

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

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

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), *OIRA_Submission@omb.eop.gov* or fax (202) 395–5806 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) 720–8958.

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.

Food and Nutrition Service

Title: Enhancing Completion Rates for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Quality Control Reviews.

OMB Control Number: 0584–NEW.

Summary of Collection: Section 17 [7 U.S.C. 2026] (a)(1) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 provides general legislative authority for the planned data collection. It authorizes the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture to enter into contracts with private institutions to undertake research that will help to improve the administration and effectiveness of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in delivering nutrition-related benefits. The SNAP Quality Control (QC) system requires States to conduct monthly quality control reviews of households participating in SNAP to assess the validity of SNAP cases, and, ultimately, the payment error rate for SNAP. The completion rate of sampled QC reviews has decreased nationally over the last few decades. In response to this overall decline and inter-State variation in SNAP QC completion rates, the current study seeks to identify the factors associated with incomplete QC reviews in active SNAP cases and to identify best practices related to completing SNAP QC reviews.

Need and Use of the Information: The Food and Nutrition Service will collect information through four instruments: a semi-structured interview protocol for QC directors and supervisors, a semi-structured interview protocol for QC reviewers, a survey instrument for QC directors and supervisors, and a survey instrument for QC reviewers. The purpose of this information collection is to identify the factors that consistently lead to incomplete cases among active SNAP QC case reviews and identify possible means to enhance completion rates. If the data is not collected, USDA will not have critical information for assessing the causes of incomplete QC reviews and improving the integrity of the QC process.

Description of Respondents: State, Local or Tribal Government; Federal Government.

Number of Respondents: 1,050.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion; Other (1 time).

Total Burden Hours: 307.

Food and Nutrition Service

Title: WIC Nutrition Services and Administration (NSA) Costs Study.

OMB Control Number: 0584–NEW.

Summary of Collection: The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kid Act of 2010 (Pub. L. 111–296, Sec 305) mandates programs under its authorization to cooperate with U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) program research and evaluation activities. The mandate applies to Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) agencies. The WIC Program regulations (7 CFR part 246) delegate administration of the WIC Program to the USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS). The operational component of the WIC Program is funded through the nutrition services and administration (NSA) portion of State Agency grants; however, these NSA costs have not been examined since a Government Accountability Office (GAO) study conducted in 2000. To better understand the sources that contribute to the variation in NSA costs, FNS seeks to ensure that all States operate the WIC Program in an effective and efficient manner. The National WIC NSA cost Study will provide an updated assessment of the types and categories of costs charged to WIC NSA grants, and the factors that influence the variation in these costs among State and local agencies.

Need and Use of the Information: The purpose of the WIC NSA Cost Study is to provide FNS with an updated assessment of the amounts and categories of costs charged to WIC NSA grants and to increase the understanding of why there is such cost variation among State and local agencies. A better understanding of these areas will enable FNS to more efficiently and effectively administer the WIC Program. If the data is not collected it would negatively impact the ability of FNS to carry out its federal mandate of managing the WIC program in the most effective and efficient way possible.

Description of Respondents: State, Local or Tribal Government; Federal Government.

Number of Respondents: 6,236.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion; Other (1 time).

Total Burden Hours: 2,580.

Charlene Parker,

*Departmental Information Collection
Clearance Officer.*

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The Department of Agriculture will submit the following information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 on or after the date of publication of this notice. 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), New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC; New Executive Office Building, 725-17th Street NW., Washington, DC 20503. Commenters are encouraged to submit their comments to OMB via email to: OIRA_Submission@omb.eop.gov or fax (202) 395-5806 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 by February 10, 2014. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling (202) 720-8681.

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.

Agricultural Marketing Service

Title: Cotton Classing, Testing, and Standards.

OMB Control Number: 0581-0008.

Summary of Collection: The U.S. Cotton Standards Act, 7 U.S.C. 51 53 and 55, authorizes the USDA to supervise the various activities directly associated with the classification or grading of cotton, cotton linters, and cottonseed based on official USDA Standards. The Cotton and Tobacco Program of the Agricultural Marketing Service carries out this supervision and is responsible for the maintenance of the functions to which these forms relate. USDA is the only Federal agency authorized to establish and promote the use of the official cotton standards of the U.S. in interstate and foreign commerce and to supervise the various activities associated with the classification or grading of cotton, cotton linters, and cottonseed based on official USDA standards.

Need and Use of the Information: The Agricultural Marketing Service uses the following forms to collection information:

Form FD-210 is submitted by owners of cotton to request cotton classification services. The request contains information for USDA to ascertain proper ownership of the samples submitted, to distribute classification results, and bill for services. Information about the origin and handling of the cotton is necessary in order to properly evaluate and classify the samples.

Form CN-246 is submitted by cotton gins and warehouses seeking to serve as licensed samplers. Licenses issued by the USDA-AMS Cotton Program authorize the warehouse/gin to draw and submit samples to insure the proper application of standards in the classification of cotton and to prevent deception in their use.

Form CN-383 is a package of forms designated as CN-383-a through CN-383-k that is submitted by cotton producers, ginners, warehousemen, cooperatives, manufacturers, merchants, and crushers interested in acquiring cotton classification standards and round testing services.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit.

Number of Respondents: 993.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Annually; on occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 141.

Agricultural Marketing Service

Title: Cotton Classification and Market News Service.

OMB Control Number: 0581-0009.

Summary of Collection: The Cotton Statistics and Estimates Act, 7 U.S. Code

471-476, authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to collect and publish annually statistics or estimates concerning the grades and staple lengths of stocks of cotton. In addition, Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) collects, authenticates, publishes, and distributes timely information of the market supply, demand, location, and market prices for cotton (7 U.S.C. 473B). This information is needed and used by all segments of the cotton industry.

Need and Use of the Information: AMS will collect information on the quality of cotton in the carryover stocks along with the size or volume of the carryover. Growers use this information in making decisions relative to marketing their present crop and planning for the next one; cotton merchants use the information in marketing decisions; and the mills that provide the data also use the combined data in planning their future purchase to cover their needs. Importers of U.S. cotton use the data in making their plans for purchases of U.S. cotton. AMS and other government agencies are users of the compiled information.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit.

Number of Respondents: 826.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion; weekly; annually.

Total Burden Hours: 653.

Agricultural Marketing Service

Title: Reporting Forms under Milk Marketing Order Programs.

OMB Control Number: 0581-0032.

Summary of Collection: Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) oversees the administration of the Federal Milk Marketing Orders authorized by the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, as amended. The Act is designed to improve returns to producers while protecting the interests of consumers. The Federal Milk Marketing Order regulations require places certain requirements on the handling of milk in the area it covers. Currently, there are 10 milk marketing orders regulating the handling of milk in the respective marketing areas.

Need and Use of the Information: The information collected is needed to administer the classified pricing system and related requirements of each Federal Order. Forms are used for reporting purposes and to establish the quantity of milk received by handlers, the pooling status of the handler, and the class-use of the milk used by the handler and the butterfat content and amounts of other components of the milk. Without the monthly information, the market administrator would not have the information to compute each