

Notices

Federal Register

Vol. 63, No. 135

Wednesday, July 15, 1998

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

Office of the Secretary

Approval of Silos and Smokestacks Partnership Management Plan

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996, the Secretary of Agriculture hereby gives notice of approval of the Partnership Management Plan submitted for establishment of the America's Agricultural Heritage Partnership.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bart Chilton (202-720-4581), Senior Policy Director, Rural Development, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 206-W, Jamie L. Whitten Federal Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 (Pub. L. 104-333) authorized the establishment of the America's Agricultural Heritage Partnership (Partnership) in Iowa upon publication of notice in the **Federal Register** that a Partnership Management Plan has been submitted to and approved by the Secretary of Agriculture. Silos and Smokestacks is a non-profit regional agricultural heritage tourism organization based in Iowa that is creating a network of sites, activities, and events to tell the story of American agriculture, past and present. Silos and Smokestacks has developed and submitted a management plan to the Department of Agriculture (USDA) for the Partnership. Approval of the management plan by the Secretary does not obligate USDA to expend resources. Consistent with USDA's rural development mission and support for agricultural heritage tourism as a viable economic development tool, the Secretary of Agriculture has approved

the America's Agricultural Heritage Partnership plan.

Dated: July 8, 1998.

Dan Glickman,

Secretary of Agriculture.

[FR Doc. 98-18912 Filed 7-14-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-07-U

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Research Service

Notice of Intent to Seek Approval to Collect Information

AGENCY: Agricultural Research Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub.L. No. 104-13) and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations at 5 CFR Part 1320 (60 FR 44978, August 29, 1995), this notice announces the intent of the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) to request approval for new information collection, the Food and Nutrition Information Center (FNIC) Customer Satisfaction Survey of Food and Nutrition Service Audiences. This information will assist FNIC staff in providing and delivering better services according to the needs of FNIC's targeted audiences.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by September 21, 1998 to be assured of consideration.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS: Contact Shirley King Evans, Ed.M., R.D., Food and Nutrition Information Center, NAL/ARS/USDA, Room 304, 10301 Baltimore Avenue, Beltsville, MD 20705-2351, (301) 504-7374.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: *Title:* Food and Nutrition Information Center (FNIC) Customer Satisfaction Survey for Food and Nutrition Service Audiences.

Type of Request: Approval to collect information on customer satisfaction of the Food and Nutrition Service targeted audiences.

Abstract: The Agricultural Research Service, National Agricultural Library, Public Services Division, Food and Nutrition Information Center is interested in conducting a customer satisfaction survey of Food and Nutrition Service audiences; they are personnel working at the state or local

levels of the government, including personnel working on the following: State Child Nutrition programs; Child and Adult Care Food Program; Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations; Special Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children; and the Nutrition Education and Training Program. Changes in delivery and provision of services have been implemented at the National Agricultural Library so it is important to assess needs, particularly since FNIC has special funding to serve those needs. Data will be analyzed to evaluate how well FNIC currently is serving Food and Nutrition Service audiences and what services need to be modified to meet their needs more effectively. FNIC would like to conduct the survey from September through October 1998.

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

Respondents: Health professionals and administrators in government agencies.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 600.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 300 hours.

Copies of this information collection and related instructions can be obtained without charge from Shirley King Evans, Ed.M., R.D., Food and Nutrition Information Center, NAL/ARS/USDA, Room 304, 10301 Baltimore Avenue, Beltsville, MD 20705-2351, (301) 504-7374.

Comments

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 the burden of the proposed collection of information including the 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, such as through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, other technological collection techniques, or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to: Shirley King Evans, Ed.M.,

R.D., Food and Nutrition Information Center, NAL/ARS/USDA, Room 304, 10301 Baltimore Avenue, Beltsville, MD 20705-2351, (301) 504-7374. 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.

Keith W. Russell,

Deputy Director, NAL.

[FR Doc. 98-18728 Filed 7-14-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-03-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 98-027-1]

International Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standard-Setting Activities

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and solicitation of comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with legislation implementing the results of the Uruguay Round of negotiations under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, we are informing the public of international standard-setting activities of the Office International des Epizooties, the Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention, and the North American Plant Protection Organization, and we are soliciting public comment on the standards to be considered.

