

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

August 28, 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, DC 20503 and to Departmental Clearance Office, USDA, OCIO, Mail Stop 7602, Washington, DC 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: 1998 Farm and Ranch Irrigation Survey.

OMB Control Number: 0535-NEW.

Summary of Collection: The Farm and Ranch Irrigation Survey (FRIS) is an integral part of the 1997 Census of Agriculture and is conducted under the Authority of the Census of Agriculture Act of 1997 (Public Law 105-113). This law requires the Secretary of Agriculture and the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) to conduct a Census of Agriculture in 1998 and every fifth year following 1998. Agricultural irrigation is the largest single use of available U.S. water supplies, accounting for more than two-thirds of all ground-water withdrawals and more than 84 percent of all consumptive uses. Therefore, high quality data on agricultural water use are needed to help public and private sector officials understand and manage this important national resource. NASS collects information using the FRIS.

Need and Use of the Information: NASS will collect information from the FRIS on acres irrigated by land use category, acres and yields of irrigated and nonirrigated crops, quantity of water applied and method of application to selected crops, acres irrigated and quantity of water used by source, acres irrigated by type of water distribution systems, and number of irrigation wells and pumps. The primary purpose of FRIS is to provide detailed data relating to on-farm irrigation activities for use in preparing a wide variety of water-related programs, economic models, legislative initiatives, market analyses, and feasibility studies. The absence of FRIS data would certainly affect irrigation policy decisions.

Description of Respondents: Farms.

Number of Respondents: 20,000.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Other (One time).

Total Burden Hours: 14,333.

National Agricultural Statistics Service

Title: 1998 Census of Horticultural Specialties.

OMB Control Number: 0535-NEW.

Summary of Collection: The census of horticultural specialties is one of a series of census special studies for the Census of Agriculture which provides more detailed statistics relating to a

specific subject. The census of horticultural specialties is an integral part of the 1997 Census of Agriculture and is conducted under the authority of the Census of Agriculture Act of 1997 (Public Law 105-113). The law requires the Secretary of Agriculture and the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) to conduct a Census of Agriculture in 1998 and every fifth year following 1998. Horticulture is one of the fastest growing segments in the agriculture sector. Horticultural crops are high value crops which farmers could grow to diversify their farming operations, but more information about them is needed. Horticultural operations are large consumers of pesticides and other chemicals, so research funding is critical to this industry to develop more effective horticultural chemicals or plants that are resistant to common diseases. NASS will collect information on horticulture using data from the census.

Need and Use of the Information: NASS will collect information from the number and value of plants grown and sold, the value of land, buildings, machinery and equipment, selected production expenses, irrigation, marketing channels, hired labor, area used for production, and type of structure. The primary objective of the horticultural specialties census is to obtain a comprehensive and detailed picture of the horticultural sector of the economy. Without the census of horticultural specialties, government policy makers and planners would lack valuable information needed to accomplish their missions.

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

Number of Respondents: 47,000.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Other (One time).

Total Burden Hours: 48,371.

National Agricultural Statistics Service

Title: Childhood Agricultural Injury.

OMB Control Number: 0535-NEW.

Summary of Collection: The National Agricultural Statistics Service's (NASS) primary function is to prepare and issue State and National estimates of crop and livestock production. NASS has been asked by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), to conduct a childhood agricultural injury study. Injuries to children living, working, or visiting farms are the focus of a special NIOSH

initiative directed by Congress. A major problem in planning injury prevention programs for these children is the lack of surveillance data, especially for those injuries that are nonfatal. For the study, an injury is defined as any condition that results in one-half day or more of restricted activity (child missed school, could not perform normal activities, missed work). A childhood agricultural injury is defined as any injury meeting this definition that occurred on the farm property (including homestead), or occurred while performing work, either on the farm or off the farm, associated with the farm business. NASS will collect information using a survey.

Need and Use of the Information: NASS will collect information on the estimates of annual childhood agricultural injury incidence rates, annual injury frequencies, and descriptive injury information for children living on, working on, or visiting on farming operations in the United States. Data from the survey will provide a source of consistent information which NIOSH can effectively target funds appropriated by Congress for the prevention of childhood agricultural injuries.

Description of Respondents: Farms.

Number of Respondents: 42,500.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Other (One time).

Total Burden Hours: 2,125.

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Title: 7 CFR 319.76 Exotic Bee Diseases and Parasites, 7 CFR 322 Honeybees and Honeybee Semen.

