

- *Individual Producers*—No matter what size an operation or from what management activity, the release of pollutants to surface or groundwater from an AFO is to be avoided. It is the responsibility of individual owners and operators, and the companies and industries they are involved with, to minimize the release of pollutants from AFOs. Every operation should be implementing a CNMP that minimizes the risks of pollution.

- *Integrators*—Integrators should ensure that their contract growers are environmentally responsible. Feed mills and processing plants should incorporate the environmental impacts of the dissociated production operations into the siting and sizing of their plants. Integrators can also help develop alternatives for manure use and transport.

- *Livestock Industry*—The livestock industry as a whole has an obligation to educate its members and to provide leadership to ensure that its practices do not adversely impact society or the environment. Many sectors of the livestock industry have shown leadership by moving forward to establish new, industry-led efforts to improve the siting and management of AFOs, and to provide training to operators. This leadership must be enhanced and continue.

- *Other Private Sector*—The private sector can continue to contribute to new technologies and innovative strategies that capitalize on the nutrient and energy value of animal manure and related by-products of AFOs. This would include vendors and consultants of animal manure treatment and management systems. Various organizations, including livestock organizations and AFO-related companies provide educational programs to inform AFO owners and operators about Federal and State goals, standards, rules, and permitting processes, and to teach them how they can protect environmental quality and comply with regulatory provisions. The agricultural and environmental consulting community can also respond by helping to ensure that appropriate technical resources are available to assist with development of CNMPs for producers. Fertilizer producers and dealers can provide information on integrating use of manure and other nutrient sources to ensure appropriate nutrient use.

- *Research and Educational Institutions*—Public and private research organizations provide much of the knowledge and technology to better manage and utilize manure and related by-products of livestock production.

USDA's and EPA's research, education, and technical assistance programs will provide leadership in developing new and innovative technologies for AFOs and analyzing their effectiveness.

- *Watershed or Community Responsibilities*—Every watershed where the concentration of AFOs is a potential source of pollution should have a watershed- or area-wide plan that helps AFO owners, operators, and others to work together to prevent pollution. Such planning is particularly important in areas where problems exist, such as where the quantity of manure and nutrients produced by AFOs exceeds what can be safely applied to land to meet crop needs. Locally led watershed efforts promote coordinated and integrated decision making to find sound, locally acceptable ways to achieve environmental quality.

- *Environmental Groups*—Environmental groups and grass-roots organizations play an important role in focusing public attention on environmental concerns with respect to animal production activities. Environmental groups can provide "on-site" reports about specific environmental quality concerns and can educate its members, the general public, the agricultural community and the media about important environmental concerns at the local, State, and national level.

Signed in Washington, D.C. on September 11, 1998.

James R. Lyons,

Under Secretary, Natural Resources and Environment, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C.

Dana D. Minerva,

Acting Assistant Administrator, Office of Water, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, D.C.

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BILLING CODE 3410-16-p

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Bureau of the Census

The 1998 Public Opinion Survey

ACTION: Proposed collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995,

Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before November 20, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Linda Engelmeier, Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 5327, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) should be directed to Joanne Dickinson, Bureau of the Census, Room 3015-3, Washington, DC 20233, (301) 457-4081.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The Census Bureau's core business is large-scale surveys and censuses. This involves the full range of activities required to produce data, including survey and instrument design and data collection, processing, and dissemination. Research and data analysis activities directly support its capabilities to conduct large-scale surveys and censuses. Therefore, the Census Bureau plans to conduct the 1998 Public Opinion Survey (POS) to gather and benchmark useful and fundamental data about the public's perception of government information collection and its dissemination and use of the statistics it collects. Acknowledging steady declines in response rates to censuses and surveys, we would like to identify those barriers that inhibit responsiveness. As the preeminent collector and provider of timely, relevant, and quality data about the people and economy of the United States, we need also to better understand the public's values for its information and the public's awareness, exposure to, and use of statistical information that it disseminates to be more responsive to customers needs and preferences. Next, the Census Bureau needs to better inform and educate its staff about the public's opinions of this agency and its practices to help them better target communications and to more effectively converse with them. Finally, the Census Bureau would like to use this input to redefine its strategic goals and activities in the post-2000 period.