ADDRESSES: Please send an original and three copies of your comments to Docket No. 98-027-1, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Suite 3C03, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238. Please state in your letter that your comments refer to Docket No. 98-027-1, and state the name of the committee or working group to which your comments are addressed. Comments received may be inspected at USDA, room 1141, South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Persons wishing to inspect comments are requested to call ahead on (202) 690-2817 to facilitate entry into the comment reading room.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. John Greifer, Acting Director, Trade Support Team, International Services, APHIS, room 1128, South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC, 20250, (202) 720-7677; or e-mail: jgreifer@aphis.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The World Trade Organization (WTO) was established on January 1, 1995, as the common international institutional framework for the conduct of trade relations among its members in matters related to the Uruguay Round Agreements. The WTO is the successor organization to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. U.S. membership in the WTO was approved by Congress when it enacted the Uruguay Round Agreements Act, which was signed into law (Public Law 103-465) by the President on December 8, 1994. The Uruguay Round Agreements Act amended title IV of the Trade Agreements Act of 1979 (19 U.S.C. 2531 *et seq.*) by adding a new subtitle F, "International Standard-Setting Activities." Subtitle F requires the President to designate an agency to be responsible for informing the public of the sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) standard-setting activities of each international standard-setting organization. The designated agency must inform the public by publishing a notice in the **Federal Register** that provides the following information: (1) The sanitary or phytosanitary standards under consideration or planned for consideration by the international standard-setting organization; and (2) for each sanitary or phytosanitary (SPS) standard specified: a description of the consideration or planned consideration of the standard; whether the United States is participating or plans to participate in the consideration of the standard; the agenda for United States participation, if any; and the agency responsible for representing the United States with respect to the standard.

Subtitle F defines "international standard" as a standard, guideline, or recommendation: (1) Adopted by the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex) regarding food safety; (2) developed under the auspices of the Office International des Epizooties (OIE) regarding animal health and zoonoses; (3) developed under the auspices of the Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) in cooperation with the North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO) regarding plant health; or (4) established by or developed under any other international organization agreed to by the member countries of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) or by member countries of the WTO.

The President, pursuant to Proclamation No. 6780 of March 23, 1995 (60 FR 15845), designated the United States Department of Agriculture as the agency responsible for informing

the public of the SPS standard-setting activities of Codex, OIE, IPPC, and NAPPO. This responsibility was delegated to the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) for Codex activities and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) for OIE, IPPC, and NAPPO activities.

FSIS is responsible for publishing an annual notice in the **Federal Register** to inform the public of SPS standard-setting activities for Codex. Codex was created in 1962 by two United Nations organizations, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Health Organization. It is the major international organization for encouraging international trade in food and protecting the health and economic interests of consumers.

APHIS is responsible for publishing notice of OIE, IPPC, and NAPPO activities related to international standards and representing the United States with respect to these standards.

Following are descriptions of OIE, IPPC, and NAPPO scheduled activities for the coming year. In some cases, working groups and committees have not yet set meeting dates and locations or determined specific standards to be discussed. The OIE, IPPC, and NAPPO sanitary and phytosanitary standard-setting activities for the coming year may be modified as emergency situations may affect the agenda of each standard-setting body.

OIE Standard-Setting Activities

The OIE was created in Paris, France, in 1924 with the signing of an international agreement by 28 countries. It is currently composed of 151 member nations, each of which is represented by a delegate, who, in most cases, is the chief veterinary officer of that country.

The WTO has designated the OIE as the international forum for setting animal health standards, reporting global animal situations and disease status, and presenting guidelines and recommendations on sanitary measures.

The OIE facilitates intergovernmental cooperation to prevent the spread of contagious diseases in animals through the sharing of scientific research among its members. The major function of the OIE is to ensure that scientifically justified standards govern international trade in animals and animal products. The OIE aims to achieve this through the development and revision of international standards for diagnostic tests and vaccines for the safe international trade of animals and animal products.