OMB Control Number: 0579-0072

Summary of Collection: The Honeybee Act of 1922 (Title 7, Chapter 11) was created to prevent the introduction and spread of diseases and parasites harmful to honeybees, and the introduction of genetically undesirable plasm of honeybees. The introduction and establishment of new honeybee diseases, parasites, and undesirable honeybee strains in the United States could cause multimillion dollar losses to American agriculture. Diseases and parasites can weaken or kill honeybees, thereby causing substantial reductions in the production of honey and other honeybee products, as well as a reduction in pollination activity. Section 281c of the Honeybee Act provides that honeybees and honeybee semen can only be imported into the United States under rules and regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Agriculture and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). Anyone who seeks to import honeybees, honeybee semen, or articles that could

harbor diseases or parasites of honeybees must apply to APHIS for an import permit. APHIS will collect various pieces of information concerning the nature and point of origin of the items to be imported using a number of forms and documents.

Need and Use of the Information: APHIS will collect information from importers such as name, address, telephone number; the quantity and kinds of articles intended for import; the amount of semen to be imported; the species or subspecies of honeybee from which the semen was collected; the country or locality or origin; the intended port of entry in the United States; the means of transportation; and the expected date of arrival. The information is needed to determine if the honeybee semen or restricted articles are eligible for importation into the United States, and under what conditions (i.e., necessary treatment, appropriate shipping containers, proper port of entry, etc.).

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

Number of Respondents: 91.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 31.

Food and Nutrition Service

Title: Requisition for Food Coupon Books.

OMB Control Number: 0584-0022.

Summary of Collection: The Food Stamp Act of 1977 requires the Secretary and the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) to prescribe appropriate procedures for the delivery of food coupon books to coupon issuers and for the subsequent controls to be placed over such coupons by coupon issuers in order to ensure adequate accountability. The regulations at 7 CFR 274.7 and 274.8 require State agencies to establish coupon inventory management systems which include proper control and security procedures as well as procedures for ordering coupon books and shipping books within the State. These procedures also provide an orderly mechanism for States to order new supplies of food coupon books. FNS will collect information using Form FNS-260, Requisition of Food Coupon Books, to determine what State needs additional coupon books and the details of their order.

Need and Use of the Information: FNS will collect information to determine how many coupon books to order, what denominations and when to order more coupon books in order to provide State agencies with inventories that will be

adequate to issue program benefits to households on a monthly basis.

Description of Respondents: State, Local or Tribal Government.

Number of respondents: 1,000.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On Occasion.

total Burden Hours: 3,000.

Food and Nutrition Service

Title: Determining Eligibility for Free and Reduced Price Meals and Free Milk.

OMB Control Number: 0584-0026.

Summary of Collection: The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act of 1996, Public Law 104-193, was enacted on August 22, 1996. This statute amended the National School Lunch Act to remove all references to the automatic free meal eligibility of children from assistance units receiving benefits under Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC). In its place, Congress established automatic eligibility for children receiving benefits under the State program funded under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act (generally known as Temporary Assistance of Needy Families (TANF)), provided that the eligibility criteria for the State's TANF program are comparable to or more restrictive than the standards for the AFDC program it replaced. Because States have latitude in the way they administer TANF, the Secretary is requesting State agencies, in cooperation with the agency administering TANF, to make comparison and inform the Secretary of their determination.

Need and Use of the Information: The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is requiring each State agency to notify the appropriate FNS regional office, in writing, whether the TANF program in their State is comparable to or more restrictive than their AFDC program, and indicate the information used to make the comparison. This information is required in order to facilitate the delivery of the Federal benefits to eligible beneficiaries.

Description of Respondents:

Individuals or households; Not-for-profit institutions; State, Local or Tribal Government.

Number of Respondents: 4,260,648.

Frequency of Responses: Recordkeeping; Reporting: Biennially; Annually; Other (Triennially).

Total Burden Hours: 1,028,149.

Risk Management Agency

Title: Multiple Peril Crop Insurance.

OMB Control Number: 0563-0053.

Summary of Collection: The Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC) provides for a nationwide crop insurance program. The Federal Crop

Insurance Act, as amended in 1994 and 1996, established the crop insurance program to be the principal tool for risk management by producers of farm products. The current regulations and insurance provisions require the collection of a wide range of information through various forms that are categorized as either sales documents or notices of damage and claim. The information collected is used in part to establish insurance coverage, premiums, payments, indemnities and allow for other program and administrative operations. The Risk Management Agency (RMA) on behalf of FCIC is proposing to modify regulations implementing the Grape Crop Insurance Provisions. The proposed changes will (1) Allow grape producers in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington to select one price election and one coverage level for each varietal group specified in the Special Provisions; and (2) provide year-round coverage in California, Idaho, Mississippi, Oregon, Texas and Washington for insureds with no break in coverage from the prior crop year. No changes are proposed to the existing forms and no additional burden is anticipated due to these proposed changes.

