

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. TB-04-03]

National Advisory Committee for Tobacco Inspection Services; Open Meeting

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of advisory committee meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App. II) announcement is made of a forthcoming meeting of the National Advisory Committee for Tobacco Inspection Services.

DATES: March 2, 2004, 9 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Old Town Alexandria Holiday Inn, 480 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John P. Duncan III, Deputy Administrator, Tobacco Programs, AMS, USDA, Telephone number (202) 205-0567 or fax (202) 205-0235.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the meeting is to discuss and recommend the level of service to be provided to producers by AMS, review the financial status of the tobacco inspection program, recommend the user fee rate needed to maintain the desired level of service for the 2004-2005 marketing season, and review various regulations issued pursuant to the Tobacco Inspection Act (7 U.S.C. 511 *et seq.*), and the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for 2002 (Pub. L. 107-76; 7 U.S.C. 511s).

The meeting is open to the public. Persons, other than members, who wish to address the Committee at the meeting should contact John P. Duncan III, Deputy Administrator, Tobacco

Programs, AMS, USDA, STOP 0280, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-0280, prior to the meeting. Written statements may be submitted to the Committee before, at or after the meeting. If you need any accommodations to participate in the meeting, please contact the Tobacco Programs at (202) 205-0567 by February 20, 2004, and inform us of your needs.

Dated: January 21, 2004.

A.J. Yates,

Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 04-1601 Filed 1-26-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Commodity Credit Corporation

Information Collection; Commodity Request (Food Aid Request Entry System, FARES)

AGENCY: Commodity Credit Corporation, USDA.

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) is seeking comments from all interested individuals and organizations on the extension and revision of an approved information collection under the Paperwork Reduction Act. CCC procures various processed foods and commodities to be exported and donated for use in humanitarian food aid programs. Information related to this activity was previously collected on the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Form USAID 1550-4, Commodity Request for Foreign Distribution. The Food Aid Request Entry System (FARES) has been developed to replace the AID Form 1550-4 with electronic processing through the FARES.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received on or before March 29, 2004 to be assured consideration.

ADDRESSES: Comments concerning this notice should be addressed to: Donna Ryles, Chief, Planning and Analysis Division, Kansas City Commodity Office, 6501 Beacon Drive, Kansas City, Missouri 64133-4676. Comments also may be submitted via facsimile to (816) 926-1648, telephone (816) 926-1505 or by e-mail to dgryles@kcc.fsa.gov.

Comments regarding this information collection requirement may be directed to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs of OMB, Attention: Desk Officer for USDA, Washington, DC 20503.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Sharon Hadder, Marketing Specialist, (202) 720-3816, or Sharon_Hadder@wdc.fsa.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Description of Information Collection

Title: Food Aid Request Entry System (FARES).

OMB Control Number: 0560-0225.

Type of Request: Extension with revision.

Abstract: The information collection is necessary for the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) to procure various processed foods and commodities for export under humanitarian food aid programs. The FARES has been developed to automate the entry of commodity requests submitted to CCC from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), private voluntary organizations (PVOs), the World Food Program (WFP), the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS), and the Farm Service Agency (FSA). The FARES will replace the USAID Form 1550-4, Commodity Request for Foreign Distribution, which will become obsolete.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for collecting information under this notice is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the information.

Respondents: United States Agency for International Development (USAID), private voluntary organizations (PVOs), the World Food Program (WFP), Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) and the Farm Service Agency (FSA).

Respondents: 300.

Estimated Number of Annual Responses Per Respondent: 12.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 3,600 hours.

Comment is invited on: (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 collected; or (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of the 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. All comments received in response to this notice, including names and addresses when provided, will be a matter of public record. Comments will be summarized and included in the submission for Office of Management and Budget approval.

Signed at Washington, DC, on January 16, 2004.

James R. Little,

Executive Vice President, Commodity Credit Corporation.

