

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

October 2, 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 1994, Pub. L. 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.

Office of the Chief Financial Officer

Title: Debt Collection.

OMB Control Number: 0505-0007.

Summary of Collection: The Debt Collection Act of 1982 requires that any monies that are payable or may become payable from the United States under contracts and other written agreements to any person or legal entity not an agency or subdivision of a State or local government may be subject to administrative offset for the collection of a delinquent debt the person or a legal entity owes to the United States. Section 10 requires that debtors be provided due process prior to the collection of any claims through administrative offset. Delinquent debtors wishing to appeal must provide relevant information. USDA agencies will collect information using a letter of intent from the creditor agencies to delinquent debtors.

Need And Use of the Information: USDA agencies will collect information on delinquent debtors targeted for administrative offset who want additional information; wish to enter into repayment agreements; or wish to request a review of agencies' determination to offset. The data collected by the creditor agencies are used by agencies to respond to and/or to take appropriate action. The creditor agencies will not be able to comply with the due process provision of the Debt Collection Act or the Debt Collection Improvement Act if relevant information is not collected.

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

Number of Respondents: 2,073.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 4,146.

Rural Business—Cooperative Service

Title: 7 CFR Part 1980—E Business and Industry Loan Program.

OMB Control Number: 0570-0014.

Summary of Collection: The Business and Industry (B&I) program was legislated in 1972 under Section 310B of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act. The purpose of the program is to improve, develop, or finance businesses, industries, and employment and improve the economic and environmental climate in rural

communities, including pollution abatement and control. This purpose is achieved through bolstering the existing private credit structure either through the guaranteeing of quality loans made by lending institutions or making direct loans, thereby providing lasting community benefits. Rural Development (RD) will collect information to use as a basis for issuing guaranteed and direct loans to businesses and communities.

Need And Use of the Information: RD will collect information from the applicant to determine program eligibility, current financial condition, and Statement of Personal History.

Description of Respondents:

Individuals or households; State, Local or Tribal Government.

Number of Respondents: 200.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 4,545.

Rural Utilities Service

Title: Report of Compliance and Participation.

OMB Control Number: 0572-0047.

Summary of Collection: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) Form 268 is designed for use by RUS electric and telephone borrowers in complying with the reporting requirements outlined in RUS Bulletin 20-19: 320-19, "Nondiscrimination Among Beneficiaries of RUS Programs." RUS is required to implement regulations of the Department of Justice and the Department of Agriculture and to provide for the collection of civil rights data and information from applicants for and recipients of Federal assistance sufficient to permit effective enforcement of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 (Acts). RUS will collect information using RUS form 268.

Need And Use of the Information: RUS will collect information to determine the extent to which the borrowers are in compliance with requirements of the Acts, to identify potential problem compliance areas, and to determine a borrower's eligibility for advance of loan funds.

Description of Respondents: Not-for-profit institutions; Business or other for-profit.

Number of Respondents: 1,840.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 1,233.

Rural Housing Service

Title: 7 CFR 1940–G, Environmental Program.

OMB Control Number: 0575–0094.

Summary of Collection: The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires Federal agencies, prior to the approval of proposed actions, to consider the potential environmental impacts of these actions. Consequently, for the Agencies to comply with NEPA, it is necessary that Rural Development (RD) have information on the types of environmental resources on site or in the vicinity that might be impacted by the proposed action, as well as information on the nature of the project selected by the applicant (the activities to be carried out at the site; any air liquid and solid wastes produced by these activities, etc.). RD will collect environmental data using Form RD 1940–20.

Need and Use of the Information: RD will collect information on the proposed project site and the activities to be conducted there. This will enable the Agency official to determine the magnitude of the potential environmental impacts and whether the project is controversial for environmental reasons.

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

Number of Respondents: 4,720.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 40,320.

Rural Utilities Service

Title: RUS Electric Loan Application and Related Reporting Burdens.

OMB Control Number: 0572–0032.

Summary of Collection: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) was established in 1994 by the Federal Crop Insurance Reform and Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (Pub. L. 103–354, 108 Stat. 3178, 7 U.S.C. 6941 et seq.) as successor to the Rural Electrification Administration (REA) with respect to certain programs, including the electric loan and loan guarantee program authorized under the Rural Electrification Act (RE Act) of 1936. The RE Act authorizes and empowers the Administrator of RUS to make and guarantee loans to furnish and improve electric service in rural areas. These loans are amortized over a period of up to 35 years and secured by the borrower's electric assets. RUS will collect information including studies

and reports to support borrower loan applications.