Need and Use of the Information: The current regulations and insurance provisions require the collection of a wide range of information that is used to in part to establish insurance coverage, premiums, payments, indemnities and allow for other program and administrative operations. This information is also used to create an information data base to support continued development and improvements in crop insurance products available to producers and to strengthen the insurance program overall.

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

Number of Respondents: 4,514.

Frequency of Responses:

Recordkeeping; Reporting: Annually.

Total Burden Hours: 1,092,849.

Risk Management Agency

Title: Multiple Peril Crop Insurance.

OMB Control Number: 0563-0053.

Summary of Collection: The Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC) provides for a nationwide crop insurance program. The Federal Crop Insurance Act, as amended in 1994 and 1996, established the crop insurance program to be the principal tool for risk management by producers of farm products. The current regulations and insurance provisions require the collection of a wide range of information through various forms that

are categorized as either sales documents or notices of damage and claim. The information collected is used in part to establish insurance coverage, premiums, payments, indemnities and allow for other program and administrative operations. The Risk Management Agency (RMA) on behalf of FCIC is proposing to modify regulations implementing the Cotton and ELS Cotton Crop Insurance Provisions. The proposed changes will (1) Provide a replant payment; (2) revise the provision used to determine the amount of production to count for cotton and ELS cotton that is eligible for quality adjustments; and (3) provide a prevented planting coverage level of 50 percent for cotton and ELS cotton for the 1999 and subsequent crop years. The burden associated with this collection will decrease due to fewer insured and respondents.

Need and Use of the Information: The current regulations and insurance provisions require the collection of a wide range of information that is used in part to establish insurance coverage, premiums, payments, indemnities and allow for other program and administrative operations. This information is also used to create an information data base to support continued development and improvements in crop insurance products available to producers and to strengthen the insurance program overall.

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

Number of Respondents: 1,599,244.

Frequency of Responses:

Recordkeeping; Reporting: Annually.

Total Burden Hours: 1,126,103.

National Agricultural Statistics Service

Title: Wildlife Damage.

OMB Control Number: 0535-0217.

Summary of Collection: The National Agricultural Statistics Service's (NASS) primary function is to prepare and issue current official state and national estimates of crop and livestock production, disposition, and prices. Auxiliary services such as statistical consultation, data collection, summary tabulation, and analysis are performed for other Federal and state agencies on a reimbursable basis as the need arises. NASS has entered into an agreement with the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS) to conduct nationwide sample surveys of selected fruit, nut and berry producers for the purpose of assessing the true incidence, extent, specific cause, and monetary value of agricultural product and resource losses caused by vertebrate wildlife. APHIS and NASS have entered

into this agreement in direct response to specific recommendations to APHIS by the National Animal Damage Control Advisory Committee (NADCAC) in recognition of the present lack of current information available to the APHIS' Wildlife Service, for use in strategic planning. NASS will collect information using a sampling survey.

Need and Use of the Information: NASS will collect information on the development of valid statistical data reflecting the percentage of fruit, nut, and berry growers experiencing losses of products or resources and the total dollar losses at the national level caused by vertebrate wildlife. Goals of the survey are to assess the agricultural community's use and name recognition of the Wildlife Service program at a regional level, and provide accurate measurement of wildlife damage to agricultural products for use in long range planning and fund allocation.

Description of Respondents: Farms.

Number of Respondents: 15,000.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Other (One time).

Total Burden Hours: 1,875.

Farm Service Agency

Title: Implementation of Preferred Lender Program and Streamlining of Guaranteed Regulations.

OMB Control Number: 0560-0155.

Summary of Collection: The Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (CONACT) authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to make and service loans guaranteed by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) to eligible farmers and ranchers. The Secretary is authorized to define the character, scope, and frequency of information required to be collected. The law requires that certain policies be verified by FSA to assure that farmers and ranchers, joint operators, farm cooperatives, private domestic corporations and partnerships that are controlled by farmers and ranchers engaged primarily and directly in farming or ranching in the United States comply with such policies in order to obtain the requested assistance. FSA will use several forms to collect information from lenders and loan applicants.

Need and Use of the Information: FSA will collect information on the characteristics of the borrower, the purpose for which loan funds will be used, the proposed security for the loan, and the proposed terms and conditions of the loan request, verification of debt and income, cash flow, financial and production history. This information collection pertains primarily to the gathering of data to secure and

document decisions regarding FSA guaranteed farm loans.

