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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

Farm Service Agency

Request for Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Farm Service Agency, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Farm Service Agency's (FSA) intention to request an extension for an information collection currently approved for FSA's regulation governing the designation of natural disaster areas by the Secretary for physical and production losses, or by the FSA Administrator for physical losses only. The regulations concerning this activity are published under the authority of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received on or before June 26, 1998 to be assured of consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Steven R. Bazzell, Senior Loan Officer, Farm Loan Programs, Farm Service Agency, STOP 0520, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20250-0520; telephone (202) 690-4022; e-mail sbazzell@wdc.fsa.usda.gov; or facsimile (202) 690-3573.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Disaster Assistance—General.
Expiration Date of Approval: June 30, 1998.

OMB Control Number: 0560-0170.
Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: The information collected under Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Number 0560-0170 is needed to enable FSA to evaluate requests for a Secretarial natural disaster designation, or in the case where only physical loss of property occurred, an FSA

Administrator's notification. The information collected establishes whether there was a (1) county-wide (or similar jurisdiction), 30-percent reduction in agricultural income, or (2) evidence that undue hardship will be suffered by farmers and ranchers if FSA Emergency Loan (EM) assistance is not made available. Once authorized, a Secretarial natural disaster designation makes low-interest EM loans (and certain other Federal assistance) available to eligible family farmers and ranchers who have suffered a 30-percent income loss.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated at 0.51 hours per response.

Respondents: Individuals, State and local business and government officials, households and farms.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1,020

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondents: 1.0

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 525 hours

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of FSA duties and responsibilities, and whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of FSA's estimate of the burden of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions; (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. Comments may be sent to the Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, OMB, Washington, D.C. 20503, and also to Steven R. Bazzell at the address listed above. 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.

Signed at Washington, D.C., on April 10, 1998.

Keith Kelly,

Administrator, Farm Service Agency.

[FR Doc. 98-11030 Filed 4-24-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-05-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food and Nutrition Service

Agency Information Collection

Activities: Proposed Collection:

Comment Request: FNS-583, Employment and Training Program Report

AGENCY: Food and Nutrition Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice invites the general public and other public agencies to comment on proposed information collection of the FNS-583, Employment and Training Program Report.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before June 26, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Send comments and requests for copies of this information collection to John Knaus, Chief, Program Design Branch, Program Development Division, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 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 the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden of the proposed collection of information, including 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 form of information technology.

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.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Knaus, (703) 305-2519.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Employment and Training Program Report.

OMB Number: 0584-0339.

Expiration Date: August 31, 1998.

Type of Request: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: Title 7 CFR 273.7(c)(6) requires State agencies to submit quarterly Employment and Training (E&T) Program reports containing monthly figures for participation in the program. The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) has designed a form for this purpose—the Employment and Training Program Report, form FNS-583. The information contained in the FNS-583 is used by FNS to determine whether States have met their mandated performance standards.

The enactment of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, Public Law 105-33 (Balanced Budget Act), in August, 1997, amended the requirements for the Food Stamp Program E&T requirements so that States' efforts are now focused on a particular segment of the food stamp population—able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs). The Food Stamp Act of 1997, as amended by the Balanced Budget Act, permits a State to exempt each month up to 15 percent of its population of ABAWDs that is in danger of losing eligibility for the Food Stamp Program. (7 U.S.C. 2015(o)(6)(C)). The statute also gives the Secretary the duty of adjusting the number of exemptions assigned for a current fiscal year based on the actual number of exemptions granted by the State in the preceding year. (7 U.S.C. 2015(o)(6)(E)).

The law further provides supplemental funding of unmatched Federal E&T funds for Fiscal Years 1998 through 2002 and targets 80 percent of all Federal E&T funds to qualifying work activities for ABAWDs. (7 U.S.C. 2025(h)(1)(E)). States may use up to 20 percent of their 100 percent E&T grant allocation to provide allowable work activities for their non-ABAWDs population. Under the law, the Secretary must monitor States' expenditures of E&T funds, including the cost of individual E&T components, to ensure the reasonable cost of efficiently and economically providing these activities. (7 U.S.C. 2025(h)(5)). The law also gives the Secretary the authority to set maximum reimbursements rates for E&T components. (7 U.S.C. 2025(h)(3)).

The Balanced Budget Act mandated implementation of these provisions effective October 1, 1997 without regard as to whether regulations were promulgated to implement them. For this reason, FNS submitted an emergency request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) on February 17, 1998, to revise the information collection for the FNS-583 form to reflect the new E&T Program requirements of the statute. OMB approved the total number of responses, respondents and burden hours

described in this notice for six months, with an expiration date of August 31, 1998. In the meantime, FNS is preparing an interim final rulemaking to implement the new E&T Program provisions and is redesigning the FNS-583 form to include the new reporting requirements described in this notice.

