

Records shall be kept of all Commission proceedings and shall be available for public inspection given adequate notice at the Commission's offices at 3401 North Fairfax Dr., Arlington, Virginia 22201-4498.

A listing of the members of the commission and details concerning their appointment were published in the **Federal Register** on June 9, 1999, at 64 FR 30958.

Heather Rosenker,

Executive Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

August 9, 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, D.C. 20503 and to Departmental Clearance Office, USDA, OCIO, Mail Stop 7602, Washington, D.C. 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 person who are to respond to the collection of information that such persons are not required to respond to the collection of information unless if

displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Forest Service

Title: Grazing Permit Administration Forms.

OMB Control Number: 0596-0003.

Summary of Collection: Domestic livestock grazing currently exist on approximately 90 million acres of National Forest Service (NFS) lands. This grazing is subject to authorization and administrative oversight by the Forest Service (FS). Information is required for the issuance and administration of grazing permits, including fee collections, on NFS lands as authorized by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, as amended, and the subsequent Secretary of Agriculture regulation 5 U.S.C. 301, 36 CFR 222, Subparts A and C. The bills for collection of grazing fees are based on the number of domestic livestock grazed on national forest lands and are a direct result of issuance of the grazing permit. Information must be collected on an individual basis through the permit issuance and administration process. FS will collect information using several forms.

Need and Use of the Information: FS will collect information on the ownership or control of livestock and base ranch property; the need for additional grazing to round out year long ranching operations; and citizenship. The information collected is used by FS in administering the grazing use program on NFS lands. If information is not collected, it would be impossible for the agency to administer a grazing use program in accordance with the statutes and regulations.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit; not-for-profit institutions; farms, State, Local or Tribal Government; individuals or households.

Number of Respondents: 7,200.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Annually; Other (as needed basis).

Total Burden Hours: 2,950.

Economic Research Service

Title: Study of Re-Engineering the Welfare System.

OMB Control Number: 0536-NEW.

Summary of Collection: In 1996, President Clinton signed into law the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA), thereby dramatically changing the system that had provided welfare cash assistance and food stamp benefits to low-income households since the early 1970's. In addition to the changes enacted in PRWORA, states have begun the process of modernizing and improving their FSPs. New

technological innovations have increased the use of computers to provide enhanced systems for service delivery, eligibility determination, benefit delivery and maintenance of program integrity. The primary purpose of the study is to provide USDA with a thorough view of the administrative changes states have made, are making, or will make to their Food Stamp Programs in FY 1999. The Economic Research Service (ERS) has awarded a contract to the Health Systems Research, Inc. (HSR) to collect existing documents from Food Stamp Directors and abstract data from these documents into a descriptive database. States will be requested to provide documents that fit within six basic re-engineering categories: the changing role of the caseworkers; organizational changes; changes in client tracking and accountability systems; changes in program accessibility and certification systems; increases in program monitoring and evaluation; and plans for implementing the simplified Food Stamp Program. ERS will collect information using mail and telephone surveys.

Need and Use of the Information: ERS will collect information on the number and percentage of states that have implemented or plan to implement administrative changes in their Food Stamp Program; the number and percentage of states and county-administered programs that have implemented or plan to implement administrative changes; methods used by states (regulatory, legislative, executive order, etc.) to implement changes; differences between the type of administrative changes made between states with state-administered FSPs and county-administered FSPs; number and percentage of states making organizational changes in their governmental structure as a result of welfare reform; the number and percentage of states making privatization efforts, by type of state and administrative activity; and the type of privatization efforts being made by states, by state demographic characteristics. The report will be used to assist ERS in determining future needs and measuring progress toward achieving Food Stamp Program goals.

Description of Respondents: State, Local or Tribal Government.

Number of Respondents: 102.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 119.

Economic Research Service

Title: Emergency Food Assistance System Study.

OMB Control Number: 0536-0048.