The Census Bureau wants to endow all its employees with the findings from this research to help them to individually and to collectively implement the timely findings and recommendations from this research. It is essential that the Census Bureau

improve the focus and effectiveness of communications about census 2000 and other programs. With response rates sliding downward in general and the Census Bureau's need to maintain and/or improve response rates to its various censuses and surveys, most especially the census 2000, it is imperative that we identify and develop effective mechanisms and communications that will help identify and to remove barriers to response. Equally significant to the Census Bureau's current plans for effective outreach and targeted promotions is the need for early identification and removal of barriers that limit or prohibit effective communications with the public. We also need to share these findings and recommendations about the public's mind set with Census Bureau management as they prepare to redefine customer-focused strategic goals and activities for the post-2000 era.

This research would complement and extend earlier research sponsored by the Census Bureau. These studies focused on the public's knowledge, attitudes, and perceptions about the Census Bureau and its practices. The 1998 POS will bridge the gap of information collected earlier about the specific public perceptions. This research will further define/refine for the Census Bureau the public's image of it in general, as a Federal Government agency, and as a statistics' collector and provider. To more effectively inform, educate, and reach the public with its communications, the Census Bureau needs to know how the public sees, hears, reads, gets, or uses statistics and how it can more effectively inform, educate, reach and/or involve them in forthcoming activities.

II. Method of Collection

A contractor will conduct the national survey with telephone interviewing using an automated survey instrument and a list-assisted random digit dialing (RDD) sampling design. The RDD methodology will incorporate a number of peripheral survey techniques that have been shown to raise response rates. By applying results and recommendations from earlier research, the Census Bureau will collect accurate and reliable data with a maximal response rate and minimal bias.

III. Data

OMB Number: Not available.

Form Numbers: The automated survey instrument will not have a form number.

Type of Review: Regular review.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1,200.

Estimated Time Per Response: 15 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 300.

Estimated Total Annual Cost: The only cost to the respondents in participating is that of their time.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

Legal Authority: Title 13 United States Code, Section 193.

IV. Request for 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 shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (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 respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: September 15, 1998.

Linda Engelmeier,

Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 98-25153 Filed 9-18-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-07-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Bureau of the Census

Census Advisory Committee of Professional Associations

AGENCY: Bureau of the Census, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of Public Meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463 as amended by Pub. L. 94-409), we are giving notice of a meeting of the Census Advisory Committee of Professional Associations.

The Committee is composed of 36 members appointed by the Presidents of the American Economic Association, the American Statistical Association, the Population Association of America, and the Chairperson of the Board of the American Marketing Association. The

Committee advises the Director of the Bureau of the Census on the full range of Census Bureau programs and activities in relation to their areas of expertise.

DATES: The meeting will convene on October 22-23, 1998. On October 22, the meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. and adjourn at 5:00 p.m. On October 23, the meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. and adjourn at 12:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will take place at the Francis Amasa Walker Conference Center, Bureau of the Census, 4700 Silver Hill Road, Suitland, MD 20746.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Census Bureau Committee Liaison Officer, Ms. Maxine Anderson-Brown, Room 1647, Federal Building 3, Washington, DC 20233. Her phone number is 301-457-2308, TDD 301-457-2540.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The agenda for the meeting on October 22, which will begin at 9:00 a.m. and adjourn at 5:00 p.m., is the following:

- Introductory Remarks by the Acting Director, Bureau of the Census.
- Census Bureau Responses to Committee Recommendations.
- Census 2000 Updates.
- How Do We Provide Maximum Access to Census 2000 Data While Maintaining the Perception as Well as the Reality of Confidentiality?
- What are the implications of implementing the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) in Census Bureau Programs?
- Evaluation of Communications/Marketing Plans for Geographic Products, NAICS, and Foreign Trade Statistics.
- The Census Bureau's Role in Improving the Quality of the GDP Estimates.
- Update on Census 2000 Research and Experimentation Program.
- Customer Services for a Post-2000 Internet Environment.
- Developing NAICS Time Series for Back Years.
- Factors to Consider in the Shift from Products to Reimbursable Services (Post-2000).
- Linking Economic and Demographic Data Sets at Census.
- How Do We Redesign the Census Bureau Website to Better Meet Census and User Needs?
- The agenda for the meeting on October 23, which will begin at 9:00 a.m. and adjourn at 12:30 p.m., is the following:
 - Census 2000 Data Products and Dissemination.
 - Applying Cognitive Survey Methods to the Study of Statistical