Because of the changes to the E&T Program created by enactment of the Balanced Budget Act, FNS is providing a detailed explanation about the new reporting requirements which must be included in the FNS-583 and how we calculated the total number of responses, respondents and burden hours.

Work registration: State agencies have the option of providing either a State-designed work registration form to each household member required to register for work or noting the registration in the case file. There were 4,870,489 work registrants, including ABAWDs, during FY 1997. FNS estimates that the work registration process will take approximately 1.5 minutes (or .025 hours) per person per year. The total burden hours for household members participating in the work registration process is 121,762 hours ($4,870,489 \times .025 = 121,762$).

In preparing the FNS-583 report, States must collect and assemble information quarterly about categories of E&T Program participants, including ABAWDs. Many States will have already classified work registrants into categories by annotating a computer record at the time each participant registered for work. Therefore, FNS estimates that it will take States an average of one half of the 1.5 minute work registration time, or 45 seconds per record (0.0125 hours), to compile the data for the FNS-583. With the total number of work registrants per year of 4,870,489, the total number of burden hours per year for the States to compile work registration data for the FNS-583 is 60,881 ($4,870,489 \times 0.0125 = 60,881$), or 1,148.7 hours per State agency respondent ($60,881 / 53 = 1,148.7$). The total annual burden hours for the work registration process is 182,643 ($121,762 + 60,881 = 182,643$). When FNS submitted its emergency request in February, 1998, we originally calculated the total annual burden hours for the work registration process as 211,867. Upon checking our calculations, we realized that an error was made. Due to our error, the total annual burden hours for the work registration process will show a decrease of 29,224 ($211,867 - 182,643$). The correction will be made in our next submission.

15 percent ABAWDs exemption: State agencies must track the number of

ABAWDs exemptions used during each month and report these numbers as an attachment to the quarterly FNS-583 report. Based on our experience, FNS is assuming there are 42 State agencies that will need to track the number of exemptions used on a monthly basis (including Guam and the Virgin Islands); eleven states will not use any exemptions.

States may track the number of exemptions using information technology that best suits the needs of their individual systems of operations. The tracking procedure could be as simple as annotating a file. FNS is therefore estimating that it will take 15 seconds (or .25 minutes) to note the exemption. FNS has allocated a total of 63,620 exemptions a month to all the States. However, since 11 States will not have to track the exemptions, FNS subtracted 14,740 monthly exemptions from the total of 63,620, to arrive at 48,880 exemptions a month that will need to be tracked, for a total of 586,560 a year ($48,880 \times 12$). It will take a total of 2,444 hours per year, or an average of 58 reporting hours per respondent per year ($586,560 \text{ exemptions} \times .25 \text{ minutes} / 60 \text{ minutes} = 2,444 \text{ hours per year} / 42 \text{ respondents} = 58 \text{ burden hours per year per State agency respondent}$) to track the 15 percent ABAWDs exemption.

Every State that is allocated exemptions has to comply with the reporting requirements, even if a State uses no exemptions. This information will be used for calculating exemption allocations for the following year. FNS is assuming there will be 53 respondents and it will take 6 hours per year per State to track the total ABAWDs exemptions, for a total of 318 hours per year ($6 \times 53 = 318$). Thus, the total annual burden hours to track and report the 15 percent ABAWDs exemptions is 2,762 ($2,444 + 318 = 2,762$).

E&T funding requirements for ABAWDs activities. States must report the following information as an attachment to the quarterly FNS-583 report: (1) The number of filled and offered (unfilled) workfare slots; (2) the number of filled and offered education and training slots; (3) the amount of Federal 100 percent E&T funding spent on workfare slots that meet the requirements of Section 6(o)(2)(C) of the Act. This information must be broken out to show the amount of money spent on qualifying workfare slots in areas of a State that have received a waiver in accordance with section 6(o)(4) of the Act and money spent in non-waived areas. (4) The amount of Federal 100 percent E&T funding spent on education

and training slots that meet the requirements of section 6(o)(2)(B) of the Act. This information must be broken out to show the amount of money spent on qualifying education and training slots in areas of a State that have received a waiver in accordance with section 6(o)(4) of the Act and money spent in non-waived areas.

In consultation with OMB, FNS established one reimbursement rate for both workfare and 20-hour a week education and training components. The rates established are \$30 for an offered work slot and \$175 for a filled work slot. (A slot is "filled" when an E&T participant reports to a work or training site to begin his/her work activities; a slot is "offered" when an E&T participant either refuses a bona fide workfare or training opportunity or does not report.) FNS estimates these reimbursement rates will create 140,000 E&T slots for eligible ABAWDs, with the number evenly divided between filled and offered education and training component slots and filled and offered workfare component slots. Thus, each State will create 2,642 E&T slots annually for ABAWDs ($140,000/53 = 2,642$), with an average 660 E&T slots created each quarter ($2,642/4 = 660$), evenly divided between filled and unfilled.