Summary of Collection: Many emergency food providers are reporting increased demand for their services as a result of changes in the nation's welfare and food assistance safety net under the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 and decreasing ability to meet the additional demands. USDA is coordinating public and private efforts intended to increase the amount of surplus food channeled through Emergency Food Assistance System (EFAS) providers by 33 percent by the year 2000. On November 23, 1996, President Clinton signed an executive memorandum directing all Federal agencies to join the USDA effort to recover excess food and established a Federal interagency task force on gleaning and food recovery. USDA, through the Food and Nutrition Service, administers several food assistance programs that help low-income households obtain adequate and nutritious diets. The largest USDA food assistance program, the Food Stamp Program, is designed to provide food assistance programs by serving as a distribution outlet for Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) commodities and by providing temporary or supplemental food assistance to many of the same needy populations served by USDA programs. A study of the Emergency Food Assistance System is going to be conducted. The Economic Research Service (ERS) previously obtained OMB approval for the first phase of this study which was focused on identifying proper respondents for the purpose of establishing a statistically valid sampling frame. In the second phase, ERS proposes using the sampling frame to conduct the study survey. ERS will collect information in phase two using questionnaires and telephone interviews.

Need And Use Of The Information: ERS will collect information on providers' operating characteristics, service areas, resource base, quantity and type of food flowing into the system, number of people served, and providers' capacity to manage current and future changes in food demand and resources. Information collected by the EFAS study will help USDA assess emergency food providers ability to manage current and future changes in food demand and resources and determine whether additional programs to support EFAS are needed.

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

Number of Respondents: 9,046.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion; Other (one time).

Total Burden Hours: 4,941.

Economic Research Service

Title: Evaluation of the Impact of EBT Customer Waivers on Recipients: New EBT User Survey.

OMB Control Number: 0536-NEW.

Summary Of Collection: In April 1992, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) issued regulations governing the design, implementation and use of electronic benefits transfer (EBT) systems for the issuance and redemption of food stamp benefits. Since 1992, the growth of EBT systems has been dramatic, and the U.S. Congress has now mandated the use of EBT systems in all states by October 1, 2002. Because experience with EBT systems was somewhat limited at the time the regulations were promulgated, the regulations included numerous measures intended to protect recipients' rights and to make EBT systems easy to use. Examples included regulations which require the FSP recipients: (a) are to be allowed to select their own personal identification number (PIN); (b) are to receive hands-on-training and experience in how to use EBT equipment; and (c) are to receive replacement EBT cards within two business days. As more states implement EBT and experience with these systems increased, however, efforts to reduce EBT administrative costs increase as well. State agencies are requesting waivers to the EBT regulations so they can try new and more efficient approaches to system implementation and operations. The Economic Research Service (ERS) will collect information using a survey to learn about the impact of three types of customers service waivers on recipients.

Need And Use Of The Information: ERS will collect information on service problems recipients have encounter with: PIN assignment rather than PIN selection; mailing of training materials to recipients rather than hands-on-training; and extending the time for card replacement from two days up to five days. The purpose of the study is to learn more about the actual impacts of the three customer service waivers on recipients and how the waivers may affect recipients and the recipients' responses. It will also provide preliminary estimates of the frequency of customer service problems in selected states with and without the waivers.

Description of Respondents: Individuals or households.

Number Of Respondents: 1,400.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 467.

Nancy B. Sternberg,

Departmental Clearance Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Office of the Secretary

Procedures for Submission of Biobased Products for Listing by USDA

AGENCY: U.S. Department of Agriculture.

ACTION: Notice and request for comment.

SUMMARY: As required by Executive Order 13101, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is proposing guidelines for listing commercially available commercial and industrial biobased products (a commercial or industrial product (other than food or feed) that utilizes biological products or renewable domestic agricultural (plant, animal, and marine) or forestry materials) available for purchase by Federal agencies. This notice includes a generic definition of biobased products, suggested criteria for including biobased items in a list to be put together by USDA, and a description of the process USDA will use in considering items for inclusion on the USDA Biobased Products List. USDA is seeking specific public comment on the criteria and process and other comments as appropriate. USDA will, after development of the first list, also be accepting items for listing on an on-going basis.

DATES: Comments should be received on or before September 13, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Individuals wishing to comment must send an original and two copies of their written comments to: J. R. Holcombe, Jr.; Office of Procurement and Property Management; U.S. Department of Agriculture; Mail Stop 9303; 1400 Independence Avenue, SW; Washington, DC 20250. Please place the phrase "USDA Biobased Products List" on your envelopes containing comments. The comments themselves also should be identified with the phrase "USDA Biobased Products List".

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: J. R. Holcombe, Jr., at the address above or by E-mail at richard.holcombe@USDA.GOV. Persons requiring accommodations, including sign language interpreters, should call J. R. Holcombe, Jr. through Terry Thir at (202)720-2531 or TDD (202)720-8372.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: