

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

May 29, 1998.

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), Washington, D.C. 20503 and to Departmental Clearance Office, USDA, OCIO, Mail Stop 7602, Washington, D.C. 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) 720-6746.

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.

National Agricultural Statistics Service

Title: Fruits, Nut, and Specialty Corps.

OMB Control Number: 0535-0039.

Summary of Collection: U.S. Code title 7, Section 2204, specifies that "The Secretary of Agriculture shall procure and preserve all information concerning agriculture which he can obtain by the collection of statistics * * * and shall distribute them among agriculturists. The primary function of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is to prepare and issue current official state and national estimates of crop and livestock production. Estimates of fruit, tree nuts, and specialty crops are an integral part of this program. These estimates support the NASS strategic plan to annually cover 99 percent of all agricultural receipts. Information is collected on a voluntary basis from growers, processors, and handlers through surveys.

Need and Use of the Information: Data reported on fruit, nut, and Hawaii tropical crops are used by NASS to estimate acreage, yield, production, utilization, and crop value in states with significant commercial production. These estimates are essential to farmers, processors, and handlers in making production and marketing decisions. Estimates from these inquiries are used by market order administrators in their determination of expected supplies of crop under federal and state market orders as well as competitive fruits and nuts.

Description of Respondents: Farms; Business or other for-profit.

Number of Respondents: 40,968.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion; Annually.

Total Burden Hours: 14,137.

Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service

Title: Grant Application Forms for the Small Business Innovation Research Grants Program.

OMB Control Number: 0524-0025.

Summary of Collection: In 1982, the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Grants Program was authorized by Public Law 97-219, and in 1992, reauthorized through October 1, 2000, by Public Law 102-564. This legislation requires each Federal agency with a research and research and development

budget in excess of \$100 million to establish an SBIR program. The objectives of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) SBIR Program are to stimulate technological innovation in the private sector, strengthen the role of small businesses in meeting Federal research and development needs, increase private sector commercialization of innovations derived from USDA-supported research and developments efforts, and foster and encourage participation by women-owned and socially and economically disadvantaged small business firms in technological innovation. USDA conducts its SBIR Program through the use of grants awards and these grants are administered by the Grants Management Branch, CSREES. Each year, USDA issues an SBIR Program Solicitation requesting Phase I proposals. These proposals are evaluated by peer review panels and awarded on a competitive basis. The SBIR Program Solicitation requests that applicants submit proposals following the format outlined in the SBA Policy Directive.

Need and Use of the Information: CSREES uses forms CSREES-667, "Proposal Cover Sheet" and CSREES-688, "Project Summary", to collect recordkeeping data, required certifications, and information used to respond to inquiries from Congress, other Government agencies, and the grantee community concerning grant projects supported by the USDA SBIR Program.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit.

Number of Respondents: 480.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Annually.

Total Burden Hours: 1,920.

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Title: Rural Abandoned Mine Program.

OMB Control Number: 0578-0019.

Summary of Collection: Section 406 of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (Pub. L. 95-87, 91 Stat. 460, as amended, 30 U.S.C. 1236) directs the Secretary of Agriculture and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to formulate and carry out a Rural Abandoned Mine Program (RAMP)

during the 1977–2000 calendar years. This program authorizes federal technical and financial long term cost sharing assistance for conservation treatment with eligible land users. The financial assistance is based on a conservation plan for reclamation which is made a part of an agreement or contract for a 5 to 10 year period of time. Under the terms of the agreement, the participant agrees to apply, or arrange to apply, the conservation treatment specified in the conservation plan. In return for this agreement, federal cost-share payments are made to the land user, or third party, upon successful application of the conservation treatment. Forms are used to collect information from program applicants and to establish legal contracts for program participants.

Need and Use of the Information: The information collected on RAMP forms is obtained from RAMP participants manually for use by NRCS. The information is used by NRCS to review landowner applications for assistance, evaluate and record progress on applying conservation practices, and to monitor compliance with the RAMP provisions.

Description of Respondents: Farms; Individuals or households; State, Local or Tribal Government.

Number of Respondents: 400.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting.

Total Burden Hours: 223.

Farm Service Agency

Title: 7 CFR Part 1421—General Regulations Governing Loans for 1996 and Subsequent Corps.

OMB Control Number: 0560–0087.

Summary of Collection: The Farm Service Agency is authorized by the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (the 1996 Act), to make commodity loans for certain commodities to eligible producers. Producers requesting Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) commodity loans must meet eligibility requirements which are basic to all commodity loan programs. These requirements are needed to insure the integrity of the loan program and that only eligible producers receive the benefits of the loan program. FSA will collect information on commodity type, quantity of commodity, storage, location, liens on the commodity, etc., through the use of a variety of forms.

Need and Use of the Information: FSA County Committees are responsible for administration of the CCC loan program. The committees use the information collected on the forms to determine eligibility of participants to receive loan benefits. Information is also used to

determine cases of noncompliance with the regulations governing the loan program. Furnishing this data is voluntary. However, without it, assistance under the CCC loan program cannot be provided.

Description of Respondents: Farm.

Number of Respondents: 364,240.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion; Annually.

Total Burden Hours: 438,732.

Agricultural Marketing Service

Title: Report Forms Under Milk Marketing Order Programs (From Milk Handlers and Milk Marketing Cooperative).

OMB Control Number: 0581–0032.

Summary of Collection: Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) oversees the administration of Federal Milk Marketing Orders authorized by the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, as amended. The Federal Milk Marketing Order regulations require that handlers of milk report in detail the receipt and utilization of milk and milk products handled at each of their plants that are regulated by a Federal Order. The Report of Receipts and Utilization and the Producer Payroll Report are completed by regulated milk handlers and milk marketing cooperative and are the principal reporting forms needed to administer the 31 Federal milk marketing orders.

Need and Use of the Information: The information will be collected through the use of several forms and reports by the market administrator. The forms are used to establish the quality of milk received by handlers, the pooling status of the handlers, the class-use of the milk used by the handler and the butterfat content and amounts of other components of the milk. The data also allows AMS to administer the classified pricing system and related requirements of each Federal order.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit.

Number of Respondents: 772.

Frequency of Responses: Recordkeeping; Reporting: On occasion; Quarterly; Semi-annually; Monthly; Annually.

Total Burden Hours: 23,858.

Agricultural Marketing Service

Title: 7 CFR Part 70, Regulations for Voluntary Grading of Poultry Products and Rabbit Products.

OMB Control Number: 0581–0127.

Summary of Collection: The Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (60 Stat. 1087–1091, as amended; 7 U.S.C. 1621–1627) (AMA) directs and authorizes the Department to develop standards of quality, grades, grading

programs, and services to enable a more orderly marketing of agricultural products so trading may be facilitated and so consumers may be able to obtain products graded and identified under USDA programs. The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) carries out regulations which provide a voluntary program for grading poultry and rabbit products. Because this is a voluntary program, respondents need to request or apply for the specific services they wish, and in doing so, they provide information. Since the AMA requires that the cost of the service be assessed and collected, there is no alternative but to provide voluntary programs on a fee for service basis and to collect the information needed to establish the cost.

Need and Use of the Information:

Since the Agricultural Marketing Service does not know what the respondents' wishes or needs are until asked, there is no other choice but to have the respondents request or ask for the specific services or benefits they wish. AMS only requests the information necessary to efficiently make arrangement for the types of service requested, assure service is provided, and to administer the program.

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

Number of Respondents: 399.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion; Semi-annually; Monthly; Annually; Other (Daily).

Total Burden Hours: 1,889.

Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service

Title: Application Kit.

OMB Control Number: 0524–0022.

Summary of Collection: The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Cooperative State Research Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) administers several competitive, peer-reviewed research, education, and extension programs, under which awards of a high-priority nature are made. These programs are authorized pursuant to the authorities contained in the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977, as amended (7 U.S.C. 3101), the Smith-Lever Act, and various, other legislative authorities. Before grants can be awarded, certain information is required from applicants as part of an overall package. In addition to a project summary, proposal narrative, and other pertinent technical aspects of the proposed project, supporting documentation of an administrative and budgetary nature also must be provided. Because the

proposals submitted are competitive in nature and necessitate review by peer panelists, it is particularly important that applicants provide the information in a standardized fashion to ensure equitable treatment for all.

Need and Use of the Information: CSREES will collect information on USDA data, program summary and narrative, credentials and budget, for the research, education, and extension program. The information will be used to respond to inquiries from Congress, other governmental agencies, and the grantee community.

Description of Respondents: Not-for-profit institutions; Business or other for-profit; Individuals or households; Federal Government; State, Local, or Tribal Government.

Number of Respondents: 8,900.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Annually.

Total Burden Hours: 136,450.

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Title: Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS).

