

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

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Docket No. DA-00-06]

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

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), this notice announces the Agricultural Marketing Service's (AMS) intention to request an extension for and revision to a currently approved information collection for the Dairy Forward Pricing Pilot Program.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be submitted on or before November 7, 2000 to be assured of consideration.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS: Contact Nicholas Memoli, Marketing Specialist, Order Formulation Branch, Rm. 2971-S, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, DC 20090-6456, (202) 690-1932, e-mail address Nicholas.Memoli@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Pricing Pilot Program.

OMB Number: 0581-0190.

Expiration Date of Approval: 09-30-00.

Type of Request: Extension and revision of an emergency approved information collection.

Abstract: In accordance with Public Law 106-113 (113 Stat. 1536, Section 1001(a)(8)), amending the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937 (7 U.S.C. 601-674), the Dairy Forward Pricing Pilot Program became effective on July 19, 2000. The pilot program permits a handler to pay producers or cooperative associations a negotiated price, rather than the minimum Federal order price, for milk that is under

forward contract, provided that such milk does not exceed the handler's nonfluid use of milk for the month. Under the pilot program, a one-page disclosure statement must be submitted each time a dairy farmer enters into a forward contract. The disclosure statement explains to the dairy farmer that the program is voluntary and that by entering into the program with a handler, the dairy farmer will forfeit his or her right to the minimum prices provided under the order.

The information collection requirements in this request are essential to carry out the intent of the Acts. The information collected is the minimum required. The information collected is used only by authorized employees of the USDA, AMS. The AMS is the primary user of the compiled information.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .25 hours per response.

Respondents: Dairy farmers.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 8,000.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 2,000 burden hours.

Comments are invited on: (1) 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; (2) 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; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to Nicholas Memoli, Marketing Specialist, Order Formulation Branch, Rm. 2971-S, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, DC 20090-6456, (202) 690-1932, e-mail address Nicholas.Memoli@usda.gov. All comments received will be available for public inspection during regular business hours at the same address.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request

for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record.

Dated: September 1, 2000.

Richard M. McKee,

Deputy Administrator, Dairy Programs.

[FR Doc. 00-23025 Filed 9-7-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Docket No. DA-00-09]

United States Standards for Grades of Nonfat Dry Milk (Spray Process), United States Standards for Instant Nonfat Dry Milk and United States Standards for Grades of Dry Buttermilk and Dry Buttermilk Product

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is soliciting comments on proposals to revise the United States Standards for Grades of Nonfat Dry Milk (Spray Process), the United States Standards for Instant Nonfat Dry Milk, and the United States Standards for Grades of Dry Buttermilk and Dry Buttermilk Product. Proposed revisions would reduce the Standard Plate Count (bacterial estimates) for U.S. Extra Grade nonfat dry milk (spray process) and instant nonfat dry milk to a maximum of 10,000 per gram, for U.S. Extra Grade dry buttermilk and dry buttermilk product to a maximum of 20,000 per gram, and for U.S. Standard Grade dry buttermilk and dry buttermilk product to a maximum of 75,000 per gram.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before November 7, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Written comments may be submitted to Duane R. Spomer, Chief, Dairy Standardization Branch, Dairy Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 2746 South Building, Stop 0230, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, DC 20090-6456; faxed to (202) 720-2643; or e-mailed to Duane.Spomer@usda.gov. Comments should reference the date and page number of this issue of the **Federal Register**. All comments received will be made available for

public inspection at the above address during regular business hours.

