

# Notices

Federal Register

Vol. 64, No. 212

Wednesday, November 3, 1999

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

October 28, 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.

### Rural Housing Service

*Title:* 7 CFR Part 3550, Direct Single Family Housing Loan and Grant Programs, HB-1-3550, and HB-2-3550.

*OMB Control Number:* 0575-0172.

*Summary of Collection:* The Rural Housing Service (RHS) is a credit agency for rural housing and community development within the Rural Development mission area of the Department of Agriculture. Section 501 of Title V of the Housing Act of 1949, as amended, authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to administer such programs and to prescribe regulations to ensure that these loans and grants provided with Federal Funds are made to eligible applicants for authorized purposes, and that subsequent servicing and benefits provided to borrowers are consistent with the authorizing statute. RHS offers a supervised credit program to extend financial assistance to construct, improve, alter, repair, replace or rehabilitate dwellings, which will provide modest, decent, safe, and sanitary housing to eligible individuals living in rural areas. To assist individuals in obtaining affordable housing, a borrower's house payment may be subsidized to an interest rate as low as 1%. The information requested by RHS is vital to be able to process applications for RHS assistance and make prudent credit and program decisions. RHS will collect information using several forms.

*Need and Use of the Information:* RHS will collect information to verify program eligibility requirements; verify continued eligibility requirements for borrower assistance; service loans; to determine eligibility for special servicing assistance such as: payment subsidies, moratorium (stop) on payments, delinquency workout agreements; liquidation of loans; and, debt settlement. The information is used to ensure that the direct Single Family Housing programs are administered in a manner consistent with legislative and administrative requirements. Without this information RHS would be unable to determine if a borrower would qualify for services or if assistance has been granted to which the customer would not be eligible under current regulations and statutes.

*Description of Respondents:* Individuals or households; business or

other for-profit; not-for-profit institutions; State, Local or Tribal Government.

*Number of Respondents:* 500,000.  
*Frequency of Responses:* Reporting: On occasion; annually.

*Total Burden Hours:* 923,053.

### Agricultural Research Service

*Title:* Continuing Survey of food Intakes by Individuals (CSFII) 1999-2002.

*OMB Control Number:* 0518-0023.

*Summary of Collection:* During the past decade the U.S. diet has been undergoing changes unprecedented in scope and rapidity. Changes reflect increased interest by consumers in foods (variety and taste), nutrition and health, convenience, and availability of new or modified foods or meals from which they may choose. In the next decade, new information will be received on relationships among foods, nutrients, and health which will influence food consumption patterns and nutritional interventions. The objective of the Continuing Survey of Food Intakes by Individuals (CSFII) is to measure current levels and shifts in the food and nutrients consumed by individuals and the nutritional adequacy of diets, signal changes taking place, and provide information for use in evaluating dietary status. The CSFII is a major component of the National Nutrition Monitoring and Related Research Program (NNMRRP). The NNMRRP, which was developed in the early eighties at the request of Congress, was formally established following the passage of the National Nutrition Monitoring and Related Act of 1990 (Pub. L. 101-445). The Agricultural Research Service (ARS) will collect information using telephone surveys and questionnaires.

*Need and Use of the Information:* ARS will collect information to meet requirements for information on food consumption and dietary status as well as information on foods eaten at home and away. If the information is not collected many regulatory, research, and other programs would be severely limited by the lack of current data on food intakes by individuals.

*Description of Responses:* Individuals or households.

*Number of Respondents:* 5,066.  
*Frequency of Responses:* Reporting: Annually.

*Total Burden Hours:* 17,800.

**Farm Service Agency**

*Title:* Farmer Program Account Servicing Policies—7 CFR Part 1951–S.

*OMB Control Number:* 0560–0161.

*Summary of Collection:* The Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Farm Loan Program (FLP) provides supervised credit in the form of loans to family farmers and ranchers to purchase land and finance agricultural production. The regulations covering this information collection package describe the policies and procedures the agency will use to service most FLP loans when they become delinquent. These loans include Operating, Farm Ownership, Soil and Water, Softwood Timber Production, Emergency, Economic Emergency, Economic Opportunity, Recreation, and Rural Housing loans for farm service buildings. Servicing of accounts is administered in accordance with the provisions of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (CONACT) as amended by the Food Security Act of 1985, the Agriculture Credit Act of 1987, the Food Agriculture Conservation and Trade Act of 1990, the Agricultural Credit Improvement Act of 1992, and the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996. The Agricultural Credit Act of 1987 was intended to ensure that private individuals who have obtained a loan from the U.S. Treasury through the Department of Agriculture are all treated equally when they default on that loan. FSA will collect information using form FSA–1951–39 and other attachments and exhibits.

*Need and Use of the Information:* FSA will collect information to determine whether a financially distressed or delinquent borrower's request for loan servicing is warranted. If information is not collected, borrowers may not receive the correct servicing options which could result in the failure of their business and the loss of security property through either voluntary or forced liquidation.