OMB Control Number: 0579-0125.

Summary of Collection: Collection and dissemination of animal health data and information is mandated by 7 U.S.C. 391, the Animal Industry Act of 1884, which established the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS). The mission of APHIS, Veterinary Service is to protect and improve the health, quality and marketability of our Nation's animals and animal products by preventing, controlling, and monitoring animal diseases. During the past 2 years a severe form of Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS) has appeared in the United States. APHIS will collect information on acute PRRS through a survey and other forms to establish the extent of the disease and gather more specific herd data.

Need and Use of the Information: Because of the recent increase in cases of the acute PRRS, it is imperative that data on management practices and environmental conditions, along with blood and tissue samples continue to be collected and analyzed. Analysis can identify the transmission mechanism and provide a means to prevent disease spread to other herds and states. The collection of information will be used to identify management risk factors that exist in higher proportion in affected herds than in noninfected herds, once all the data is collected, analyzed and put into databases.

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

Number of Respondents: 107.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 449.

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Title: Importation of Grapefruit, Lemons, and Oranges from Argentina—Docket No. 97-110-1.

OMB Control Number: 0579-New.

Summary of Collection: The Federal Plant Pest Act authorizes the Department of Agriculture and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to prevent plant diseases or insect pests from entering the United States, preventing the spread of pest not widely distributed in the United States, and eradicating those imported pests when eradication is feasible. Section 150bb of the Federal Plant Pest Act (7 USC 150aa-150jj) provides that no plant pest can be moved from a foreign country into or through the United States, or interstate, unless the movement is authorized under a permit issued by the Secretary of Agriculture and the movement is carried out in accordance with the conditions the Secretary may prescribe to prevent the dissemination of plant pests into the United States. APHIS will use a number of forms, including permits and foreign phytosanitary certificates to collect information to ensure that grapefruits, lemons, and oranges from Argentina meet the necessary conditions and requirements for importation into the United States and do not pose a threat of introducing or spreading plant diseases or insect pests that could cause significant harm to American agriculture.

Need and Use of the Information: APHIS will collect information from permit applications to determine if the fruit being imported from Argentina meets the requirements. This information will also enable APHIS to evaluate potential risks associated with the proposed movement of grapefruits lemons, and oranges into the United States. APHIS will use the information to determine whether a permit can be issued, and also to develop risk-mitigating conditions for the proposed movement.

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

Number of Respondents: 470.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden hours: 715.

Agricultural Marketing Service

Title: Export Fruit Acts.

OMB Control Number: 0581-0143.

Summary of Collection: Fresh apples, pears, and grapes grown in the United States shipped to any foreign destination must meet certain minimum quality and other requirements established by regulations issued under the Export Apple and Pear Act [7 CFR Part 33] and the Export Grape and Plum Act [7 CFR Part 35], hereinafter referred to as the Acts. The regulations issued under the Acts [33.11 for apples and pears, and 35.12 for grapes] requires that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) officially inspect and certify that each shipment of fresh apples, pears, and grapes is in compliance with all pertinent regulatory requirements effective under the Acts. AMS will collect information from persons who ship fresh apples, pears, and grapes grown in the United States to foreign destinations from inspections certificates and phytosanitary inspection certificates.

Need and Use of the Information: AMS marketing specialists will collect information from certificates relating to the shipment, including the quantity shipped, date shipped, vessel identification, and intended foreign destination of fruit. The marketing specialists also obtain the names and addresses of freight forwarders and export carriers from port authorities at the ports they plan to contact. The marketing specialists contact those export carriers which exported apples, pears and grapes during the past season, and review their fruit shipment files to determine if they have filed the inspection certificates as required, and that the fruit met the requisite requirements.

Description of Respondents: Business or other-for-profit.

Number of Respondents: 115.

Frequency of Responses: Recordkeeping; Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 2,204.

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Title: American Heritage Rivers Initiative.

OMB Control Number: 0578-New.

Summary of Collection: The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and the team of Federal agency representatives responsible for developing a symposium for all 126 applicants to the American Heritage Rivers (AHR) Initiative, would like to assure that they meet the specific needs of the applicants. NRCS will collect

information using a one page questionnaire that will ask applicants to provide input so that the symposium will better meet their specific needs in order to implement their AHR plans. More specifically, they will be asked to select the preferred dates for the symposium (weekend or weekday dates). This will allow President Clinton to announce the dates of the symposium in mid-June, when he announces the ten AHR nominations to receive designation this year.

