Information gathered by the committee would only be reported in the aggregate, along with other

pertinent cranberry data. If information was not collected, data needed to keep the cranberry industry and the Secretary abreast of changes at the State and local level would not be available.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit; farms.

Number of Respondents: 1,306.

Frequency of Responses:

Recordkeeping; reporting: quarterly; annually.

Total Burden Hours: 874.

Food and Nutrition Service

Title: Food Stamp Program—Store Applications.

OMB Control Number: 0584-0008.

Summary of Collection: The Food Stamp Program (FSP) is designed to promote the general welfare and safeguard the health and well being of the Nation's population by raising levels of nutrition among low-income households. Section 2 of the Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended states in part, that a Food Stamp Program is herein authorized which will permit low-income households to obtain a more nutritious diet through normal channels of trade by increasing food purchasing power for all eligible households who apply for participation. Section 9(a) of the Act requires that regulations provide for an application to be submitted by retailers and wholesalers to request approval for authorization to accept and redeem food coupons. The need to collect information is established under the Act to determine the eligibility of retail food stores, wholesale food concerns, and food service organizations applying for authorization to accept and redeem food stamp benefits, to monitor these firms for continued eligibility, to sanction stores for non-compliance with the Act, and for program management. The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) will collect information using forms FNS-252, Food Stamp Application for Store, FN252-R, Food Stamp Program Application for Stores—Reauthorization, and FNS 252-2, Application to Participate in the Food Stamp Program for Communal Dining Facility/Others.

Need and Use of the Information: FNS will collect information to determine a firm's eligibility for participation in the Food Stamp Program, program administration, compliance monitoring and investigations, and for sanctioning stores found to be violating the program. FNS is also responsible for requiring updates to application information and reviewing that information to determine whether or not the retail food store, wholesale food concern, or food service organization continues to meet eligibility requirements. Owners

Employer Identification Numbers (EIN) and Social Security Numbers (SSN) may be disclosed to and used by Federal agencies or instrumentalities that otherwise gave access to EINs and SSNs. FNS and other Federal Government agencies examine such information during compliance review, audit review, special studies or evaluation efforts.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit; Not-for-profit institutions; Farms; Federal Government.

Number of Respondents: 68,770.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 15,777.

Nancy B. Sternberg,

Departmental Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 99-19350 Filed 7-28-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Office of the Secretary

National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board, Southern Regional Listening Session

AGENCY: Research, Education, and Economics, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Listening Session.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App., the United States Department of Agriculture announces a Southern Regional Listening Session of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Deborah Hanfman, Executive Director, National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board, Research, Education, and Economics Advisory Board Office, Room 3918 South Building, U.S. Department of Agriculture, STOP: 2255, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-2255. Telephone: 202-720-3684. Fax: 202-720-6199, or e-mail: lshea@reeusda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board, which represents 30 constituent categories, as specified in section 802 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (Pub. L. 104-127), will send representatives of its membership (11 members, the Executive Director, and a USDA administrative support person) to the Southern Region to hold a Southern

Regional Listening Session, 8:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. on August 2, 1999.

The Southern Regional Listening Session will engage southern stakeholders (small farmers, producers/ranchers, academia including 1890 and 1994 institutions, the private sector, and other stakeholder groups) in panel sessions to present statements to Advisory Board members on agricultural research and education priorities and other issues of significant concern to the South. Findings of this Listening Session will be presented to the full Advisory Board for consideration in its ongoing effort to advise USDA on future agricultural research and education priorities. Time will be allowed at the end of Listening Session panels for open discussion and audience participation.

Dates: Southern Regional Listening Session, August 2, 1999, 8:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

Place: Alcorn State University, Lorman, MS.

Type of Meeting: Open to the public.

Comments: The public may file written comments before or within 2 weeks after the meeting with the contact person. All statements will become a part of the official records of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board and will be kept on file for public review in the Office of the Advisory Board; Research, Education, and Economics; U.S. Department of Agriculture; Washington, D.C. 20250-2255.

Done at Washington, D.C. this 26th day of July 1999.

Eileen Kennedy,

Deputy Under Secretary, Research, Education, and Economics.

[FR Doc. 99-19419 Filed 7-28-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. 99-040N]

Codex Alimentarius Commission: Forty-sixth Session of the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex) and Twenty-third Session of the CODEX

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting; request for comment.

SUMMARY: The Office of Under Secretary for Food Safety, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is sponsoring a public meeting on August