

# 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

March 2, 1999.

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. 20502 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.

### Economic Research Service

*Title:* Food Security Supplement to the Current Population Survey.

*OMB Control Number:* 0536-0043.

*Summary of Collection:* The Food Security Supplement is sponsored by the Economic Research Service (ERS) as a research and evaluation activity authorized under Section 17 of the Food Stamp Act of 1977. ERS is collaborating with the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) and the Bureau of Census to continue this program of research and development. The Food Stamp Program (FSP) is currently the primary source of nutrition assistance for low-income Americans enabling households to improve their diet by increasing their food purchasing power. As the nation's primary public program for ensuring food security and alleviating hunger, USDA needs to regularly monitor these conditions among its target population. The Food Security Supplement will be administered as a set of questions appended to the ongoing Current Population Survey (CPS) managed by the Bureau of Census. The information collected associated with this request is in support of the April 1999 CPS.

*Need and Use of the Information:* ERS will collect information from the Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement to routinely obtain reliable data from a large, representative national sample in order to develop a measure that can be used to track the prevalence of food insecurity and hunger within the U.S. population, as a whole, and by important population subgroups. The data collection will partially fulfill the requirements of the Congressionally mandated 10-Year Plan for the National Nutrition Monitoring and Related Research Program (NNMRRP). It will also contribute to provisions of the Government Performance Review Act (GPRA) by allowing FNS to quantify the effects and accomplishments of the Food Stamp Program.

*Description of Respondents:* Individuals or households.

*Number of Respondents:* 50,000.

*Frequency of Responses:* Reporting: On occasion.

*Total Burden Hours:* 6,882.

### Forest Service

*Title:* "Your Comments" Customer Service Comment Card.

*OMB Control Number:* 0596-New.

*Summary of Collection:* Executive Order 12862, issued September 11, 1993, directed Federal agencies to change the way they do business, to reform their management practices, to provide service to the public that matches or exceeds the best service available in the private sector, and to establish and implement customer service standards to carry out the principles of the National Performance Review. In response to this order, the Forest Service (FS) established and implemented customer service standards and posted these standards in all FS offices, work sites and visitor centers. "Your Comments" Customer Service Comment Cards are voluntary customer surveys, which will be used to monitor customer perceptions of how well the FS meets its posted customer service standards, as well as how FS customers view the agency's business practices, operations, and facilities. FS will collect information in person, by mail and on the Internet, using the Customer Service Survey Cards.

*Need and Use of the Information:* FS will collect information on whether customers received prompt courteous service; were the information or service requested provided; were procedures clear and efficient; and how satisfied were they with the facilities used. The information from the survey will provide FS with a means to learn about and address customer complaints.

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

*Number of Respondents:* 20,500.

*Frequency of Responses:* Reporting: On occasion.

*Total Burden Hours:* 1,708.

**Nancy B. Sternberg,**

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