

# Notices

Federal Register

Vol. 79, No. 61

Monday, March 31, 2014

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

### Re-Establishment of the Council for Native American Farming and Ranching

**AGENCY:** Office of the Secretary, USDA.  
**ACTION:** Notice and Call for Nominations.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Agriculture is announcing the re-establishment of the Council for Native American Farming and Ranching (Council). The purpose of the Council is to provide recommendations to the Secretary on how to eliminate barriers to Native American participation in Farm Service Agency farm loan programs and other farm programs. The Council will discuss issues related to the participation of Native American farmers and ranchers in USDA farm loan programs and transmit recommendations concerning any changes to FSA regulations or internal guidance or other measures. The Council is necessary and in the public interest. The Department of Agriculture is seeking nominations for individuals to be considered Council members. Candidates who wish to be considered for membership on the Council for Native American Farmers and Ranchers should submit an AD-755 application form and resume to the Secretary of Agriculture. Cover letters should be addressed to the Secretary of Agriculture. The application form and more information about advisory Councils can be found at [usda.gov/advisory\\_committees.xml](http://usda.gov/advisory_committees.xml).

**DATES:** Submit nominations on or before May 15, 2014.

**ADDRESSES:** All nomination materials should be mailed in a single, complete package and postmarked by 45 days of this announcement. All nominations for membership should be sent to:

Thomas Vilsack, Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue SW.,

Washington, DC, 20250, Attn: Council on Native American Farmers and Ranchers. Send comments to the Office of Tribal Relations, 500A Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Leslie Wheelock, Director, Office of Tribal Relations. Email your questions to John Lowery at [John.Lowery@osec.usda.gov](mailto:John.Lowery@osec.usda.gov) or call 202-205-2249.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Council Act (FACA) as amended (5 U.S.C. App. 2) and with the concurrence of the General Services Administration, the Department of Agriculture is announcing the re-establishment of an advisory Council for Native American farmers and ranchers. The Council is a discretionary advisory Council established under the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture, in furtherance of the settlement agreement in *Keepseagle v. Vilsack*, that was granted final approval by the District Court for the District of Columbia on April 28, 2011. The Council operates under the provisions of the FACA and reports to the Secretary of Agriculture.

The purpose of the Council is (1) to advise the Secretary of Agriculture on issues related to the participation of Native American farmers and ranchers in USDA farm loan programs; (2) to transmit recommendations concerning any changes to FSA regulations or internal guidance or other measures that would eliminate barriers to program participation for Native American farmers and ranchers; (3) to examine methods of maximizing the number of new farming and ranching opportunities created through the farm loan program through enhanced extension and financial literacy services; (4) to examine methods of encouraging intergovernmental cooperation to mitigate the effects of land tenure and probate issues on the delivery of USDA farm loan programs; (5) to evaluate other methods of creating new farming or ranching opportunities for Native American producers; and (6) to address other related issues as deemed appropriate.

The Council has 15 members, 11 of whom will be Native American leaders or persons who represent the interests of Native American tribes or Native American organizations. The term "Native American leaders" is not

limited to elected Tribal representatives or members or persons with Native American ancestry. The remaining four members are high-ranking USDA officials, including: (1) The Director, Office of Tribal Relations; (2) the Farm Service Agency Administrator; (3) the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights; and (4) the Deputy Administrator for Farm Loan Programs, or their designee.

Members serve without compensation, but may receive reimbursement for travel expenses and per diem in accordance with USDA travel regulations for attendance at Council functions. Council members who represent the interests of Native American farmers and ranchers may also be paid an amount not less than \$100 per day for time spent away from their employment or farming or ranching operation, subject to the availability of funds. Members may include:

- (1) Native American farmers or ranchers who have participated in USDA loan or payment programs;
- (2) Representatives of organizations with a history of working with Native American farmers or ranchers;
- (3) Civil rights professionals;
- (4) Representatives of tribal governments with demonstrated experience working with Native American farmers or ranchers; and
- (5) Such other persons as the Secretary considers appropriate.

No individual who is currently registered as a Federal lobbyist is eligible to serve as a member of the Council.

The Secretary of Agriculture invites those individuals, organizations, and groups affiliated with the categories listed above or who have knowledge of issues related to the purpose of the Council to nominate individuals for membership on the Council. Individuals and organizations who wish to nominate experts for this or any other USDA advisory Council should submit a letter to the Secretary listing these individuals' names and business address, phone, and email contact information. The Secretary of Agriculture seeks a diverse group of members representing a broad spectrum of persons interested in providing suggestions and ideas on how USDA can tailor its farm programs to meet the needs of Native American farmers and ranchers. Individuals receiving

nominations will be contacted and asked to return the AD-755 application form and resume within 10 business days of notification. All candidates will be vetted and considered for appointment by the Secretary of Agriculture. Equal opportunity practices will be followed in all appointments to the Council in accordance with USDA policies. The Council will meet at least twice a year.

