

Notices

Federal Register

Vol. 70, No. 47

Friday, March 11, 2005

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 7, 2005.

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), OIRA_Submissions@OMB.EOP.GOV or fax (202) 395-5806 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) 720-8681.

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.

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Title: Importation of Restricted and Controlled Animal and Poultry Products and Byproducts, Organisms, and Vectors into the U.S.

OMB Control Number: 0579-0015.

Summary of Collection: Disease prevention is the most effective method for maintaining a healthy animal population and enhancing the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) ability to compete in the world market of animals and animal products trade. The Veterinary Service, a program in APHIS enforces regulations that pertain to the importation of restricted animal byproducts and controlled materials into the United States and the prevention of foreign animal disease incursions into the United States. The regulations under which APHIS conducts these disease prevention activities are contained in title 9, chapter 1, subchapter D, parts 94, 95, and 122 of the Code of Federal Regulations. APHIS collects information using several forms.

Need and Use of the Information: APHIS will collect information to ensure that imported items do not present a disease risk to the livestock and poultry populations of the United States. The information collected will provide APHIS with critical information concerning the origin and history of the items destined for importation into the United States. Without the information, the United States would be at risk of an exotic disease incursion.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit; Individuals or households; Not for-profit institutions; Local, or tribal Government.

Number of Respondents: 10,008.

Frequency of Responses: Recordkeeping; Reporting; On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 32,000.

Ruth Brown,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 05-4767 Filed 3-10-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

March 8, 2005.

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), OIRA_Submission@OMB.EOP.GOV or fax (202) 395-5806 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) 720-8681.

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.

Agricultural Marketing Service

Title: Tobacco Reports.

OMB Control Number: 0581-0004.

Summary of Collection: The Tobacco Statistics Act of 1929 (7 U.S.C. 501-508) provides for the collection and publication of statistics of tobacco by

USDA with regard to quantity of leaf tobacco in all forms in the United States and Puerto, owned by or in the possession of dealers, manufacturers, growers' cooperative associations, and others with the exception of the original growers of the tobacco. The information furnished under the provisions of this Act shall be used only for statistical purposes for which it is supplied.

Need and Use of the Information: The basic purpose of the information collection is to ascertain the total supply of unmanufactured tobacco available to domestic manufacturers and to calculate the amount consumed in manufactured tobacco products. This data is also used for the calculation of production quotas for individual types of tobacco and for price support calculations. Without the information USDA would not be able to disseminate marketing information as directed and authorized in the Act.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit.

Number of Respondents: 76.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: quarterly.

Total Burden Hours: 278.

Ruth Brown,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 05-4809 Filed 3-10-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Docket Number FV-04-307]

United States Standards for Grades of Cucumbers

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice; withdrawal.

SUMMARY: The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is withdrawing the notice soliciting comments on its proposal to amend the voluntary United States Standards for Grades of Cucumbers. After reviewing and considering the comments received, the Agency has decided not to proceed with this action.

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 11, 2005.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David Priester, Standardization Section, Fresh Products Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Room 1661 South Building, STOP 0240, Washington, DC 20250-0240, Fax (202) 720-8871 or call (202) 720-2185; e-mail

David.Priester@usda.gov. The United States Standards for Grades of Cucumbers are available either through the address cited above or by accessing the Fresh Products Branch Web site at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/standards/stanfjfv.htm>.

Background

At a 2003 meeting with the Fruit and Vegetable Industry Advisory Committee, AMS was asked to review all the fresh fruit and vegetable grade standards for usefulness in serving the industry. AMS had identified the United States Standards for Grades of Cucumbers for a possible revision. The United States Standards for Grades of Cucumbers were last amended March 1, 1958.

On June 25, 2004, a notice requesting comments on the possible revision of the standards by incorporating industry terms as well as other changes was published in the **Federal Register** (69 FR 35572) with the comment period ending August 24, 2004.

Three comments were received during the official period for comment. One comment from a consumer did not support revising the standard. One comment from an industry member supported the inclusion of industry terms. The commenter stated, "I feel we should have two categories for Super Selects: #1 criteria being a 66-76 count and a #2 criteria being a 56-65 count." However, another industry member commented, "That the terms Super Select, Select, Small, Large and Plain are commonly used by the industry to convey the desired size, quality and condition of cucumbers but that the criteria for these terms are not consistently defined. This commenter noted that the meaning is often interpreted differently by various trading partners." This industry member further stated, "* * * that wholesale receivers and the greater produce industry would be better served if current trading practices were supported by a system of U.S. grade standards that establish reasonable parameters for size, consistency of size within packs and provide more meaningful definitions for quality and condition." However, the commenter did not include those definitions.

While some members of the industry agree that a consistency of size and specific count ranges would promote orderly marketing, different segments within the industry are divided over the meanings of industry terms. In view of the lack of any substantial consensus as to whether the proposed inclusion of industry terms would meet the needs of the entire industry, the notice is being withdrawn. The withdrawal of this

notice will provide industry representatives with an opportunity for further discussions in the areas of mutual concern.

After reviewing and considering the comments received, the Agency has decided not to proceed with the action. Therefore, the notice published June 25, 2004 (69 FR 35572), is withdrawn.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 1621-1627.

Dated: March 7, 2005.

Kenneth C. Clayton,

Acting Administrator.

[FR Doc. 05-4810 Filed 3-10-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Docket Number FV-04-311]

United States Standards for Grades of Kale

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice; request for public comment.

SUMMARY: The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) of the Department of Agriculture (USDA) is soliciting comments on its proposal to revise the United States Standards for Grades of Kale. This action is being taken at the request of the Fruit and Vegetable Industry Advisory Committee, which asked AMS to review the grade standards for possible revision. AMS is proposing to revise the standards to allow percentages to be determined by count rather than weight. AMS is also proposing to revise the application of tolerances for packages which contain less than 15 specimens. Additionally, based on a request from an industry group, the North American Perishable Agriculture Receivers (NAPAR), AMS is proposing to allow the standards to be used for kale leaves and bunches of leaves in addition to kale plants. The proposed revision would bring the standards for kale in line with current marketing practices, thereby improving the usefulness in serving the industry.

DATES: Comments must be received by May 10, 2005.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments to the Standardization Section, Fresh Products Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Room 1661, South Building, Stop 0240, Washington, DC 20250-0240; Fax (202)