*Description of Respondents:* Farms; individuals or households; business or other for-profit.

*Number of Respondents:* 12,013.

*Frequency of Responses:* Reporting: On occasion.

*Total Burden Hours:* 16,116.

**Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service**

*Title:* Animal Welfare—Guinea Pigs, Hamsters, and Rabbits.

*OMB Control Number:* 0579–0092.

*Summary of Collection:* The Laboratory Animal Welfare Act (AWA) enacted in 1966 and amended in 1970 and 1990 requires the U.S. Department

of Agriculture to regulate the humane care and handling of most warm-blooded animals used for research or exhibition purposes, sold as pets, or transported in commerce. The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has the responsibility for enforcing the Animal Welfare Act and its provisions. APHIS collects information and requires certain recordkeeping in order to review and evaluate program compliance by regulated facilities and ensure a workable enforcement system to carry out the requirements of the AWA. Specific information collection requirements relate to certifications of shipping containers used to transport guinea pigs, hamsters, and rabbits as well as the conditions (e.g., temperature) necessary during transport, and acclimation certificates.

*Need and Use of the Information:* APHIS collects information from regulated facilities including dealers, exhibitors, and research facilities, intermediate handlers and carriers, and from accredited veterinarians to ensure proper handling and care for guinea pigs, hamsters, and rabbits. Without this information, APHIS would be unable to detect violations and take appropriate actions consistent with the AWA.

*Description of Respondents:* Business or other for-profit.

*Number of Respondents:* 1,470.

*Frequency of Responses:*

Recordkeeping; Reporting: On occasion.

*Total Burden Hours:* 260.

**Food and Nutrition Service**

*Title:* Report of School Program Operations.

*OMB Control Number:* 0584–0002.

*Summary of Collection:* The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) administers the National School Lunch Program, the School Breakfast Program, and the Special Milk Program as mandated by the National School Lunch Act, as amended, and the Child Nutrition Act of 1996, as amended. Information on school program operations is collected from State agencies on a monthly basis to monitor and make adjustments to State agency funding requirements. FNS uses form FNS–10 to collect data, although 95 percent of the information is collected through electronic means.

*Need and Use of the Information:* FNS collects quantity information from State agencies on the number of meals served under the various food programs. Information is categorized in a number of areas and States are asked to provide their estimates along with actual data. FNS uses the information collected on school operations to assess the progress of the various programs and to make

monthly adjustments to State agency funding requirements. If the information was not collected, FNS would be unable to monitor the proper use of program funds.

*Description of Respondents:* State, Local, or Tribal Government.

*Number of Respondents:* 62.

*Frequency of Responses:* Reporting: Monthly; annually.

*Total Burden Hours:* 95,232.

**Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service**

*Title:* 9 CFR 160–162, Veterinary Accreditation Program.

*OMB Control Number:* 0579–0032.

*Summary of Collection:* Title 21, U.S.C. authorizes sections 111, 114, 114a, 114–1, 115, 120, 121, 125, 126, 134a, 134c, 134f, and 134g, of 21 U.S.C. These authorities permit the Secretary to prevent, control and eliminate domestic diseases such as brucellosis and tuberculosis, as well as to take actions to prevent and to manage exotic diseases such as foot-and-mouth and rinderpest. Disease prevention is the most effective method for maintaining a healthy animal population and enhancing the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's (APHIS) ability to compete in exporting animals and animal products. Because APHIS does not have sufficient numbers of Federal personnel to perform all of the disease prevention work that must be done, APHIS relies heavily on assistance from veterinarians in the private sector. Regulations governing the Veterinary Accreditation Program are found in Title 9 of the Code of Federal Regulations, parts 160, 161, and 162. Operating this important program requires APHIS to engage in a number of information collection activities in the form of applications for veterinary accreditation, veterinary accreditation orientation and training, paperwork associated with tasks performed by our accredited veterinarians (such as completing certificates, applying and removing official seals, and completing test reports); reviewing applications for veterinary accreditation and re-accreditation, recordkeeping, and updating information on accredited veterinarians. APHIS will collect information using several forms.

*Need and Use of the Information:* APHIS will collect information to determine that a veterinarian has met the requirements for being accredited, or for obtaining re-accreditation. APHIS will also collect information to ensure that accredited veterinarians are knowledgeable of current Federal and State animal health regulations, objectives and programs and they are

competent in their application. If information is not collected it would significantly destroy APHIS' ability to operate the Veterinary Accreditation Program.

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

*Number of Respondents:* 56,024.

*Frequency of Responses:*

Recordkeeping; Reporting: On occasion; annually.

*Total Burden Hours:* 52,190.

#### Rural Utilities Service

*Title:* 7 CFR Part 1789, Use of Consultants Funded.

*OMB Control Number:* 0572-0115.