Need and Use of the Information:

RUS will collect information to determine the eligibility of applicants for loans and loan guarantees under the RE Act; monitor the compliance of borrowers with debt covenants and regulatory requirements in order to protect loan security; ensure that borrowers use loan funds for purposes consistent with the statutory goals of the RE Act; and obtain information on the progress of rural electrification and evaluate the success of RUS program activities.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit; Not-for-profit institutions.

Number of Respondents: 754.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 16,834.

Foreign Agricultural Service

Title: CCC/Supplier Credit Guarantee Program (7 CFR 1493, Subpart D).

OMB Control Number: 0551–0037.

Summary of Collection: The Supplier Credit Guarantee Program (SCGP) offers credit guarantees to exporters in order to maintain and increase overseas importer's ability to purchase U.S. agricultural goods. The SCGP is designed to assist exporters of U.S. agricultural commodities who wish to provide relatively short term (up to 180 days) credit to their importers evidenced by promissory notes executed by such importers. Under 7 CFR Part 1493, exporters are required to submit the following: (1) Information about the exporter for program participation, (2) export sales information in connection with applying for a payment guarantee, (3) information regarding the actual export of the commodity, (evidence of export report), (4) notice of default and claims for loss, and (5) other documents, if applicable, including notice assignment of the right to receive proceeds under the export credit guarantee. The Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) will collect information using the guarantee application, export report and assignment notice from the participants by mail, fax, e-mail, and telephone.

Need and Use of the Information: FAS will collect information to manage, plan, evaluate and account for government resources. The reports and records are required to ensure the proper and judicious use of public funds.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit.

Number of Respondents: 50.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Other (When program is utilized).

Total Burden Hours: 399.

Agricultural Marketing Service

Title: Reporting Requirements Under the Regulations Governing Inspection and Certification of Processed Fruits and Vegetable and Related Products.

OMB Control Number: 0581–0123.

Summary of Collection: The Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1622(h)) requires and directs the Department of Agriculture to promulgate rules and regulations to carry out voluntary inspection and grading services of processed fruits and vegetables on a fee for service basis. The Regulations Governing Inspection and Certification of processed Fruit and Vegetables and Related Products (7 CFR 52) authorizes the collection of information to assure that the products sampled, inspected, graded and certified are actually the products requested to be sampled and inspected.

Need and Use of the Information: The data collected is used by the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) for grading and certification purposes and for hiring licensed samplers. The following forms are used by AMS for information collection: FV–159, "Application for Inspection of Unofficially Submitted Samples of Food Products"—the information collected is used to determine the purpose for which the inspection is desired for unofficially submitted samples. FV–356, "Application for Inspection and Certificate of Sampling"—the information is used to fill in the respondent's name and address, and to describe the containers, the location, code marks and the number of containers in the lot. FV–468, "Application for License to Sample Processed Foods"—the information collected is used to hire prospective employees desiring to become licensed to sample processed foods and to certify as to the identification, location, kinds and condition of containers of processed products that are sampled. The information collected from the forms is used to provide a service and is not requested for use in conducting a survey.

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

Number of Respondents: 1,698.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 1,126.

Rural Development

Title: Agricultural Cooperative Service Questionnaire: (New

Cooperative Volume and Structure) Producer Survey.

OMB Control Number: 0570-0008.

Summary of Collection: Rural Business-Cooperative Services (RBS) is authorized by the Cooperative Marketing Act of 1926: 7 U.S.C. 451-455, and the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946: 7 U.S.C. 1621-1627, to formulate, develop, and administer research and technical assistance programs on financial, organization, management, legal, social, and economic aspects of cooperatives. 7 U.S.C. 453(b)(4) authorizes RBS "To confer and advise with committees or groups of producers, if deemed advisable, that may be desirous of forming a cooperative association and to make an economic survey and analysis of the facts surrounding the production and marketing of the agricultural product or products which the association, if formed, would handle or market." RBS will survey potential buyers of proposed cooperatives' products at the request of producer groups to assist them in determining the feasibility of new cooperative marketing ventures.