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

Number of Respondents: 16,750.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion; Semi-annually.

Total Burden Hours: 197,962.

National Agricultural Statistics Service

Title: Mink Survey.

OMB Control Number: 0535-0212.

Summary of Collection: The National Agricultural Statistics Service's (NASS) primary function is to prepare and issue state and national estimates of crop and livestock production. Statistics on mink production are published for the 15 major states that account for 95 percent of the U.S. production. Estimates for the remaining States are published in a combined "all other states" category. There is no other source for this type of information. General authority for these data collection activities is granted under U.S. Code Title 7, Section 2204. This statute specifies that "The Secretary of Agriculture shall procure and preserve all information concerning agriculture which can be obtained * * * by the collecting of statistics * * * and shall distribute them among agriculturists". NASS will use a survey to collect information.

Need and Use of the Information: NASS will collect information on mink pelts produced by color, number of females bred to produce kits the following year, number of mink farms, average marketing price, and the value of pelts produced. The data is disseminated by NASS in the Mink Report and is used by the U.S. Government and other special interest groups.

Description of Respondents: Farms.

Number of Respondents: 425.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Annually.

Total Burden Hours: 71.

National Agricultural Statistics Service

Title: Livestock Survey.

OMB Control Number: 0535-0005.

Summary of Collection: The National Agricultural Statistics Service's (NASS) primary function is to prepare and issue current official State and National estimates of crop and livestock production. General authority for data collection is granted under U.S. Code, Title 7, Section 2204. This statute specifies that "The Secretary of Agriculture shall procure and preserve all information concerning agriculture which can be obtained * * * by the collection of statistics * * * and shall distribute them among agriculturists."

The Livestock survey is conducted annually to estimate livestock totals at state and county levels. Information from federally and non-federally inspected slaughter plants is used to estimate total red meat production. NASS will use a survey to collect information.

Need and Use of the Information: NASS will collection information on the number of head slaughtered plus live and dressed weights of beef, veal, pork, lamb, mutton, goats, and equine. Accurate and timely livestock estimates provide USDA and the livestock industry with basic data to project future meat supplies and producer prices. Agricultural economists in both the public and private sectors use this information in economic analysis and research.

Description of Respondents: Farms; Not for profit institutions.

Number of Respondents: 43,184.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Weekly; Monthly; Annually.

Total Burden Hours: 21,659.

Farm Service Agency

Title: Certification of Use or Nonuse of Insecticide/Herbicide or Other Growth Regulators on Peanuts.

OMB Control Number: 0560-NEW.

Summary of Collection: Provisions of the peanut poundage quota program are issued in accordance with the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 and are applicable to the 1996 through 2002 crops of peanuts. In accordance with program provisions found at 7 CFR Part 729, peanut producers must certify if growth regulators has been used on the crop of peanuts planted. FSA will collect information regarding this certification using form FSA 1016.

Need and Use of the Information: FSA will collect information to monitor and enforce the requirements for entering peanuts into the domestic edible market. The information collected will be used by FSA State and County office personnel as proof of use or nonuse of growth regulators on peanuts. In the event a violation occurs where the producer certifies to not using the growth regulators and the peanuts are later discovered to have been produced in violation of the certification, the completed (certified) form will be sued by FSA, the Agricultural Marketing Service, and the Applicable Peanut Area Associations, which are contractors of the agency, to determine penalty amounts, if applicable, or any other appropriate actions. Producers found in violation of the certification will not be eligible for price support and the subject peanuts will not be allowed to enter the domestic edible market.

Description of Respondents: Farms; Individuals or households.

Number of Respondents: 59,437.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Annually.

Total Burden Hours: 10,104.

Emergency approval for this information collection has been requested by August 31, 1998.

Farm Service Agency

Title: Verification of Debts and Assets.

OMB Control Number: 0560-0166.

Summary of Collection: The Federal Claims Collection Standards (4 CFR part 101 through 105) in conjunction with the provisions of 7 CFR part 1956, subpart B, provide authority for the Farm Service Agency (FSA) to access confidential financial data to document the propriety of the agency's decision to forgive debt. The Office of the Inspector General (OIG) has noted that FSA debt settlement policies and procedures do not address the verification of cash, bank deposits, investments and other current assets. 7 CFR part 1956 subpart B requires a borrower that has requested debt settlement to provide accurate and complete financial information. Accordingly, FSA form 440-32 has been modified to collect this information.

