

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: Section 273.9(c)(11) of the Food Stamp Program regulations requires that Federal, State or local energy assistance be disregarded as income for Food Stamp Program purposes. When a State agency wants to disregard income as energy assistance, it must justify its request by satisfying certain indicators of purpose in order to ensure that the funds in question are in fact energy assistance and not just a shifting of State agency costs to the National taxpayer. Indications that the payments in question are energy assistance include: the payments are not limited to public assistance (PA) or general assistance (GA) households; payments should go only to households that incur home energy costs; payments combined with other assistance payments such as GA or PA must result in an increase in total assistance not counting food stamps; the payments are based on studies, surveys or reports evaluating home energy costs; the payments are designated as energy assistance by the legislative body enacting them and the levels of payments are calculated based on the seasonal home energy needs of typical households over an aggregate period not exceeding six months per year. If the payments are provided over a period longer than this aggregate, the State agency must document the reasons. The number of State agencies with approved energy assistance disregards has decreased from 11 to 9. Energy costs are down. There is also pending legislation that would eliminate this disregard entirely. It is unlikely that there will be any requests for an energy assistance disregard from State agencies not currently participating. In addition, the Food and Consumer Service (FCS) dropped its insistence on an annual information collection for currently participating State agencies to rejustify previously approved energy assistance disregards. Submission of the information collection to FCS for approval is only required when a currently participating State agency is seeking approval to increase the energy assistance disregard. Based on past experience in recent years, it is anticipated that only 1 already participating State agency may seek to justify an increase in its currently approved energy assistance disregard in any given year.

Affected Public: State and local governments.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1.

Estimated Time per Response: 4 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Burden: 4 hours.

Dated: April 23, 1996.

William E. Ludwig,

Administrator, Food and Consumer Service.

[FR Doc. 96-10784 Filed 4-30-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-30-U

**Agency Information Collection
Activities: Proposed Collection;
Comment Request; Disaster Food
Stamp Assistance**

AGENCY: Food and Consumer Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice invites the general public and other public agencies to comment on proposed information collections. This information collection is based on the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act and Section 5(h) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended, which provide the Secretary of Agriculture with the authority to develop an emergency food stamp program to address the needs of families temporarily in need of food assistance after a disaster. The information collection under this notice is required for the establishment and operation of emergency food stamp assistance programs.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before July 1, 1996.

ADDRESSES: 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 of the proposed collection of information, 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. Comments may be sent to Margaret Werts Batko, Acting Chief, Certification Policy Branch, Program Development Division, Food and Consumer Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, VA 22302.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request

for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Requests for additional information should be directed to Margaret Werts Batko (703) 305-2516.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Emergency Food Stamp Assistance for Victims of Disasters.

OMB Number: 0584-0336.

Form Number: Not a form.

Expiration Date: 6/30/96.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: Pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act and Section 5(h) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended, the Secretary of Agriculture has the authority to develop an emergency food stamp program to address the temporary food needs of families following a disaster. The information collection under this notice is required to be provided by households in order to determine eligibility for emergency food stamp benefits as the result of the disaster.

The number of disasters that occur annually and the average number of households affected cannot be accurately predicted. When the estimate for OMB No. 0584-0336 was approved on June 25, 1995, an annual average of two States were predicted to be hit with a disaster, with an estimated number of affected households of 4,000 and burden hours of 2,789. These estimates represent an average based on disaster food stamp participation reports for a total of five disasters that occurred in 1989, 1990, and 1991.

In reviewing the number of disasters for the last three years, we found the number of disasters had increased dramatically. In 1992 there were five disasters and the number of disaster-affected households ranged from 70 to 206,735. In 1993, there were three disasters and the number of disaster-affected households ranged from 5,307 to 17,741. In 1994, there were three disasters, and the number of disaster-affected households ranged from 897 to 242,834. Due to the increase in the number of disasters and disaster-affected households, we realized that the June 1993 reporting burden was no longer accurate. We calculated the reporting hours for FY 95 based on disaster reports for the years 1990 to 1995. Based on this data, the average number of respondents has increased from 4,000 to 115,475. Therefore, the reporting burden for FY 95 has increased to 48,114 hours. We expect

the reporting burden for FY 96 and FY 97 should remain the same as FY 95.

Affected Public: Food Stamp recipients; State and local governments.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 115,475.

Estimated Time per Response: 25 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden: 48,114 hours.

Dated: April 23, 1996.

William E. Ludwig,

Administrator, Food and Consumer Service.

[FR Doc. 96-10785 Filed 4-30-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-30-U

Forest Service

Draft 1995 RPA Program

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice; reopening of public comment period.

