

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

October 20, 2009.

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.

Agricultural Research Service

Title: ARS Animal Health National Program Assessment Survey Form.

OMB Control Number: 0518–0042.

Summary of Collection: The Agricultural Research Service (ARS) is charged with extending the Nation's scientific knowledge with research projects in agriculture, human nutrition, food safety, natural resources, the environment, and other topics affecting the Nation. ARS conducts national program assessments every five years. The cycle ensures that ARS research meets OMB's Research and Development Investment Criteria and other external requirements. The ARS Animal Health National Program has concluded its five-year cycle and now will conduct a national program assessment to gather customer, stakeholder, and partner input to the next program cycle.

Need and Use of the Information: The purpose of the survey/questionnaire is to assess the impact of the research program in the 2005–2009 national program cycle and ensure relevance for the cycle beginning in 2010. Failure to collect input from our customers on the performance and impact of our research program would significantly inhibit the relevance and credibility of the research conducted at ARS.

Description of Respondents: Individuals or households.

Number of Respondents: 400.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Other (1 time survey).

Total Burden Hours: 100.

Ruth Brown,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. E9–25553 Filed 10–22–09; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

October 20, 2009.

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.

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Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Title: Specimen Submission.

OMB Control Number: 0579–0090.

Summary of Collection: The Animal Health Protection Act of 2002 (AHPA) is the primary Federal law governing the protection of animal health. The law gives the Secretary of Agriculture broad authority to detect, control, or eradicate pests or diseases of livestock or poultry. Disease prevention is the most effective method for maintaining a healthy animal population and for enhancing the United States' ability to globally compete in the trade of animals and animal products. VS Forms 10–4 and 10–4A, Specimen Submission are critical components of APHIS' disease

surveillance mission. They are used routinely when specimens (such as blood, milk, tissue, or urine) from any animal (including cattle, swine, sheep, goats, horses, and poultry) are submitted to APHIS' National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) for disease testing. VS Form 5-38, Parasite Submission form, is completed by State veterinarians or other State representatives, accredited veterinarians, private laboratories, research institutions, and individuals/households.

Need and Use of the Information: Using APHIS form VS 10-4, State or Federal veterinarians, accredited veterinarians, or other State and Federal representatives will document the collection and submission of specimens for laboratory analysis. The form identifies the individual animal from which the specimen is taken as well as the animal's herd or flock; the type of specimen submitted, and the purpose of submitting the specimen. The National Tick Surveillance Program is based on the information submitted on VS Form 5-38, in addition to critical surveillance information needed for the Cattle Fever Tick Eradication Program. This information identifies the individual submitting the tick samples. Without the information contained on these forms, personnel at the National Veterinary Services Laboratories would have no way of identifying or processing the specimens/species being sent to them for analysis.

Description of Respondents: State, Local or Tribal Government; Individuals or households; Business or other for-profit.

Number of Respondents: 3,208.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 9,266.

Ruth Brown,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. FSIS-2009-0030]

Codex Alimentarius Commission: Meeting of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene

AGENCY: Office of the Acting Under Secretary for Food Safety, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Office of the Acting Under Secretary for Food Safety, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, are sponsoring a public meeting on October 28, 2009. The objective of the public meeting is to provide information and receive public comments on agenda items and draft U.S. positions that will be discussed at the 41st Session of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH) of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex), which will be held in San Diego, California, from November 16 through November 20, 2009. The Acting Under Secretary for Food Safety and FDA recognize the importance of providing interested parties the opportunity to obtain background information on the 41st session of the CCFH and to address items on the agenda.

DATES: The public meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 28, 2009, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will be held at FDA, Harvey Wiley Federal Building, 5100 Paint Branch Parkway, Room 1A-003 (Auditorium), College Park, MD 20740. Documents related to the 41st Session of the CCFH will be accessible via the World Wide Web at the following address: <http://www.codexalimentarius.net/current.asp>.

The U.S. Delegate to the 41st Session of the CCFH invites interested U.S. parties to submit their comments electronically to the following e-mail address Donald.Zink@fda.hhs.gov.

Registration: All visitors must pass through security screening in the front lobby of the building and will be directed to the auditorium. Visitors who wish to come to the building via automobile may park in the FDA parking lot next to the building. Those parking in the FDA lot will need to pass through the guard station at the River Road entrance. To expedite entry to the parking lot, it is recommended that visitors who drive to the meeting contact Jasmine Matthews in the U.S. Codex Office and provide their name, vehicle make, model, color, and license plate number, by close of business on October 23, 2009.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE 41ST SESSION OF THE CCFH CONTACT:

Barbara McNiff, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Room 4870, Washington, DC 20250, (202) 690-4719, Barbara.McNiff@fsis.usda.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE PUBLIC MEETING CONTACT: Jasmine

Matthews, Program Analyst, U.S. Codex Office, 1400 Independence Avenue, Room 4861, Washington, DC 20250, (202) 690-1124, Jasmine.Matthews@fsis.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Codex was established in 1963 by two United Nations organizations, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO). Through adoption of food standards, codes of practice, and other guidelines developed by its committees, and by promoting their adoption and implementation by governments, Codex seeks to protect the health of consumers and ensure that fair practices are used in trade.

The CCFH was established to draft basic provisions on food hygiene applicable to all food; to consider, amend if necessary, and endorse provisions on hygiene prepared by Codex commodity committees and contained in Codex codes of practice unless, in specific cases, the Codex has decided otherwise; to draft provisions on hygiene applicable to specific food items or food groups, whether coming within the terms of reference of a Codex commodity committee or not; to consider specific hygiene problems assigned to it by the Codex; to suggest and prioritize areas where there is a need for microbiological risk assessment at the international level; to develop questions to be addressed by the risk assessors; and to consider microbiological risk management matters in relation to food hygiene, including food irradiation, and in relation to the risk assessment of FAO and WHO.

The CCFH is hosted by the United States of America.

Issues to be Discussed at the Public Meeting

The following items on the agenda for the 41st Session of the CCFH will be discussed during the public meeting:

- Matters Referred by the Codex and Other Codex Committees to the CCFH;
- Matters Arising from the Work of FAO, WHO, and Other International Intergovernmental Organizations:

(a) Progress Report on the Joint FAO and WHO Expert Meetings on Microbiological Risk Assessment and Related Matters

(b) Information from the World Organization for Animal Health

- Proposed Draft Guidelines for the Control of *Campylobacter* and *Salmonella spp.* in Chicken Products at Step 4;