The current United States Standards, along with proposed changes, are available either through the above addresses or by accessing AMS' Home Page on the Internet at www.ams.usda.gov/dairystand.htm.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Duane R. Spomer, Chief, Dairy Standardization Branch, AMS/USDA/ Dairy Programs, Room 2746 South Building, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, DC 20090-6456, telephone (202) 720-7473.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 203(c) of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, as amended, directs and authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture "to develop and improve standards of quality, condition, quantity, grade, and packaging, and recommend and demonstrate such standards in order to encourage uniformity and consistency in commercial practices * * *." AMS is committed to carrying out this authority in a manner that facilitates the marketing of agricultural commodities and will make copies of official standards available upon request. The United States Standards for Grades of Nonfat Dry Milk (Spray Process), the United States Standards for Instant Nonfat Dry Milk, and the United States Standards for Grades of Dry Buttermilk and Dry Buttermilk Product no longer

appear in the Code of Federal Regulations but are maintained by USDA/AMS/Dairy Programs.

When these products are officially graded, the USDA regulations (7 CFR Part 58) governing the grading of manufactured or processed dairy products are used. These regulations require a charge for the grading service provided by USDA.

AMS is proposing to change the United States Standards for Grades of Nonfat Dry Milk (Spray Process), the United States Standards for Instant Nonfat Dry Milk, and the United States Standards for Grades of Dry Buttermilk and Dry Buttermilk Products using the procedures that appear in Part 36 of Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations (7 CFR Part 36).

AMS also administers a voluntary grading program for dry milk products under the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946. Any interested person, commercial firm, or government agency can, for a fee, have AMS verify that the dry milk products covered by these standards meet the requirements of the applicable U.S. standards. Dry milk products covered by these standards can be packaged into containers bearing the USDA grade shield. The grading program is implemented by the regulation in 7 CFR Part 58.

The United States Standards for Grades of Nonfat Dry Milk (Spray Process) have been in effect since May

22, 1996, the United States Standards for Instant Nonfat Dry Milk have been in effect since August 7, 1996, and the United States Standards for Grades of Dry Buttermilk and Dry Buttermilk Product have been in effect since August 23, 1991. AMS initiated these proposed changes following a suggestion by the American Dairy Products Institute (ADPI), a trade association representing the dry milk industry. ADPI requested that the maximum number of bacteria allowed in nonfat dry milk, instant nonfat dry milk, dry buttermilk and dry buttermilk product be reduced. ADPI suggests that these changes would enhance the competitiveness of U.S. dry milk products in international markets since several other exporting countries have bacterial requirements more stringent than current U.S. standards. By reducing the bacterial requirements, the U.S. dry milk industry will be more competitive in international markets. Additionally, the standards would reflect improvements that have occurred in the quality of dry milk products produced in the United States.

Proposed by Dairy Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service:

USDA proposes to lower the maximum bacterial content requirement for the specified product grade standards, as suggested by the American Dairy Products Institute, as follows:

Current standard plate count	Proposed standard plate count
United States Standards for Grades of Nonfat Dry Milk (Spray Process)	
Extra Grade: 40,000/g	Extra Grade: 10,000/g.
United States Standards for Instant Nonfat Dry Milk	
Extra Grade: 30,000/g	Extra Grade: 10,000/g.
United States Standards for Grades of Dry Buttermilk and Dry Buttermilk Product	
Extra Grade: 50,000/g	Extra Grade: 20,000/g.
Standard Grade: 200,000/g	Standard Grade: 75,000/g.

This notice provides a 60-day comment period for interested parties to comment on proposed revisions to the standards.

Authority: (7 U.S.C. 1621-1627).

Dated: September 1, 2000.

Kathleen A. Merrigan,
Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 00-23024 Filed 9-7-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Southwestern Region, Arizona, New Mexico, West Texas and Oklahoma Proposed 69KV Transmission Line Project on the Camino Real Ranger District, Carson National Forest, Taos County, NM

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: Based on a request made by the Kit Carson Electric Cooperative, the Carson National Forest is preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS) to analyze the effects of a proposal to authorize Kit Carson Cooperative to construct, operate and maintain a new 69 KV transmission line and fiber optic system on National Forest Lands from the Talpa substation to Penasco, New Mexico. The proposal also includes construction, operation and maintenance of a substation in Penasco and the relocation of a distribution line between Talpa and the Pot Creek