[FR Doc. 04-1670 Filed 1-26-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-05-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food and Nutrition Service

Improving Access to the Summer Food Service Program

AGENCY: Food and Nutrition Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice solicits comments related to methods for improving access to the Summer Food Service Program by children in needy areas.

DATES: Comments must be postmarked by March 29, 2004 to be considered.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be addressed to Mr. Robert Eadie, Chief, Policy and Program Development Branch, Child Nutrition Division, Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 634, Alexandria, Virginia 22302-1594. Comments will also be accepted via e-mail sent to cnproposals@fns.usda.gov. All written submissions, including e-mail submissions, will be available for public inspection in Room 634 Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Keith Churchill or Marcus Hambrick, Policy and Program Development Branch, at the above address, or by telephone at (703) 305-2590.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Food and Nutrition Service, USDA (FNS) is committed to improving access to the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP),

authorized by Section 13 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, 42 U.S.C. 1761, by children in needy areas. FNS has partnered with national service organizations to promote the SFSP, utilized regional and local community groups to identify unique demographic needs and participation barriers, met with potential sponsoring organizations and community leaders to identify potential solutions to common barriers and targeted specific unserved and underserved areas for Program expansion. In addition to these endeavors, State agencies have made significant efforts to promote and expand the Program.

These endeavors have led FNS to develop and implement additional outreach projects to improve Program access. As part of a comprehensive outreach effort, FNS has developed a media kit and marketing campaign, created SFSP promotional articles for newsletters and publications, and conducted activities designed for specific unserved and underserved areas.

Additionally, FNS has developed Program policies that encourage and expand access to the Program by children in needy areas. Allowing school sponsors to serve summer meals under an existing National School Lunch Program agreement has enabled seamless year-round participation. Other policies include authorizing eligibility determinations based on alternate means in lieu of applications, expanding approved meal service times, and waiving certain budget requirements. Collectively, changes to Program policies have enabled sponsors' participation in the SFSP while considering unique circumstances.

While modest success has been achieved in increasing Program participation by children, FNS continues to solicit comments and evaluate innovative suggestions related to improving Program access, especially in rural areas. In recent years, FNS has received and evaluated numerous suggestions, including: waiving application requirements for enrolled sites in needy areas, allowing off-site consumption of meals, establishing pilot programs to further evaluate innovative methods to improve Program access and even altering the congregate feeding design of the current program to accommodate home-based lunches. As a result of these and other suggestions, FNS has expanded Program access and lessened the management burden placed on Program sponsors.

FNS solicits comments and suggestions related to Program access from all parties. FNS is particularly

interested in suggestions from faith-based and community-based organizations, which might take advantage of existing service delivery methods and expand opportunities for program participation by such organizations.

Commenters should consider that FNS does not have the authority to waive certain statutory and regulatory requirements that govern the SFSP, e.g. reimburse sponsors that operate in areas where fewer than 50 percent of children are eligible, implement policy that increases Federal costs, or change the nutritional content of meals served. Additionally, FNS will not entertain suggestions that might compromise the health and safety of children who participate in the Program.

FNS encourages all interested parties to submit comments and suggestions related to improving Program access.

Dated: January 22, 2004.

Roberto Salazar,

Administrator.

[FR Doc. 04-1731 Filed 1-26-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-30-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Final Environmental Impact Statement for the South Platte Wild and Scenic River Study, Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands (PSICC), Douglas, Jefferson, Park and Teller Counties, CO

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Availability.

SUMMARY: Under the National Environmental Policy Act (Pub. L. 91-190) and the National Forest Management Act (Pub. L. 94-588), the Forest Service announces the availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the South Platte Wild and Scenic River Study. The FEIS analyzes the direct, indirect and cumulative impacts of the alternatives analyzed in the study. A Record of Decision is not being issued at this time in order to receive comments on new information not previously disclosed, namely, (1) the proposed amendment to the Forest Plan, and (2) the Preferred Alternative.

DATES: Comments must be received by April 2, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to: Robert J. Leaverton, Forest Supervisor, Attn: South Platte Wild and Scenic River Study, Pike and San Isabel