Need And Use Of The Information: FSA will collect information using form FSA 440-32 to verify assets in consideration of requests for debt forgiveness. The local servicing officials who are preparing the debt settlement application and its supporting documents will include the information provided on this form, if any, in their analysis of the validity of the borrower's settlement offer. This will reduce the likelihood of the government forgiving debt when the debtor has the ability to pay a portion.

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

Number of Respondents: 43,310.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 11,411.

Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service

Title: Food and Agricultural Sciences National Needs Graduate Fellowships Grants Program Application Guidelines.

OMB Control Number: 0524-0024.

Summary of Collection: The Office of Higher Education Programs (HEP), Science and Education Resources Division (SERD), Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES), conducts a program of competitive institutional graduate fellowships grants to help meet the Nation's needs for food and agricultural

scientific and professional expertise. These fellowships are intended to encourage outstanding students to pursue and complete a graduate degree in an area of the food and agricultural sciences for which development of scientific expertise is designated by HEP-CSREES as a national need. This program is authorized by section 1417(b)(6) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977. CSREES will collect information using several forms before grants can be awarded.

Need And Use Of The Information: CSREES will collect information on the identification of the national needs to be addressed, description of the fellow's proposed program study, description of the institution's academic and research competencies, plans for recruiting fellows, pertinent faculty vitae, a budget request, and other relevant information. The purposes of the information requested are for USDA recordkeeping, proposal evaluation, and administration of the National Needs Graduate Fellowships Grants Programs. Some of the information will be used to respond to inquiries from Congress, other Government agencies, and the grantee community.

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

Number of Respondents: 400.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Annually.

Total Burden Hours: 9,458.

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Title: Environment Monitoring Form.
OMB Control Number: 0579-0117.

Summary of Collection: The mission of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is to provide leadership in ensuring the health and care of animals and plants, to improve agricultural productivity and competitiveness, and to contribute to the national economy and the public health. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq, and the regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality, which implements the procedural aspects of NEPA (40 CFR 1500-1508) requires APHIS to implement environmental monitoring for certain activities conducted for pest and disease, control and eradication programs. APHIS Form 2060, Environment Monitoring Form, will be used to collect information concerning the effects of pesticide use in sensitive habitats.

Need And Use Of The Information: APHIS will collect information on the

kind of pesticide used, the date of application, the location where samples are collected, a description of the samples, and the environmental conditions at the collection site including wind speed and direction, temperature, humidity, amount of rainfall, and topography. The supporting information contained on the APHIS Form 2060 is vital for interpreting the laboratory test APHIS conducts on collected samples. Also if a given sample was not accompanied by the form, APHIS would have no way of knowing which site the sample was taken.

Description of Respondents: Federal Government; Individual or households; Farms.

Number of Respondents: 15.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 150.

Nancy B. Sternberg,

Departmental Information Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 98-23649 Filed 9-1-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food and Nutrition Service

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request—Study of the Implementation of the School Meals Initiative for Healthy Children

AGENCY: Food and Nutrition Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Food and Nutrition Service's intention to request Office of Management and Budget approval of the Study of the Implementation of the School Meals Initiative for Healthy Children.

DATES: Written comments on this notice must be received by November 2, 1998.

ADDRESSES: 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, including through the use of appropriate

automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to: Alberta C. Frost, Director, Office of Analysis and Evaluation, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, VA 22302.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the proposed information collection forms should be directed to Alberta C. Frost, (703) 305-2117.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: The Study of the Implementation of the School Meals Initiative for Healthy Children.

OMB Number: 0584-0485.

Expiration Date: 10/31/2000.

Type of Request: New collection of information for second year of study.

Abstract: The Study of the Implementation of the School Meals Initiative (SMI) for Healthy Children is a three-year study designed to collect information needed to address current policy issues including those associated with the School Meals Initiative for Healthy Children and Team Nutrition. A major part of this study is intended to provide the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) with descriptive data on the status of School Food Authorities' (SFAs) implementation of the School Meals Initiative for Healthy Children and the changes that have occurred in the food service operations as a result of implementing this new regulation. FNS will examine trends in SMI implementation and characteristics of SFAs implementing certain elements of SMI and Team Nutrition.

A nationally representative sample of approximately 2,250 public school districts was selected in 1997 to participate in a three-year longitudinal survey which began in School Year 1997-98. Data is being collected from the SFA directors using a mixed mode approach of mail/telephone surveys. The study combines elements of longitudinal research and cross-sectional surveys. A brief telephone survey of all State Child Nutrition Directors will be included each year. This request for OMB approval is for the second year data collection instrumentation only. A separate OMB package will be submitted for data collection instruments in the third year. Estimates of burden shown below are based upon field experience from the first year of data collection.