SUMMARY: The Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act (RPA) of 1974, as amended, directs the Secretary of Agriculture to prepare a long-range recommended renewable natural resources program every 5 years. The draft of the 1995 Program, which responds to the renewable resource situation projected in the 1989 RPA Assessment and the 1993 Update of the RPA Assessment, was made available for public comment on October 19, 1995 (60 FR 54057) with the comment period closing on January 17, 1996. The comment period is now being reopened for 30 days to allow additional time for those who wish to review and comment on the Draft 1995 RPA Program. All comments received between January 17, 1996, and the reopening of the comment period will be considered, and respondents do not need to resubmit their comments.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The additional comment period will end on May 31, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Director, Resources Program and Assessment (1910), Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 96090, Washington, DC 20090-6090 or via FAX at 202/205-1546 or via the INTERNET at /s=rpa/0u1=w01c@mhs-fswa.attmail.com.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Copies of the Draft 1995 RPA Program may be requested by calling 202/205-1235 or via FAX at 202/205-1546. Information may also be requested by E-Mail (ASCII only) at /s=rpa/0u1=w01c@mhs-fswa.attmail.com. For information on electronic access and viewing of the draft document, see the

supplementary information section of this notice.

Questions about the Draft 1995 RPA Program may be addressed to Kathryn P. Maloney, Director, Resources Program and Assessment, telephone: 202/205-1235.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Draft 1995 RPA Program serves as a strategic planning document that provides long-term guidance for future Forest Service policies and programs. This long-term strategy describes the Agency's approach to achieving sustainability of ecosystems. This strategic plan is composed of future actions for protecting ecosystems, restoring ecosystems, providing multiple benefits from ecosystems, and ensuring organizational effectiveness. Future Agency actions and associated costs are described for international and domestic assistance, the management of the national forests and grasslands, and research.

The Draft 1995 RPA Program has been developed in accordance with the principles in the National Environmental Policy Act. Should the Forest Service initiate any legislative proposals as a result of guidance in the final 1995 RPA Program, the Forest Service will prepare the appropriate environmental analyses and documentation specific to the proposed legislation. Similarly, implementation of the Program through the forest land and resource management planning process will entail environmental analysis and documentation at appropriate decision points.

Electronic copies of the Draft 1995 RPA Program may be obtained via the World-wide Web at URL:<http://www.fs.fed.us/land/RPA/welcome.htm>.

After consideration of the public comment received on the Draft 1995 RPA Program, the President will present his statement of policy, and the Secretary will recommend a final 1995 RPA Program to the U.S. Congress.

Dated: April 11, 1996.

Mark A. Reimers,

Acting Chief.

[FR Doc. 96-10582 Filed 4-30-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

Designation for the Central Illinois (IL) and Plainview (TX) Areas

AGENCY: Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: GIPSA announces the designation of Central Illinois Grain Inspection, Inc. (Central Illinois), and Plainview Grain Inspection and Weighing Service, Inc. (Plainview), to provide official services under the United States Grain Standards Act, as amended (Act).

EFFECTIVE DATES: June 1, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Janet M. Hart, Chief, Review Branch, Compliance Division, GIPSA, USDA, Room 1647 South Building, P.O. Box 96454, Washington, DC 20090-6454.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Janet M. Hart, telephone 202-720-8525.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

This action has been reviewed and determined not to be a rule or regulation as defined in Executive Order 12866 and Departmental Regulation 1512-1; therefore, the Executive Order and Departmental Regulation do not apply to this action.

In the November 29, 1995, Federal Register (60 FR 61241), GIPSA asked persons interested in providing official services in the geographic areas assigned to Central Illinois and Plainview to submit an application for designation. Applications were due by January 2, 1996. Central Illinois and Plainview, the only applicants, each applied for designation to provide official inspection services in the entire areas currently assigned to them.

Since Central Illinois and Plainview were the only applicants, GIPSA did not ask for comments on the applicants.

GIPSA evaluated all available information regarding the designation criteria in Section 7(f)(1)(A) of the Act; and according to Section 7(f)(1)(B), determined that Central Illinois and Plainview are able to provide official services in the geographic areas for which they applied. Effective June 1, 1996, and ending May 31, 1999, Central Illinois and Plainview are designated to provide official services in the geographic area specified in the November 29, 1995, Federal Register.

Interested persons may obtain official services by contacting Central Illinois at 309-827-7121 and Plainview at 806-293-1364.

AUTHORITY: Pub. L. 94-582, 90 Stat. 2867, as amended (7 U.S.C. 71 *et seq.*)

Dated: April 18, 1996.

Neil E. Porter,

Director, Compliance Division.

[FR Doc. 96-10650 Filed 4-30-96; 8:45 am]

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