

DATES: Applications for certification must be received by close of business February 20, 2007.

ADDRESSES: Certification form may be requested from Kenneth R. Payne, Chief, Marketing Programs Branch, Livestock and Seed Program, AMS, USDA, Room 2628-S, STOP 0251, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-0251 or e-mail Kenneth.Payne@usda.gov. The form may also be found on the Internet at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/lsg/mpb/beef/l25.pdf>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Kenneth R. Payne, Chief, Marketing Programs Branch, Livestock and Seed Program, AMS, USDA, Room 2628-S, STOP 0251, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-0251 or e-mail Kenneth.Payne@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Beef Promotion and Research Act of 1985 (Act) (7 U.S.C. 2901 *et seq.*), enacted December 23, 1985, authorizes the implementation of a Beef Promotion and Research Order (Order). The Order, as published in the July 18, 1986, **Federal Register** (51 FR 26132), provides for the establishment of a Board. The current Board consists of 96 cattle producers and 8 importers appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture (Secretary). The duties and responsibilities of the Board are specified in the Order.

The Act and the Order provide that USDA shall either certify or otherwise determine the eligibility of State cattle producer organizations or associations and general farm organizations, as well as any importer organizations or associations to nominate members to the Board to ensure that nominees represent the interests of cattle producers and importers. Nominations for importer representatives may also be made by individuals who import cattle, beef, or beef products. Persons who are individual importers do not need to be certified as eligible to submit nominations. When individual importers submit nominations, they must establish to the satisfaction of USDA that they are in fact importers of cattle, beef, or beef products, pursuant to § 1260.143(b)(2) of the Order [7 CFR 1260.143(b)(2)]. Individual importers are encouraged to contact AMS at the above address to obtain further information concerning the nomination process, including the beginning and ending dates of the established nomination period and required nomination forms and background information sheets. Certification and nomination procedures were promulgated in the final rule, published

in the April 4, 1986, **Federal Register** (51 FR 11557) and currently appear at 7 CFR 1260.500 through 1260.640.

Organizations which have previously been certified to nominate members to the Board do not need to reapply for certification to nominate producers and importers for the upcoming vacancies.

Uncertified eligible producer organization and general farm organizations in all States that are interested in being certified as eligible to nominate cattle producers for appointment to the listed producer positions, must complete and submit an official "Application of Certification of Organization or Association," which must be received by close of business (20-days after publication in the **Federal Register**). Uncertified eligible importer organizations that are interested in being certified as eligible to nominate importers for appointment to the listed importer positions must apply by the same date. Importers should not use the application form by should provide the requested information by letter as provided for in CFR § 1260.540(b).

Only those organizations or associations which meet the criteria for certification of eligibility promulgated at 7 CFR 1260.530 are eligible for certification.

For State organizations or associations those criteria are:

- (1) Total paid membership must be comprised of at least a majority of cattle producers or represent at least a majority of cattle producers in a State or unit,
- (2) Membership must represent a substantial number of producers who produce a substantial number of cattle in such State or unit,
- (3) There must be a history of stability and permanency, and
- (4) There must be a primary or overriding purpose of promoting the economic welfare of cattle producers.

For organizations or associations representing importers, the determination by USDA as to the eligibility of importer organizations or associations to nominate members to the Board shall be based on applications containing the following information:

- (1) The number and type of members represented (*i.e.*, beef or cattle importers, etc.),
- (2) Annual import volume in pounds of beef and beef products and/or the number of head of cattle,
- (3) The stability and permanency of the importer organization or association,
- (4) The number of years in existence, and
- (5) The names of the countries of origin for cattle, beef, or beef products imported.

All certified organizations and associations, including those that were previously certified in the States or units having vacant positions on the Board, will be notified simultaneously in writing of the beginning and ending dates of the established nomination period and will be provided with required nomination forms and background information sheets.

The names of qualified nominees received by the established due date will be submitted to USDA for consideration as appointees to the Board.

The information collection requirements referenced in this notice have been previously approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under the provisions of 44 U.S.C., Chapter 35 and have been assigned OMB No. 0581-0093, except Board member nominee information sheets are assigned OMB No. 0505-0001.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 2901 *et seq.*

Dated: January 12, 2007.