We estimate that it will take States 3 minutes ($3/60 = .05$ hours) to note in an ABAWDs' food stamp case record (or other record) if she/he was offered one of the two types of E&T slots and whether he/she filled the slot. The total time involved for this E&T activity is 7,000 hours per year ($140,000 \times .05 = 7,000$), or 132 hours per year per State ($7000/53 = 132$).

Section 6(o)(4) of the Food Stamp Act gives the Secretary the authority to waive the ABAWD work requirements if an area of a State has an unemployment rate of over 10 percent or does not have a sufficient number of jobs to provide employment for ABAWDs. (7 U.S.C. 2015(o)(4)). States have already submitted requests to FNS for waivers of the ABAWDs work requirements and know which areas are waived and which are not waived. For the quarterly FNS-583, States will have to review the food stamp case records of 660 ABAWDs to determine if the individual filled or was offered an E&T slot, and then place him/her in the appropriate category. Since States will know ahead of time which areas are waived and non-waived, States can separate the slots accordingly, multiply each slot in each area by the amount of funds spent, and then total up the figures for the waived and non-waived areas. These figures

would then be reported on the FNS-583.

Based on the average of 660 slots per quarter per State, FNS estimates that it will take States 4 hours per quarter, or 16 hours per year, to track this information. The total time burden for tracking is 848 hours (16 hours annually per State \times 53 states). The total burden hours for tracking this information is 7,848 ($7,000 + 848$) or 148 hours per year per State respondent.

Compiling E&T funding information for the quarterly FNS-583 report: FNS calculates it takes 8.5 hours per quarter for each of the 42 automated States to prepare their FNS-583s, for a total of 1,428 hours per year ($8.5 \times 42 = 357$ per quarter; $357 \times 4 = 1,428$ total annually). The remaining 11 non-automated States used 15.5 hours each quarter to prepare their FNS-583s, for a total of 682 hours per year ($15.5 \times 11 = 170.5$ quarterly, $170.5 \times 4 = 682$ annually). Adding the two figures ($1,428 + 682$), we calculate it takes States a total of 2,110 total hours per year to prepare the quarterly FNS-583s or approximately 39.8 hours per respondent per year. The total burden hours (excluding the work registration process) for the new E&T funding requirements of the Balanced Budget Act is 9,958 ($7,000 + 848 + 2,110$).

Summary:

Number of individuals registered for work	4,870,489
Number of State agencies registering individuals for work	53
Total Number of Respondents	4,870,542
Number of individuals annually registering for work	¹ 4,870,489
Number of annual State agencies' responses	² 212
Total Number of Responses	4,870,701
¹ ($4,870,489 \times 1$)	
² (53×4)	

In calculating the total annual burden hours, FNS added all the burden hours for the work registration process, the 15 percent ABAWDs exemptions, and the E&T funding requirements (which includes the preparation time for the FNS-583).

Burden hours for work registration	182,643
Burden hours for 15 percent ABAWDs exemptions	2,762
Burden hours for E&T funding requirements	9,958
Total Annual Burden Hours	195,363

Frequency: The FNS-583 report must be completed and submitted to FNS on a quarterly basis by the 45th day following the end of the quarter.

Affected Public: Individual households and State and local governments.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 4,870,542.

Estimated Number of Responses: 4,870,701.

Estimated Time per Response: .025 hours per individual; 347.17 hours per State agency.

Estimated Total Annual Burden: 195,363 hours.

Dated April 21, 1998.

Yvette S. Jackson,

Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service.

[FR Doc. 98-11091 Filed 4-24-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-30-U

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Foreign Agricultural Service

Special Provision for Frozen Concentrated Orange Juice Under the North American Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act

ACTION: Notice of Determination of Existence of Price Conditions Necessary for Imposition of Temporary Duty on Frozen Concentrated Orange Juice from Mexico.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 309(a) of the North American Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act of 1993 ("NAFTA Implementation Act"), this is a notification that for 5 consecutive business days the daily price for frozen concentrated orange juice was lower than the trigger price.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joseph Somers, Horticultural and Tropical Products Division, Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture Washington, DC 20250-1000 or telephone at (202) 720-2974.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The NAFTA Implementation Act authorizes the imposition of a temporary duty (snapback) for Mexican frozen concentrated orange juice when certain conditions exist. Mexican articles falling under subheading 2009.11.00 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS) are subject to the snapback duty provision.

Under Section 309(a) of the NAFTA Implementation Act, certain price conditions must exist before the United States can apply a snapback duty on imports of Mexican frozen concentrated orange juice. In addition, such imports must exceed specified amounts before