

Chapter 35), this notice announces the U.S. Department of Agriculture's intention to request an extension for and a revision to the Advisory Committee and Research and Promotion Background Information collection form. The primary objective is to determine the qualifications, suitability, and availability of a candidate to serve on advisory committees and/or research and promotion boards.

*Title:* Advisory Committee and Research and Promotion Background Information.

*OMB Number:* 0505-0001.

*Expiration Date of Approval:* September 30, 2018.

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

*Abstract:* The primary objective is to determine the qualifications, suitability, and availability of a candidate to serve on advisory committees and/or research and promotion boards. The information will be used to both conduct background clearances on the candidates and to compile annual reports regarding membership.

*Estimate of Burden:* Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 30 minutes per response.

*Respondents:* Individuals.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 5,500.

*Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* One (1).

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 5,958.

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 Cikena Reid, Committee Management Officer, Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, White House Liaison Office, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, the Whitten Building, Room 540-A, Washington, DC 20250; fax: (202) 720-9286; or email: [Cikena.Reid@osec.usda.gov](mailto:Cikena.Reid@osec.usda.gov). Comments must be

postmarked 10 business days prior to the deadline to ensure timely receipt.

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: September 18, 2018.

**Stephen L. Censky,**

*Deputy Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 2018-20861 Filed 9-25-18; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

September 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 October 26, 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](mailto: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:* Emergency Management Response System (EMRS).

*OMB Control Number:* 0579-0071.

*Summary of Collection:* The Animal Health Protection Act (AHPA) of 2002 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. The Secretary may also prohibit or restrict import or export of any animal or related material if necessary to prevent the spread of any livestock or poultry pest or disease. Through the Foreign Animal Disease Surveillance Program, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Veterinary Services compiles essential epidemiological and diagnostic data that are used to define foreign animal diseases (FAD) and their risk factors. The data is compiled through the Veterinary Services Emergency Management Response System, a web-based database for reporting investigations of suspected FAD occurrences.

*Need and Use of the Information:* APHIS collects information such as the purpose of the diagnostician's visit to the site, the name and address of the owner/manager and the site, the type of operation being investigated, the number of and type of animals on the premises, vaccination information on the animals in the herd or flock, biosecurity practices at the site, whether any animals have been moved to or from the premises and when this movement occurred, number of sick or dead animals, the results of physical examinations of the affected animals, the results of postmortem examinations, and the number and kinds of samples taken, and the name of the suspected disease.

APHIS uses the collected information to effectively prevent FAD occurrences and protect the health of the United States. Without the information, APHIS has no way to detect and monitor FAD outbreaks in the United States.

*Description of Respondents:* Businesses; and State, Local or Tribal Governments.

*Number of Respondents:* 136.

*Frequency of Responses:* Reporting, on occasion.

*Total Burden Hours:* 1,632.

**Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service**

*Title:* Importation of Peppers from Certain Central American Countries.

*OMB Control Number:* 0579–0274.

*Summary of Collection:* Under the Plant Protection Act (PPA) (7 U.S.C. 7701–7772), the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to carry out operations or measures to detect, eradicate, suppress, control, prevent, or retard the spread of plant pests new to the United States or not known to be widely distributed throughout the United States.

Regulations authorized by the PPA concerning the importation of fruits and vegetables into the United States from certain parts of the world are contained in “Subpart Fruits and Vegetables” (7 CFR 319.56–1 through 319.56–72). The fruits and vegetables regulations allow certain type of peppers grown in approved registered production sites in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama to be imported, under certain conditions, into the United States without treatment while continuing to provide protection against the introduction of quarantine pests into the United States.

*Need and Use of the Information:* The regulations require the use of information collection activities including inspections by Central American national plant protection organization officials, phytosanitary certificate, labeling of boxes, monitor traps, trapping records, bilateral workplan, production site registrations, quality control program, and emergency action notifications. If the information were not collected, it would cripple the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service ability to regulate and prevent the importation or spread of plant pests and diseases from entering the United States.

*Description of Respondents:*

Businesses; Federal Government.

*Number of Respondents:* 36.

*Frequency of Responses:*

Recordkeeping; Reporting: On occasion.

*Total Burden Hours:* 4,285.

**Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service**

*Title:* Importation of Peppers from the Republic of Korea.

*OMB Control Number:* 0579–0282.

*Summary of Collection:* Under the Plant Protection Act (PPA) (7 U.S.C. 7701–*et seq.*), the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to carry out operations or measures to detect, eradicate, suppress, control, prevent, or retard the spread of plant pests new to the United States or not known to be widely distributed throughout the

United States. Regulations authorized by the PPA concerning the importation of fruits and vegetables into the United States from certain parts of the world are contained in “Subpart Fruits and Vegetables” (7 CFR 319.56–1 through 319.56–83). The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) fruits and vegetables regulations allow the importation of peppers from the Republic of Korea under certain conditions into the continental United States.