Need and Use of the Information: The information that NRCS collects from the AHR applicants that choose to respond, will be used only by the symposium planning team. Based on the applicants responses the team will then develop an agenda that includes topics of specific interest, tools and information that will help them complete their AHR plans.

Description of Respondents: Not-for-profit institutions; Business or other-for-profit; State, Local or Tribal Government.

Number of Respondents: 126.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 31.5.

Emergency approval for this information collection has been requested by June 1, 1998.

Rural Housing Service

Title: 7 CFR 1944-L, Tenant Grievance and Appeals Procedure.

OMB Control Number: 0575-0046.

Summary of Collection: The Rural Housing Service (RHS) is authorized, under Sections 514, 515, and 521 of the Housing Act of 1949, to provide loans and grants to eligible recipients of the development of rural rental/cooperative and labor housing. Such multiple family housing projects are intended to meet the housing needs of persons or families who have moderate, low- and very-low incomes, senior citizens, the handicapped and domestic farm laborers. RHS is responsible for assuring the public that the housing projects financed are managed and operated as mandated by Congress. For this reason, the Agency implemented a grievance and appeals procedure on October 27, 1980, for tenants, members and applicants for occupancy in multiple family housing financed by RHS. The procedure requires certain information to be collected whenever a tenant wishes to appeal adverse actions by owners/managers of multi-family housing project financed by RHS.

Need and Use of the Information: The information collected is used to notify tenants of the reasons for the adverse actions and to ascertain the viewpoint of the tenant. The information is used in

the course of trying to resolve the grievance. The consequence of not collecting the information is that tenants, members or applicants would not be able to exercise their rights provided by the Tenant Grievance Appeals procedure.

Description of Respondents:

Individuals or households; Business or other for-profit; State, Local or Tribal Government.

Number of Respondents: 360.

Frequency of Responses: Recordkeeping; Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 83.

Food and Nutrition Service

Title: Servicing Cases Where Unauthorized Loan or Other Financial Assistance Was Received—Community and Business Programs, 7 CFR 1951-O.

OMB Control Number: 0575-0103.

Summary of Collection: On occasion, the Rural Housing Service (RHS), Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS), Rural Utilities Service (RUS), and the Farm Service Agency (FSA) encounter cases where unauthorized assistance was received by a borrower or grantee for which there was no regulatory authorization or for which the recipient was not eligible. In situations where unauthorized assistance may have been given, the Agencies must collect certain financial information to assist in the determination that the assistance received was unauthorized.

Need and Use of the Information: The information submitted by borrowers or grantees is evaluated by local Rural Development and FSA employees. The information is used to review the case to confirm whether unauthorized assistance was received and to make necessary account adjustments.

Description of Respondents: Not-for-profit institutions; State, Local or Tribal Government.

Number of Respondents: 14.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 12.

Farm Service Agency

Title: Dairy Production Disaster Assistance Program—7 CFR 1439.

OMB Control Number: 0560-New.

Summary of Collection: Under P.L. 105-174, Disaster Assistance Supplemental, the Commodity Credit Corporation Fund has been amended to appropriate \$6,800,000 to implement a Dairy Production Disaster Assistance Program. The program will provide payments to dairy producers for losses of milk that had been produced but not marketed or for diminished production due to natural disasters designated pursuant to a Presidential or Secretarial

declaration requested from November 27, 1997 through May 1, 1998. The Farm Service Agency will collect information from dairy producers applying for assistance.

Need and Use of the Information: FSA will collect information on business records from producers to verify that their milk or dairy production losses did occur. The business record collection will be used by the FSA County Office personnel to determine the eligibility and amount of assistance in accordance with the published regulation. FSA considers the information collection to be essential to make prudent eligibility and assistance determinations and to maintain the credibility of such a program being administered after the losses occurred.

Description of Respondents: Farms.

Number of Respondents: 25,000.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 50,000.

Emergency approval for this information collection has been requested by June 8, 1998.

Nancy Sternberg,

Departmental Information Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 98-14857 Filed 6-3-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food and Nutrition Service

Agency Information Collection

Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request—The Impacts of Time Limits on Unemployed Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents

AGENCY: Food and Nutrition Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the intention of the Food and Nutrition Service to request Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval of data collection for the study, The Impacts of Time Limits on Unemployed Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by August 3, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Send comments and requests for copies of this information collection to: Alberta Frost, Director, Office of Analysis and Evaluation, 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