Lloyd C. Day,

Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. E7-648 Filed 1-17-07; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Farm Service Agency

Request for Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection; Operating Loans; Policies, Procedures, Authorizations and Closings

AGENCY: Farm Service Agency, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the intent of the Farm Service Agency (FSA) to request renewal of the information collection currently approved and used in support of the FSA Farm Loan Programs (FLP). The collection of information from FLP applicants and commercial lenders is used to determine eligibility; financial feasibility and security positions when the applicant applies for direct loan assistance.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received on or before March 19, 2007 to be assured consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Cathy Quayle, Senior Loan Officer, USDA, Farm Service Agency, Loan Making Division, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Stop 0522, Washington,

DC 20250-0522; Telephone (202) 690-4018; Electronic mail: cathyquayle@wdc.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Operating Loans; Policies, Procedures, Authorizations and Closings.

OMB Control Number: 0560-0162.

Expiration Date of Approval: July 31, 2007.

Type of Request: Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection.

Abstract: The information collected under OMB Control Number is 0560-0162 is necessary to effectively administer the operating loan program in accordance with the requirements in 7 CFR part 1941 as authorized by the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act. Specifically, the Agency uses the information to evaluate loan making or loan servicing proposals, and to process loan closings. The information is needed to evaluate an applicant's eligibility, and to determine if the operation is economically feasible and if the security offered in support of the loan is adequate.

Estimate of Annual Respondent Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .12 hours per response.

Respondents: Individuals or households, businesses or other for profit and farms.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 51,466.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 6,176.

Comments are invited on the following: (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; 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. These comments should be sent to the Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503 and to Cathy Quayle, Senior Loan Officer, USDA, Farm Service Agency, Loan Making Division, 1400 Independence

Avenue, SW., STOP 0522, Washington, DC 20250-0522.

Comments will be summarized and included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval of the information collection. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Signed in Washington, DC on January 10, 2007.

Thomas B. Hofeller,

Acting Administrator, Farm Service Agency.
[FR Doc. E7-599 Filed 1-17-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-05-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. FSIS-2006-0040E]

Product Labeling: Definition of the Term "Natural"

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of petition and public meeting; extension of comment period.

SUMMARY: The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is re-opening and extending the comment period on a petition submitted by Hormel Foods on the voluntary labeling claim "natural" and on the broader question of how to define this claim. The original comment period closed on January 11, 2007. The Agency is taking this action in response to requests that were made at and after a public meeting that the Agency held on December 12, 2006, to discuss both the Hormel petition and issues associated with the claim "natural" in general.

DATES: Comments are due by March 5, 2007.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

Federal eRulemaking Portal: This Web site provides the ability to type short comments directly into the comment field on this Web page or attach a file for lengthier comments. Go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and, in the "Search for Open Regulations" box, select "Food Safety and Inspection Service" from the agency drop-down menu, and then click on "Submit." In the Docket ID column, select FDMS Docket Number FSIS-2005-0040 to submit or view public comments and to view supporting and related material available electronically. This docket can be viewed using the "Advanced Search" function in Regulations.gov.

Mail, including floppy disks or CD-ROM's, and hand or courier-delivered

items: Send to Docket Clerk, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, 300 12th Street, SW., Room 102 Cotton Annex, Washington, DC 20250.

Electronic mail: FSIS.regulations.comments@fsis.usda.gov.

All submissions received by mail and electronic mail must include the Agency name and docket number FSIS-2006-0040. All comments submitted in response to this notice will be available for public inspection in the FSIS Docket Room at the address listed above between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. The comments also will be posted to the [regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) Web site and on the Agency's Web site at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations_&_policies/2006_Proposed_Rules_Index/index.asp.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Robert C. Post, Director, Labeling and Consumer Protection Staff, Office of Policy, Program, and Employee Development, USDA, FSIS, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250, (202) 205-3625, e-mail: Robert.Post@fsis.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On December 5, 2006, FSIS published a notice in the **Federal Register** that announced the receipt of a petition submitted by Hormel Foods requesting that the Agency amend the meat inspection and poultry products inspection regulations to establish a definition for the voluntary claim "natural" and to delineate the conditions under which the claim can be used on the labels of meat and poultry products (71 FR 70503). In the notice, FSIS gave the public until January 11, 2007, to submit comments on the petition and on issues associated with the claim "natural" in general. The notice also announced that, to facilitate the comment process, the Agency would hold a public meeting to discuss the petition. The public meeting was held on December 12, 2006. In the December 5, 2006, **Federal Register** notice, FSIS also announced that after the comment period for the petition closes, the Agency will initiate rulemaking on the "natural" claim.

At, as well as after, the December 12, 2006, public meeting, FSIS received several comments requesting that the Agency extend the comment period provided in the December 5, 2006, **Federal Register** notice by an additional 60 days from the initial closing date of January 11, 2007. The comments were submitted by a representative of a food ingredient manufacturer, a trade association that represents flavor manufacturers and others with an