*Need and Use of the Information:* The regulations require the use of information collection activities including a phytosanitary certificate and declaration issued by the National Plant Quarantine Service of Korea, greenhouse registrations, inspections, and emergency action notifications. Failing to collect this information would cripple APHIS’ ability to regulate and prevent the importation or spread of plant pests and diseases from entering the United States.

*Description of Respondents:* Federal Government (Foreign); Business or other for-profit.

*Number of Respondents:* 2.

*Frequency of Responses:* Reporting: On occasion.

*Total Burden Hours:* 29.

**Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service**

*Title:* Movement of Plants and Plant Products from Hawaii and the Territories.

*OMB Control Number:* 0579–0346.

*Summary of Collection:* Under the Plant Protection Act (7 U.S.C 7701), the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to prohibit or restrict the importation, entry, or movement of fruits, vegetables, plants, and plant pests to prevent the introduction of pests or diseases into the United States, or dissemination of pests and diseases within the United States. The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ), is responsible for implementing this Act and does so through the enforcement of its Hawaiian and territorial quarantine regulations contained in Part 318 of Title 7, Code of Federal Regulations.

*Need and Use of the Information:* APHIS will use the following forms and activities to collect information: PPQ 530, PPQ 586, PPQ 519, PPQ 540, Labeling of Boxes for Pest Free Areas, Inspection and Certification, Trapping and Surveillance, Contingency Plans approved by APHIS, Updated Mapping Identifying Places Where Horticultural or Other Crops are Grown, Written Request for Facility Approval—and Recertification, Recordkeeping,

Decertification of Pest Free Areas—and Reinstatement, Notification of Emergency Conveyance, Aircraft/Ship Inspections of Departure, Production Site Registration, Packing House Registration, and Box Markings. If APHIS did not collect this information or if APHIS collected this information less frequently, the spread of dangerous plant diseases and pests could cause millions of dollars in damage to U.S. agriculture.

*Description of Respondents:* Business or other for-profits; State, Local or Tribal Government.

*Number of Respondents:* 203.

*Frequency of Responses:*

Recordkeeping; Reporting: On occasion.

*Total Burden Hours:* 8,318.

**Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service**

*Title:* Importation of Papayas from Peru.

*Control Number:* 0579–0410.

*Summary of Collection:* The Plant Protection Act (PPA, 7 U.S.C. 7701 *et seq.*) authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to restrict the importation, entry, or interstate movement of plants, plant products, and other articles within the United States to prevent the introduction of plant pests or their dissemination. The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) Program enforces the Act by regulating the importation of fruits and vegetables into the United States. These regulations are found in Section 319 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) under “Subpart—Fruits and Vegetables” (7 CFR 319.56–1 through 319.56–81). Under § 319.56–25, papaya fruit from Peru may be imported into the continental United States under certain conditions that prevent the introduction of plant pests into the country.

*Need and Use of the Information:* APHIS will use information collection activities and actions to ensure these conditions are met. These activities include grower registrations, applications for import permit, notices of arrival, emergency action notifications, and recordkeeping. Also, consignments of fruit must be accompanied by phytosanitary certificates issued by the National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) of Peru and containing additional declaration stating the provisions of 7 CFR 319.56–25 have been met. These activities for this commodity are the minimum necessary to protect crops and the agriculture industry from dangerous plant pests and diseases.

*Description of Respondents:* Commercial growers and importers, Foreign Governments.

*Number of Respondents:* 52

*Frequency of Responses:* Reporting on occasion, and recordkeeping.

*Total Burden Hours:* 1,507.

### **Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service**

*Title:* Importation of Apples from China.

*OMB Control Number:* 0579-0423.

*Summary of Collection:* Under the Plant Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 7701, *et seq.*) the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to prohibit or restrict the importation, entry, or movement of plants and plant pests to prevent the introduction into the United States or their dissemination within the United States. The regulations in "Subpart—Fruits and Vegetables" (7 CFR 319.56) prohibit or restrict the importation of fruits and vegetables into the United States from certain parts of the world to prevent the introduction and dissemination of plant pests that are new to or not widely distributed within the United States.

*Need and Use of the Information:* APHIS uses the following information collection activities to prevent the spread of fruit flies and other plant pests from entering into the United States: Operational workplan, production site, and packinghouse registrations, tracking system, box labeling, phytosanitary certificates with declarations, inspections, investigation for detection, handling procedures, and emergency action notification. Falling to collect this information would cripple APHIS' ability to ensure that apples from China are not carrying plant pests.

