

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

Foreign Agricultural Service

Notice of a Request for Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, this notice announces the Department's intention to request an extension for a currently approved information collection in support of the Dairy Tariff-Rate Import Quota Licensing program.

DATES: Comments should be submitted no later than July 24, 2000 to be assured of consideration.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND COMMENTS: Submit comments and/or requests for information to Richard P. Warsack, Dairy Import Quota Manager, STOP 1021, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-1021, telephone (202) 720-9439 or e-mail warsack@fas.usda.gov. All comments received will be available for public inspection in room 5541-S at the above

address. Persons with disabilities who require an alternative means for communication of information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's Target Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Title: Dairy Tariff-Rate Import Quota Licensing Program.

OMB Number: 0551-0001.
Expiration Date of Approval: October 31, 2000.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: The currently approved information collection supports Import Regulation 1, Revision 8 (7 CFR 6.20-6.37) which governs the administration of the import licensing system for certain dairy products subject to tariff-rate quotas (TRQs). The TRQs were established in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS) as a result of entry into force of certain provisions in the Uruguay Round Agreement. Imports of nearly all cheese made from cow's milk (except soft-ripened cheese such as Brie) and certain noncheese dairy products are subject to TRQs and the licensing provisions of Revision 8. Import licenses are issued each quota year to eligible licensees and are valid for 12 months (January 1 through December 31). Holders of such licenses may enter dairy articles at the low-tier tariff rate. Importers who do not hold licenses may enter dairy articles at the high-tier tariff rate.

For each quota year, all applicants must submit form FAS 923 (rev. 7-96). This form requests applicants to: (1) identify whether they are applying for a license as an importer, manufacturer or

exporter of certain dairy products; and (2) certify they meet the eligibility requirements of § 6.23 of the Import Regulation. Importers and exporters must attach documentation required by § 6.23 and § 6.24 as proof of eligibility for import licenses. Applicants for nonhistorical licenses for cheese and/or noncheese dairy products must also submit form FAS 923-A and/or FAS 924-B (rev. 7-96). This form requires applicants to identify requests for licenses listed on the form in descending rank-order.

After licenses are issued, § 6.26 requires licensees to surrender by October 1 any license amount that a licensee does not intend to enter that year. To the extent practicable, the Licensing Authority reallocates these amounts to existing licensees for the remainder of that year. The information collection includes form FAS 924-A, License Surrender Form and FAS 924-B, Application for Additional License Amounts. These forms require the licensee to complete a table listing the license number and surrendered amount or to list the additional amounts requested by dairy article, supplying country and amount requested by descending rank-order.

Estimate of burden: The public reporting burden for this collection of currently approved forms FAS 923, FAS 923-A and 923-B (one form) is estimated to average 255 hours; and FAS 924-A and FAS 924-B (one form) is 15 hours. The estimated average burden includes the time for reviewing instructions, gathering data needed, completing forms, and record keeping are set forth in the table below.

Estimates	FAS 923, 923-A, 923-B (Rev.7-96) (one form)	FAS 924-A, 924-B (one form)
Est. number of respondents	340.00	100.00
Est. responses per respondent	1.00	1.00
Est. hours per response	0.75	0.15
Est. total annual burden in hours	255.00	15.00
Aggregate total	270.00 estimated annual burden in hours.	

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Kimberly Chisley, the Agency Information Collection Coordinator, at (202) 720-2568.

The Department requests comments regarding the accuracy of the burden estimate, ways to minimize the burden, including the use of automated

collection techniques or other forms of information technology, or any other aspect of the collection of information.

Comments should be submitted in accordance with the Dates, Additional Information and Comments sections above. All comments will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval, and will also become a matter of public record.

Signed at Washington, D.C. on May 17, 2000.

Timothy J. Galvin,

Administrator, Foreign Agricultural Service.

[FR Doc. 00-12945 Filed 5-22-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-10-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

National Agricultural Statistics Service

Notice of Intent To Seek Approval To Conduct an Information Collection

AGENCY: National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. No. 104-13) and Office of Management and Budget regulations at 5 CFR part 1320 (60 FR 44978, August 29, 1995), this notice announces the intent of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) to request approval for an information collection, the *Census of Agriculture Content Test*.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by July 27, 2000 to be assured of consideration.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS:

Contact Rich Allen, Associate Administrator, National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Room 4117 South Building, Washington, D.C. 20250-2000, (202) 720-4333.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: *Title:* Census of Agriculture Content Test.

Type of Request: Intent to Seek Approval to Conduct an Information Collection.

Abstract: The Census of Agriculture is the leading source of statistics about the nation's agricultural production and the only source of consistent, comparable data at the county, state, and national levels. The Census of Agriculture is required by law under the "Census of Agriculture Act of 1997," Pub. L. No. 105-113 (7 U.S.C. 2204(g)).

The purpose of this voluntary content test is to evaluate a number of factors affecting the census program: questionnaire format and design, new content items, changes to question location and wording, respondent burden, the ability of the respondent to

provide the data, and selected processing methods. Results will be analyzed in preparation for the 2002 Census of Agriculture.

Minimizing response burden while recognizing the needs for agricultural sector data is a consideration when reviewing content expansion during 2002 Census questionnaire development. USDA/NASS conducted meetings with other USDA and Federal agencies and contacted State Departments of Agriculture to gather information about uses and justification for county-level data. Recommendations resulting from these evaluations are the basis for many of the changes incorporated into the content test questionnaires.

This Census of Agriculture Content Test will be conducted at the national level, excluding Hawaii and Alaska. The random sample will be mailed questionnaires with nonrespondents receiving a follow-up contact. NASS will summarize the data and present the findings to the Advisory Committee on Agriculture Statistics.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information averages 2 minutes per refusal, 5 minutes per screen-out, and 90 minutes per positive response.

Respondents: Farm and ranch operators.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 15,000.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 17,000 hours.

Copies of this information collection and related instructions can be obtained without charge from Ginny McBride, the Agency OMB Clearance Officer, at (202) 720-5778.

Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) whether the proposed 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 the burden of the proposed collection of information including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (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. Comments may be sent to: Ginny McBride, Agency OMB Clearance Officer, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Room

4162 South Building, Washington, D.C. 20250-2000 or gmcbride@usda.gov/nass.

All responses to this notice will become a matter of public record and be summarized in the request for OMB approval.

Signed at Washington, DC, April 3, 2000.

Rich Allen,

Associate Administrator.

[FR Doc. 00-12943 Filed 5-22-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-20-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

National Agricultural Statistics Service

Notice of Intent To Extend Approval of an Information Collection

AGENCY: National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. No. 104-13) and Office of Management and Budget regulations at 5 CFR part 1320 (60 FR 44978, August 29, 1995), this notice announces the intent of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) to request an extension of a currently approved information collection, the *Agricultural Economics and Land Ownership Survey*.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by July 27, 2000 to be assured of consideration.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS:

Contact Rich Allen, Associate Administrator, National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Room 4117 South Building, Washington, D.C. 20250-2000, (202) 720-4333.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: *Title:* Agricultural Economics and Land Ownership Survey.

OMB Control Number: 0535-0240.

Expiration Date of Approval: June 30, 2000.

Type of Request: Intent to Extend Approval of an Information Collection.

Abstract: The 1999 Agricultural Economics and Land Ownership Survey (AELOS) is being conducted by the National Agricultural Statistics Service. This national survey obtains data to describe the economic status of the U.S. farm operations and farm households. Data collected will provide information on agricultural land ownership, financing, and inputs by farm operators and landlords. The AELOS is designed to provide data that are valid for each