Need and Use of the Information: RBS will collect information from a survey to determine producer characteristics, volume of production and potential production, and producer's interest in forming or expanding a cooperative. Together with analysis of the general market situation, the survey information will be used by RBS/Cooperative Development Division (CDD) staff to prepare a site-specific business plan for each requesting group, that includes facility and equipment needs and costs, management and labor requirements, operating costs, equity base and loan fund package, debt service schedules, cash flow projections, and pro forma financial statements.

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

Number of Respondents: 35.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 245.

Rural Housing Service

Title: 7 CFR 1944-D, Farm Labor Housing Loan and Grant Policies, Procedures, and Authorizations.

OMB Control Number: 0575-0045.

Summary of Collection: Under the authority of Sections 514 and 516 Title V of the Housing Act of 1949 (Public Law 104-193, August 22, 1996) (Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996), the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to make loans and/or grants to public, private nonprofit and farm

worker organizations for developing farm labor housing. The Secretary is authorized to make only loans to farm owners, family farm corporations, and partnerships and associations of farmers. The objective of the program is to provide decent, safe, and sanitary housing and related facilities for domestic farm labor and migrant labor to be located in areas where a need exists. Labor housing grants are provided where there is a pressing need for such facilities in the area and the housing cannot be provided at affordable rents without grant assistance in development of the project. The Rural Housing Service (RHS) has been charged with the responsibility for protecting the interest of the taxpayer's funds and to assure that the objectives of the loan and grant program are carried out as intended. RHS will collect information using several forms to make the determination of applicable eligibility for a loan and/or grant.

Need and Use of the Information: RHS will collect information on the need for the proposed housing in the area, and the appropriateness, feasibility and economies of the proposed housing and related facilities. Through the collection of this information, RHS will be able to assure Congress and the general public that all projects financed with housing funds will be operated as economically as possible, used for the purposes for which they are intended, and provided benefits to those they are mandated to serve.

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

Number of Respondents: 95.

Frequency of Responses: Recordkeeping Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 8,610.

Food and Nutrition Service

Title: WIC Annual Closeout Report with Addendum.

OMB Control Number: 0584-0427.

Summary of Collection: The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) is authorized by section 17 of the Child Nutrition Act (CNA) of 1996 (42 U.S.C. 1786), as amended. The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) of USDA administers the WIC Program by awarding cash grants to State agencies (generally State health departments). The State agencies award subgrants to local agencies (generally local health departments and nonprofit organizations) to deliver program benefits and services to eligible participants. Nonentitlement programs such as the WIC Program are required to undergo an annual closeout and

reconciliation of grants. Departmental regulations at CFR 3016.23(b), states that a State agency must liquidate all obligations under a grant not later than 90 days after the end of the funding period to coincide with the submission of the annual Financial Status Report (SF-269). WIC Program Regulations at 7 CFR 246.17(b)(2) instruct State agencies to "submit to FNS, within 150 days after the end of the fiscal year, final fiscal year closeout reports." FNS will collect information using forms FNS 227 and FNS 227A.

Need and Use of the Information: FNS will collect information to determine if the State has met the 97 percent performance standard for food and 15 percent performance standard for NSA and also to determine whether the statutory NSA nutrition education and breastfeeding promotion and support expenditure requirements are met and to monitor other NSA costs.

Description of Respondents: State, Local, or Tribal Government.

Number of Respondents: 88.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Annually.

Total Burden Hours: 502.

Food and Nutrition Service

Title: WIC Local Agency Directory Report.

OMB Control Number: 0584-0431.

Summary of Collection: The Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) is authorized by section 17 of the Child Nutrition Act (CNA) of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786), as amended. The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) of USDA administers the WIC Program by awarding cash grants to State agencies (generally State health departments). The State agencies award subgrants to local agencies (generally local health departments and nonprofit organizations) to deliver program benefits and services to eligible participants. Local agencies authorized to furnish WIC participants with supplemental foods, nutrition education, breastfeeding promotion and support activities and referral to related health services are subject to change. New local agencies may be selected to operate the WIC Program and local agencies already in operation may be disqualified for continued operation. FNS will collect information using form FNS-648 to report additions and deletions of local agencies operating the WIC program and local agency address changes, when such changes occur.

Need and Use of the Information: FNS will collect information to maintain a local agency directory which lists the names and addresses of all WIC local

agencies. The WIC local agency directory serves as the primary source of data on the number and location of local agencies and is published annually. It is used to refer individuals to the nearest source of WIC Program services and to maintain continuity of program services to migrant and other transient participants.

Description of Respondents: State, Local or Tribal Government.

Number of Respondents: 88.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 15.