*Description of Respondents:* Business or other for-profit; Federal Government.

*Number of Respondents:* 186.

*Frequency of Responses:* Reporting: On occasion; Annually.

*Total Burden Hours:* 1,117.

**Ruth Brown,**

*Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.*

[FR Doc. 2018-20939 Filed 9-25-18; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-34-P**

## **DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

### **Rural Business-Cooperative Service**

#### **Guarantee Fee Rates for Guaranteed Loans for Fiscal Year 2019; Maximum Portion of Guarantee Authority Available for Fiscal Year 2019; Annual Renewal Fee for Fiscal Year 2019**

**AGENCY:** Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This notice helps to improve applicants' awareness of the Guarantee Fee rates for Guaranteed Loans for fiscal year (FY) 2019, the Maximum Portion of Guarantee Authority Available for FY 2019, and the Annual Renewal Fee for FY 2019 when applying for guaranteed loans under the Business and Industry (B&I) Guaranteed Loan Program.

The Agency has the authority to charge a guarantee fee and an annual renewal fee for loans made under the B&I Guaranteed Loan Program. Pursuant to that authority, and subject to the Continuing Resolution, the Agency is establishing an initial guarantee fee rate of 3 percent and an annual renewal fee rate of one-half of 1 percent for the B&I Guaranteed Loan Program.

The initial guarantee fee is paid at the time the Loan Note Guarantee is issued. The annual renewal fee is paid by the lender to the Agency once a year. Payment of the annual renewal fee is required in order to maintain the enforceability of the guarantee. Additionally, the Agency will require the borrower to have an active System for Award Management (SAM) registration prior to obligation and maintain the active registration until all funds are disbursed.

**DATES:** *Applicability date:* September 26, 2018.

#### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Tanner Hinkel, USDA, Rural Development, Business Programs, Business and Industry Division, STOP 3224, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250-3224, telephone (202) 720-1970, email [tanner.hinkel@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:tanner.hinkel@wdc.usda.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** As set forth in 7 CFR 4279.120, the Agency has the authority to charge an initial guarantee fee and an annual renewal fee for loans made under the B&I Guaranteed Loan Program. Pursuant to that authority, and subject to the Continuing Resolution, the Agency is establishing an initial guarantee fee rate of 3 percent and an annual renewal fee rate of one-half of 1 percent for the B&I Guaranteed Loan Program. Unless precluded by a subsequent FY 2019 appropriation, these rates will apply to all loans obligated in FY 2019 that are made under the B&I Guaranteed Loan Program. As established in 7 CFR 4279.120(b)(1), the amount of the annual fee on each guaranteed loan will be determined by multiplying the annual fee rate by the outstanding principal loan balance as of December 31, multiplied by the percentage of guarantee.

As set forth in 7 CFR 4279.120(a) and 4279.119(b), each fiscal year, the Agency shall establish a limit on the maximum portion of B&I guarantee authority available for that fiscal year that may be used to guarantee loans with a reduced guarantee fee or guaranteed loans with an increased percentage of guarantee. The Agency has established that not more than 12 percent of the Agency's apportioned B&I guarantee authority will be reserved for loan guarantee requests with a reduced fee, and not more than 15 percent of the Agency's apportioned B&I guarantee authority will be reserved for guaranteed loan requests with an increased percentage of guarantee. Once the respective limits are reached, all additional loans will be at the standard fee and guarantee limits.

Allowing a reduced guarantee fee or increased percentage of guarantee on certain B&I guaranteed loans that meet the conditions set forth in 7 CFR 4279.120 and 4279.119 will increase the Agency's ability to focus guarantee assistance on projects that the Agency has found particularly meritorious. Subject to annual limits set by the Agency in this notice, the Agency may charge a reduced guarantee fee if requested by the lender for loans of \$5 million or less when the borrower's business supports value-added agriculture and results in farmers benefitting financially, promotes access to healthy foods, or is a high impact business development investment located in a rural community that is experiencing long-term population decline; has remained in poverty for the last 30 years; is experiencing trauma as a result of natural disaster; is located in a city or county with an unemployment rate 125 percent of the statewide rate or greater; or is located within the boundaries of a federally recognized Indian tribe's reservation or within tribal trust lands or within land owned by an Alaska Native Regional or Village Corporation as defined by the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. Subject to annual limits set by the Agency in this notice, the Agency may allow increased percentages of guarantee for high-priority projects or loans where the lender needs the increased percentage of guarantee due to its legal or regulatory lending limit.

As set forth in 2 CFR 25.200(b), each entity that applies and does not have an exemption under 2 CFR 25.110 must be registered in the SAM prior to submitting an application or plan, maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during which it has an active Federal award or an application or plan under