**Gregory Parham,**

*Assistant Secretary for Administration.*

[FR Doc. 2014-07009 Filed 3-28-14; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Agricultural Marketing Service

[Doc. No. AMS-FV-14-0004; FV14-944-1]

#### **Specified Commodities Imported into the United States, Exempt from Import Regulations; Request for Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection**

**AGENCY:** Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501), this document announces the Agricultural Marketing Service's (AMS) intention to request an extension and revision to currently approved forms utilized by importers of commodities that are exempt from section 8e import regulations.

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received by May 30, 2014 to be considered.

*Additional Information:* Contact Andrew Hatch, Supervisory Marketing Specialist, Marketing Order and Agreement Division, Fruit and Vegetable Program, AMS, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Stop 0237, Room 1406-S, Washington, DC 20250-0237; Tel: (202) 720-2491; Email: [andrew.hatch@ams.usda.gov](mailto:andrew.hatch@ams.usda.gov).

Small businesses may request information on this notice by contacting Jeffrey Smutny, Marketing Order and Agreement Division, Fruit and Vegetable Program, AMS, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Stop 0237, Room 1406-S, Washington, DC 20250-0237; Tel: (202) 690-3919; or Email: [jeffrey.smutny@ams.usda.gov](mailto:jeffrey.smutny@ams.usda.gov).

*Comments:* Comments should reference the docket number and the date and page number of this issue of the Federal Register, and be mailed to the Docket Clerk, Fruit and Vegetable Program, AMS, USDA, 1400

Independence Avenue SW, Room 1406-S, Washington, DC 20250-0237; Fax: (202) 720-8938; or submitted through the Internet at <http://www.regulations.gov>.

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

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title:* Specified Commodities Imported Into the United States Exempt from Import Requirements.

*OMB Number:* 0581-0167.

*Expiration Date of Approval:* September 30, 2014.

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

*Abstract:* Section 8e of the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937 as amended (7 U.S.C. 601-674; Act) requires that whenever the Secretary of Agriculture issues grade, size, quality, or maturity regulations under domestic marketing orders, the same or comparable regulations must be issued for imported commodities.

Import regulations apply only during those periods when domestic marketing order regulations are in effect.

Currently, the following commodities are subject to section 8e import regulations: Avocados; grapefruit; kiwifruit; olives (other than Spanish-style); oranges; table grapes; Irish potatoes; onions; tomatoes; dates (other than dates for processing); walnuts; raisins; pistachios; and hazelnuts (filberts). Imports of these commodities are exempt from section 8e requirements if they are imported for such outlets as processing, charity, animal feed, seed, and distribution to relief agencies when those outlets are exempt under the applicable marketing orders.

Safeguard procedures in the form of importer and receiver reporting requirements are used to ensure that the imported commodities are, in fact, shipped to authorized, exempt outlets. Reports required under the safeguard procedure are similar to the reports currently required by most domestic marketing orders, and are required of importers and receivers under the following import regulations: (1) Fruits; import regulations (7 CFR 944.350); (2) vegetables; import regulations (7 CFR 980.501); and (3) specialty crops; import regulations (7 CFR 999.500).

Under these regulations, importers wishing to import commodities for exempt purposes must complete form FV-6, the "Importer's Exempt Commodity Form," prior to importation, through the Marketing Order Online

System (MOLS). Launched in August 2008, MOLS is an internet-based application, managed by the USDA, which allows importers and receivers of fruit, vegetable, and specialty crops to review and search for FV-6 certificates online. If an importer correctly inputs his shipment data into MOLS, he will receive and be able to print a certificate that accompanies the shipment. Data are simultaneously transmitted to the receiver and to AMS, where they are reviewed for compliance purposes by Marketing Order and Agreement Division (MOAD) staff, in the USDA's Fruit and Vegetable Program.

In rare instances a paper form FV-6 may be used. The hardcopy form has four parts, which are distributed as follows: Copy one is presented to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security; copy two is filed with MOAD within two days of the commodity entering the United States; copy three accompanies the exempt shipment to its intended destination, where the receiver certifies its receipt and that it will be used for exempt purposes, and files that copy with MOAD within two days of receipt; and copy four is retained by the importer.

In addition to renewing the FV-6 form, this information collection package does the same for the FV-7 form, "Civil Penalty Stipulation Agreement." Produce importers sign the FV-7 form, for which there is no burden associated because only a signature is required.

The information collected through this package is used primarily by authorized representatives of the USDA, including AMS Fruit and Vegetable Program regional and headquarters staff.

*Estimate of Burden:* The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 5 minutes per response.

*Respondents:* Importers and receivers of exempt commodities.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 144

*Estimated Number of Total Annual Responses:* 213,691

*Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* 1,484

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 17,734 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)