National Agricultural Statistics Service

Title: Equine Survey.

OMB Control Number: 0535-0227.

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. 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. In 1997, an Equine Survey was conducted for the New Jersey State Department of Agriculture. The results are being used to provide an assessment of the equine industry's contribution to the state's economy in terms of infrastructure and value. NASS will collect information using a survey on equine.

Need and Use of the Information: NASS will collect information on the equine inventories, by category; equine revenue, by activity; and equine related expenditures, by purpose. The survey will provide NASS with names and addresses of equine operations that can be used for Census of Agriculture enumeration and for the NASS program that seeks to cover 99 percent of U.S. agricultural cash receipts.

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

Number of Respondents: 43,800.

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

Total Burden Hours: 21,900.

Food and Nutrition Service

Title: Federal Collection Methods for Food Stamp Program Recipient Claims.

OMB Control Number: 0584-0446.

Summary of Collection: Currently there is approximately \$1 billion in established recipient claims for overissued Food Stamp Program (FSP) benefits, a substantial portion of which State agencies are being unsuccessful in collecting. The Debt Collection Improvement (DCIA), Food Stamp (FSA) and Privacy Acts require that State agencies advise debtors of the intended

Federal Claims Collection Methods (FCCM), offer debtors an opportunity to repay the claim, and offer debtors an opportunity to request a review of the validity of the collection action. Under DCIA, food stamp recipient claims administered by State agencies which are delinquent for 180 days are required to be referred to Treasury for Treasury Offset Program (TOP) collection actions. In the case of Federal Income Tax Refund Offset Program (FTROP), the claims are then referred to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) for collection from individual Federal income tax refunds. Claims to be collected via Salary Offset are referred to Federal employers for wage garnishment. In all instances, the debtor is notified and given the opportunity to request a hearing and make arrangements to repay the claim prior to FCCM referral. The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) will collect information using various methods as the FTROP, TOP, FCCM, to collect debts from delinquent recipients.

Need and Use of the Information: FNS will collect information to collect outstanding claim balances by using the recipient Federal income tax refunds, Salary Offset for wage garnishment, various Federal payments including, but not limited to, social security benefits and vendor payments.

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

Number of Respondents: 380,053.

Frequency of Responses: Recordkeeping; Reporting: On occasion; Weekly; Quarterly; Annually.

Total Burden Hours: 71,803.

Nancy Sternberg,

Departmental Information Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 98-26824 Filed 10-6-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Research Service

Notice of Intent To Grant Exclusive License

AGENCY: Agricultural Research Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service, intends to grant to ATD, LLC of New Orleans, Louisiana, an exclusive license to U.S. Patent No. 5,094,946 issued on March 10, 1992, and U.S. Patent No. 5,271,912 issued on December 21, 1993, both entitled "Enzymatic Processing of

Materials Containing Chromium and Protein." Notice of Availability for U.S. Patent No. 5,094,946 was published in the **Federal Register** on July 23, 1990, and Notice of Availability U.S. Patent No. 5,271,912 was published in the **Federal Register** on June 25, 1992.

DATES: (**Federal Register**) Comments must be received on or before December 7, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to: USDA, ARS, Office of Technology Transfer, Room 415, Building 005, BARC-West, Beltsville, Maryland 20705-2350.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: June Blalock of the Office of Technology Transfer at the Beltsville address given above; telephone: 301-504-5989.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Federal Government's patent rights to this invention are assigned to the United States of America, as represented by the Secretary of Agriculture. It is in the public interest to so license this invention as ATD, LLC submitted a complete and sufficient application for a license. The prospective exclusive license will be royalty-bearing and will comply with the terms and conditions of 35 U.S.C. 209 and 37 CFR 404.7. The prospective exclusive license may be granted unless, within sixty (60) days from the date of this published Notice, the Agricultural Research Service receives written evidence and argument which establishes that the grant of the license would not be consistent with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 209 and 37 CFR 404.7.

Richard M. Parry, Jr.,

Assistant Administrator.

[FR Doc. 98-26869 Filed 10-6-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-03-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

[Docket No. 98-054N]

HACCP Implementation for Small Plants; Public Meetings

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is holding a series of public meetings from October through December 1998 to discuss ways to help owners and managers of small plants prepare for the HACCP implementation date of January 25, 1999. The meetings will give all stakeholders an opportunity to hear what is currently being done to help small plants and to discuss additional ways of ensuring that small plants