

Notices

Federal Register

Vol. 83, No. 38

Monday, February 26, 2018

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

February 21, 2018.

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 are requested regarding (1) 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; (2) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden 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 through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments regarding this information collection received by March 28, 2018 will be considered. Written comments should be addressed to: Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), New Executive Office Building, 725 17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20502. 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. 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.

Animal Plant and Health Inspection Service

Title: Commercial Transportation of Equines for Slaughter.

OMB Control Number: 0579–0332.

Summary of Collection: Section 901–905 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 1901) authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to issue guidelines for regulating the commercial transportation of equine for slaughter, by persons regularly engaged in that activity within the United States. Specifically, the Secretary is authorized to regulate the food, water, and rest provided to the equines equines while they are in transit and to review related issues be appropriate to ensuring that these animals are treated humanely. To implement the provisions of this Act, the Veterinary Services program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has established minimum standards to ensure the humane movement of equines for slaughter.

Need and Use of the Information: APHIS will collect information in the form of owner-shipper certificates of fitness to travel to slaughter facility; certificate of veterinary inspection; application of backtags; collection of business information on any person found to be transporting horses to a slaughtering facility; and recordkeeping. The collected information is use to ensure that equines being transported for slaughter receive adequate food, water, and rest and are treated humanely. If the information was collected less frequently or not collected, APHIS' ability to ensure that equines destined for slaughter are treated humanely would be significantly hampered.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for profit, Individuals or Households, and Federal Government.

Number of Respondents: 332.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting, Recordkeeping, and Third-Party Disclosure: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 8,608.

Ruth Brown,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer

[FR Doc. 2018–03798 Filed 2–23–18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–34–P

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30-Day Federal Register Notice

Forest Service

Title: Financial Information Security Request Form.

OMB Control Number: 0596-0204.

Summary of Collection: The majority of Forest Service's (FS) financial records are in databases stored at the National Finance Center (NFC). The Federal Information Security Reform Act of 2002 (Pub. L. 107-347) and Information Technology Management Reform Act of 1996 (Pub. L. 104-106) authorize the Forest Service to obtain information necessary for contracted employees to access and maintain these records.

Need and use of the Information: The Forest Service uses a paper and electronic version of its form FS-6500-214 to gather name, work email, work telephone number, job title etc. for a specific contracted employee to apply to NFC for access. Prior to filling out the form, contractors must first complete specific training before a user may request access to certain financial systems. NFC grants access to users only at the request of Client Security Officers. The unit's Client Security Officer is responsible for management of access to computers and coordinates all requests for NFC. The information collected is shared with those managing or overseeing the financial systems used by the FS, this includes auditors.

Description of Respondents: Contracted Employees.

Number of Respondents: 209.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Yearly.

Total Burden Hours: 315.

Forest Service

Title: Outreach Opportunity Questionnaire.

OMB Control Number: 0596-0207.

Summary of Collection: Title VI of the Civil Rights Act prohibits discrimination based on race, color, or national origin in federally assisted or direct programs of the Federal Government. Section 703 in Title VII of the Civil Rights Act prohibits discrimination in employment based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin in actions affecting employees or applicants for employment. The Forest Service (FS) requires outreach and recruitment of diverse candidates as a strategy to create a diverse and multicultural workforce within the agency. FS will the Outreach Opportunity Questionnaire to collect

information regarding ethnicity and race, and responses on: Helpfulness of information provided by the FS at career fairs, whether information received was what the respondents was seeking, and whether application procedures were clear and simple.

Need and Use of the Information: The information will be used to evaluate effectiveness of the Civil Rights Outreach Programs conducted by the Northeastern Research Service Center. The information will also be used to determine the effectiveness of career days and to track outreach efforts at career fairs.

Description of Respondents:

Individuals or households.

Number of Respondents: 675.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Yearly.

Total Burden Hours: 44.

Ruth Brown,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2018-03826 Filed 2-23-18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3411-15-P

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Rural Business—Cooperative Service

Title: Rural Energy for America Program.

OMB Control Number: 0570-0067.

Summary of Collection: The collection of this information is required pursuant to the passing of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill), which established the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) under Title IX, Section 9007. The Agricultural Act of 2014 (2014 Farm Bill) continued this authority except that the ability to make grants for feasibility studies has been removed from REAP. REAP provides grants and loan guarantees to eligible agricultural producers and rural small businesses for the purchase of renewable energy systems and the implementation of energy efficiency improvements. REAP also provides grants for eligible entities to conduct energy audits and provide renewable energy development assistance.

Need and Use of the Information: Information will be collected using several forms and non-forms. The information will be used to determine applicant eligibility and feasibility, and to ensure that grantees/borrowers operate on a sound basis and use funds for authorized purposes. Failure to collect proper information could result in improper determinations of eligibility or improper use of funds.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit; Individuals; State, local government, or Tribal.

Number of Respondents: 1,918.

Frequency of Responses: Recordkeeping; Reporting: On occasion; Monthly; Annually.

Total Burden Hours: 109,986.

Ruth Brown,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2018-03797 Filed 2-23-18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-XY-P