

Notices

Federal Register

Vol. 64, No. 123

Monday, June 28, 1999

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. FV-99-301]

Request for 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) intent to request approval for information collection for a Federal-State Shipping Point Inspection Program Customer Service Survey.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by August 27, 1999 to be assured of consideration.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS: Contact Rob Huttenlocker, Program Support Section, Fresh Products Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 96456, Room 2049-South, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456; telephone (202) 720-0297, Fax (202) 720-5136, and Email FPB.DocketClerk@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Federal-State Shipping Point Inspection Program Customer Service Survey.

OMB Number: 0581-[].

Expiration Date of Approval: 3 years from date of approval.

Type of Request: Approval for information collection.

Abstract: The Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 USC 1621-1627) (Act) directs the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to promote the marketing of agricultural products. Under the Act, AMS offers grading, quality assurance, and certification services for a fee for fresh fruits, vegetables, and other products based on

U.S. grade standards and other contract specifications. The use of grading services and grade standards is voluntary unless required by Federal Marketing Order or Agreement Regulations governing domestic, import, or export shipments.

There are about 9,000 current users of the AMS Fresh Products Branch's shipping point grading services and about the same number of potential users. These customers are located at shipping point locations nationwide and represent a diverse mixture of small, medium and large harvesting, packing and shipping companies and cooperatives. These companies request product grading and certification services from the Federal-State Inspection (FSI) programs located in their areas. The FSI programs are supervised and audited by USDA Federal-State Shipping Point Supervisors and/or Federal Program Managers with national program coordination provided by the Fresh Products Branch in Washington, D.C.

Customer feedback is a vital component of successfully completing the Fresh Products Branch's mission. This customer survey would be conducted to evaluate how well the Fresh Products Branch, in cooperation with various state shipping point grading services, is meeting its commitment to customer service. The survey would not be continuous over the 3 year approval period but would be done in two parts, first current users, then potential users.

Information requested in the survey includes meeting levels of satisfaction with program services, including those services provided by state personnel; rating program oversight provided by USDA; providing input regarding shipping point inspection fees; and providing levels of interest in new quality, certification and related services that may be offered by USDA.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .1667 hours per response (10 minutes).

Respondents: Growers, packers, shippers, and brokers of fresh fruits, vegetables, nuts, and specialty crops, and financially interested parties.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 18,000

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 3,000 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 Rob Huttenlocker, Program Support Section, Fresh Products Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 96456, Room 2049-South, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456. Comments may also be sent via Email to FPB.DocketClerk@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: June 21, 1999.

Robert C. Keeney,

Deputy Administrator, Fruit and Vegetable Programs.

[FR Doc. 99-16210 Filed 6-25-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Docket No. PY-99-006]

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, this notice announces the Agricultural

Marketing Service's (AMS) intention to request an extension for a currently approved information collection in support of the shell egg surveillance portion of the Regulations for the Inspection of Eggs—7 CFR 57.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by August 27, 1999.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Contact Shields Jones, Standardization Branch, Poultry Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., STOP 0259, Washington, DC 20250-0259, (202) 720-3506.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Regulations for the Inspection of Eggs (Egg Products Inspection Act).

OMB Number: 0581-0113.

Expiration Date of Approval: February 28, 2000.

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

Abstract: Congress enacted the Egg Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 1031-1056) (EPIA) to provide, in part, a mandatory inspection program to control the disposition of dirty and checked shell eggs; to control unwholesome, adulterated, and inedible shell eggs that are unfit for human consumption; and to control the movement and disposition of imported shell eggs.

The Act authorizes the Department to issue regulations, which provide requirements and guidelines, for both the USDA and industry to use as the basis for common understanding to assure that only eggs fit for human food are used for such purpose.

Under the shell egg surveillance program shell egg handlers are required to register with USDA. Quarterly, a State or Federal surveillance inspector visits each registered handler to verify that shell eggs packed for consumer use are in compliance, that restricted eggs are being disposed of properly, and that adequate records are being maintained.

The information collection and record keeping requirements in this request are essential to carry out the intent of Congress, to administer the mandatory inspection program, and to take regulatory action, in accordance with the regulations and the Act. The forms covered under this collection require the minimum information necessary to effectively carry out the requirements of the regulations, and their use is necessary to fulfill the intent of the Act.

The information collected is used only by authorized representatives: AMS, Poultry Programs' national staff; regional directors and their staffs; Federal-State supervisors and their

staffs; and resident Federal-State graders, which includes State agencies. The information is used to assure compliance with the Act and the regulations and to take regulatory action. The Agency is the primary user of the information, with the secondary user is each authorized State agency which has a cooperative agreement with AMS.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 0.30 hours per response.

Respondents: State or local governments, businesses or other for-profit, Federal agencies or employees, small businesses or organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1134.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 4.96.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 1,922 hours.

Comments are 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 to be collected; or (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 technical collection techniques or other forms of information. Comments may be sent to:

Douglas C. Bailey, Chief, Standardization Branch, Poultry Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., STOP 0259, Washington, DC 20250-0259.

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

Dated: June 7, 1999.

D. Michael Holbrook,

Deputy Administrator, Poultry Programs.

[FR Doc. 99-16370 Filed 6-25-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food and Nutrition Service

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request—Report of School Program Operations

AGENCY: Food and Nutrition Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is publishing for public comment a summary of a proposed information collection. The proposed collection is a revision of a collection currently approved for the National School Lunch Program, the School Breakfast Program, the Commodity Schools Program, and the Special Milk Program.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by August 27, 1999 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Send comments and requests for copies of this information collection to Alan Rich, Data Base Monitoring Branch, Budget Division, Food and Nutrition Service, USDA, 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, VA 22302.

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of FNS, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of FNS'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.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Alan Rich, (703) 305-2113.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Report of School Program Operations.

OMB Number: 0584-0002.

Expiration Date: January 31, 2000.

Type of Request: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: The National School Lunch Program, the School Breakfast Program,