*Summary of Collection:* The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) is a credit agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It makes mortgage loans and loan guarantees to finance electric, telecommunications, and water and waste water facilities in rural areas. The RUS loan portfolio totals nearly \$42 billion. Loan programs are managed in accordance with the Rural Electrification Act (RE Act) of 1936, 7 U.S.C. 901 *et seq.*, as amended, and as prescribed by Office of Management and Budget Circular A-129, Policies for Federal Credit Programs and Non-Tax Receivable. RUS will collect information through the use of consultants.

*Need and Use of the Information:* RUS will collect information to determine whether it is appropriate to use a consultant voluntarily funded by the borrower to expedite a particular borrower application.

*Description of Respondents:* Business or other for-profit.

*Number of Respondents:* 6.

*Frequency of Responses:* Reporting: On occasion.

*Total Burden Hours:* 12.

#### Food and Nutrition Service

*Title:* Report of the Child and Adult Care Food Program.

*OMB Control Number:* 0584-0078.

*Summary of Collection:* The Child and Adult Care Food Program is mandated by Section 17 of the National School Lunch Act, as amended. Program implementation is contained in 7 CFR Part 226. The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) collection information using Form FNS-44 to use in managing the Child and Adult Care Food Program. This report is vital since it is the only means by which FNS can obtain current information necessary to make payments to State agencies and to plan for future levels of program funding.

*Need and Use of the Information:* FNS will collect information in order to

analyze progress in the program and to make monthly adjustments to State agency funding requirements. If data is not collected FNS would be unable to monitor the proper use of program funds.

*Description of Respondents:* State, Local or Tribal Government.

*Number of Respondents:* 53.

*Frequency of Responses:* Reporting: Quarterly; semi-annually; Monthly.

*Total Burden Hours:* 5,724.

#### Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

*Title:* Importation of Gypsy Moth Host Materials from Canada.

*OMB Control Number:* 0579-0142.

*Summary of Collection:* Section 5 of the Plant Quarantine Act (7 U.S.C. 159) authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to determine whether the unrestricted importation of any plants, fruits, vegetables, roots, bulbs, seeds, or other plant products not included by the term "nursery stock" will result in the introduction of plant diseases or insect pests into the United States, and to then specify which of these products will be subject to the provisions of Section 1 of the Plant Quarantine Act. Section 105 and 106 of the Federal Plant Pest Act (7 U.S.C. 150dd, 150ee) authorizes the Secretary to require inspection and treatment of any product when the Secretary deems it necessary to prevent a plant pest from being introduced into the United States. Until now the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) did not specifically regulate the importation of gypsy moth host materials from foreign countries into the United States. APHIS has determined that the gypsy moth population is growing in certain parts of Canada, and that steps must be taken to prevent the introduction of gypsy moth from Canada into non-infested areas of the United States. APHIS will collect information using phytosanitary certificates, certificates of origin, and signed statements from individuals both within and outside the United States.

*Need and Use of the Information:* APHIS will collect information to ensure that importing foreign logs, trees, shrubs, and other articles do not harbor plant or insect pests such as the gypsy moth. If the information is not collected it would cripple APHIS' ability to ensure that trees, shrubs, logs, and a variety of other items imported from Canada do not harbor gypsy moths.

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

*Number of Respondents:* 2,120.

*Frequency of Responses:* Reporting: On occasion.

*Total Burden Hours:* 183.

**Nancy B. Sternberg,**

*Departmental Clearance Officer.*

[FR Doc. 99-28750 Filed 11-2-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-01-M

#### DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

##### Office of the Chief Economist; Intent To Establish an Advisory Committee on Small Farms

**AGENCY:** Office of the Chief Economist, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to establish an Advisory Committee on Small Farms.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) proposes to establish an Advisory Committee on Small Farms (Committee). The purposes of the Committee is to gather and analyze information regarding small U.S. farms and ranches within the United States and its Territories and recommend to the Secretary of Agriculture actions to enhance their viability and economic livelihood. The Committee is in the public interest and within the duties and responsibilities of the Department of Agriculture. Establishment of the Committee also ensures the continued consideration and implementation of the recommendations made by the National Commission on Small Farms in its report, "A Time to Act".

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Alfonso Drain, 202/720-3238. E-mail address: [adrain@nass.usda.gov](mailto:adrain@nass.usda.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. app. 2), notice is hereby given that the Secretary of Agriculture intends to establish the Advisory Committee on Small Farms, hereinafter referred to as the Committee.

The Committee will monitor government and private sector actions, policy and program proposals that relate to small farms, ranches, and woodlots, including limited-resource farms, ranches, and woodlots; and evaluate the impact such actions and proposals may have upon the viability and growth of small farms, ranches and woodlots; review USDA programs and strategies to implement small farm policy; advise the Secretary on actions to strengthen USDA programs; and evaluate other approaches that the Committee would deem advisable or which the Secretary of Agriculture or the Director of Sustainable Development and Small Farms may request the Committee to consider. The Secretary of Agriculture