

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Submission for OMB Review;
Comment Request**

May 24, 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, 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), 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) 720-8958.

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: 9 CFR 50 & 77, Tuberculosis.
OMB Control Number: 0579-0084.

Summary of Collection: Title 21 U.S.C. authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to prevent, control and eliminate domestic diseases such as tuberculosis, as well as to take actions to prevent and to manage exotic diseases such as hog cholera, African swine fever, and other foreign diseases. The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) oversees the

Cooperative State-Federal Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication Program to eliminate bovine tuberculosis, a serious disease of livestock. The disease also affects man through contacts with infected animals or their byproducts. APHIS works with State and other federal organizations to conduct epidemiologic investigations to locate bovine tuberculosis and provide a means of controlling it. Information is collected using a variety of forms to properly identify, test, and transport animals that are infected with or exposed to tuberculosis.

Need and Use of the Information: APHIS will collect information to search for infected herds, maintain identification of livestock, monitor deficiencies in identification of animals for movement, and monitor program deficiencies in suspicious and infected herds. Continued collection of this information is essential for program progress aimed at controlling and eradicating bovine tuberculosis.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit; Farms; State, local or tribal government.

Number of Respondents: 6,897.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 17,372.

Charlene Parker,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

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Food and Nutrition Service

Title: Food Stamp Redemption Certificate.

OMB Control Number: 0584-0085.

Summary of Collection: The Food Stamp Act of 1977, requires the Department of Agriculture to issue regulations that provide for the redemption of coupons accepted by retail food stores through approved wholesale food concerns or through insured financial institutions. The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) will provide authorized retail stores and wholesale food concerns with redemption certificates. The Redemption Certificate and Wholesaler Redemption Certificate (RCs) are used by all authorized wholesalers or retailers when depositing food stamp coupons, and are processed by financial institutions when they are presented for credit or for cash. The issuance of food stamp benefits through the Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) system is replacing the issuance of food coupons.

Need and Use of the Information: The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) will collect information on the verification of the amount of coupons forwarded to the bank for redemption. RCs are distributed to each authorized retailer or wholesaler by FNS for completion. FNS uses the deposit information from the RC to monitor (1) deposits by retailer and wholesale food concerns, and (2) for store monitoring and compliance purposes.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit.

Number of Respondents: 9,503.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 70.

Food and Nutrition Service

Title: Food Stamp Program Pre-Screening Tool.

OMB Control Number: 0584-0519.

Summary of Collection: Consistent with Section 5 of the Food Stamp Act of 1977, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) has initiated this program to enable potential Food Stamp Program applicants to assess their eligibility and the order of magnitude of the potential benefit they may qualify for. This Pre-Screening Tool also enables citizen advocacy groups to help constituents assess their benefit eligibility. This will also help the Food Stamp Program fulfill its role as a means-tested program in accordance with Section 5 of the Food Stamp Act and Part 273 of the Food Stamp Program regulations.

Need and Use of the Information:

This Food Stamp Program Pre-Screening Tool will be accessible to the public as an online Web-based system. The user will be prompted to enter household size, income, expenses and resource information, and the tool will calculate and provide the user with an estimated range of benefits that the household may be eligible to receive. This information will help FNS determine the degree and type of system usage as well as potential areas for further study. The survey component will help FNS to determine the degree of usage, the need for modifying the tool and potential areas of further study.

Description of Respondents:

Individuals or households; State, local, or tribal government; Not-for-profit institutions.

Number of Respondents: 264,000.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 48,183.

Charlene Parker,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. 05-020N]

National Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspection

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), USDA.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The National Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspection (NACMPI) will hold a public

meeting on June 16-17, 2005, to review and discuss the following issues: (1) How can FSIS best share information on new technology with small and very small plants? (2) What guidance can be provided to industry to ensure that plants hold product when FSIS tests product for an adulterant? (3) How can risk based sampling most effectively be conducted in small and very small plants? Three subcommittees will also meet on June 16-17, 2005, to work on the issues discussed during the full committee session.

DATES: The full Committee will hold a public meeting on Thursday, June 16 and Friday, June 17, 2005, from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Subcommittees will hold open meetings on Thursday, June 16, 2005, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

ADDRESSES: All Committee meetings will take place in the conference room at the south end of the USDA cafeteria located in the South Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW. A meeting agenda is available on the Internet at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OPPDE/NACMPI>. FSIS welcomes comments on the topics to be discussed at the public meeting. Comments may be submitted by mail, including floppy disks or CD-ROM's, or by hand delivery to: Docket Clerk, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Room 102 Cotton Annex, 300 12th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20250. Comments may also be sent by facsimile to (202) 205-0381. All submissions received must include the Agency name and docket number 05-020N. All comments submitted in response to this notice, as well as research and background information used by FSIS in developing this document, will be available for public inspection in the FSIS Docket Room at the address listed above between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. The comments also will be posted on the Agency's Web site at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations/2005_Notices_Index/.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Robert Tynan for technical information at (202) 690-6522 or e-mail robert.tynan@fsis.usda.gov and Sonya L. West for meeting information at (202) 690-1079, FAX (202) 690-6519, or e-mail sonya.west@fsis.usda.gov. Persons requiring a sign language interpreter or other special accommodations should notify Ms. West no later than June 10, 2005, at the numbers above or by e-mail.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On March 15, 2005, the Secretary of Agriculture renewed the charter for the NACMPI. The Committee provides

advice and recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture pertaining to the Federal and State meat and poultry inspection programs, pursuant to sections 7(c), 24, 205, 301(a)(3), 301(a)(4), and 301(c) of the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 607(c), 624, 645, 661(a)(3), 661(a)(4), and 661(c)) and sections 5(a)(3), 5(a)(4), 5(c), 8(b), and 11(e) of the Poultry Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 454(a)(3), 454(a)(4), 454(c), 457(b), and 460(e)).

The Administrator of FSIS is the chairperson of the Committee. Membership of the Committee is drawn from representatives of consumer groups, producers, processors and marketers from the meat, poultry and egg product industry, state government officials, and academia. The current members of the NACMPI are: Dr. Gladys Bayse, Spelman College; Dr. David Carpenter, Southern Illinois University; Dr. James Denton, University of Arkansas; Mr. Darin Detwiler, Lake Washington School District; Mr. Kevin Elfering, Minnesota Department of Agriculture; Ms. Sandra Eskin, Attorney; Mr. Mike Finnegan, State of Montana; Mr. Michael Govro, Oregon Department of Agriculture; Dr. Andrea Grondahl, North Dakota Department of Agriculture; Dr. Joseph Harris, Southwest Meat Association; Dr. Jill Hollingsworth, Food Marketing Institute; Mr. Michael Kowalczyk, Safe Tables Our Priority; Dr. Elizabeth Krushinskie, U.S. Poultry & Egg Association; Dr. Irene Leech, Virginia Citizens Consumer Council; Mr. Charles Link, Cargill Meat Solutions; Dr. Catherine Logue, North Dakota State University; and Mr. Mark Schad, Schad Meats.

The Committee has three subcommittees to deliberate on specific issues and make recommendations to the whole Committee. The Committee makes recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture.

All interested parties are welcome to attend the meetings and to submit written comments and suggestions concerning issues the Committee will review and discuss. The comments and the official transcript of the meeting, when they become available, will be kept in the FSIS Docket Room at the address provided above. All comments received in response to this notice will be considered part of the public record and will be available for viewing in the FSIS Docket Room between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Members of the public will be required to register before entering the meeting.