

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

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Notice of Request For Collection of Public Information With Use of a Survey

AGENCY: Rural Business-Cooperative Service.

ACTION: Proposed collection; comments request.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Rural Business-Cooperative Service's (RBS) intention to request clearance for a new information collection in order to render service to associations of producers of agricultural products and federations and subsidiaries thereof as authorized in the Cooperative Marketing Act of 1926.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by July 15, 1996 to be assured of consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Edgar L. Lewis, Agricultural Economist, RBS, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Ag Box 3252, Washington, DC 20250-3252, Telephone (202) 690-3407.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Cooperative Coordination of Production and Harvesting Decisions.

Type of Request: New information collection.

Abstract: The Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS) USDA, formerly the Agricultural Cooperative Service (ACS), conducts research on issues that are timely and important to cooperatives, including fruit and vegetable cooperatives. In order to carry out the Agency's mission, including research, RBS needs to collect information from the cooperative community.

The authority to carry out RBS mission is defined in the Cooperative Marketing Act of 1926 (44 Stat. 802-1926), and other regulations listed below.

Authority and Duties of Division (7 U.S.C. & 453)

(a) The division shall render service to associations of producers of agricultural products, and federations and subsidiaries thereof, engaged in the cooperative marketing of agricultural products, including processing, warehousing, manufacturing, storage, the cooperative purchasing of farm supplies, credit, financing, insurance, and other cooperative activities.

(b) The division is authorized:

(1) To acquire, analyze and disseminate economic, statistical, and historical information regarding the progress, organization, and business methods of cooperative association in the United States and foreign countries.

(2) To conduct studies of the economic, legal, financial, social, and other phases of cooperation, and publish the results thereof. Such studies shall include the analyses of the organization, operation, financial and merchandising problems of cooperative associations.

(3) To make surveys and analyses if deemed advisable of the accounts and business practices of representative cooperative associations upon their request; to report to the association so surveyed the results thereof; and with the consent of the association so surveyed to publish summaries of the results of such surveys, together with similar facts, for the guidance of cooperative associations and for the purpose of assisting cooperative associations in developing methods of business and market analysis.

Cooperatives account for approximately 20-25 percent of the total volume of fruit, vegetables, and specialty crops sold in the United States. A cooperative's ability to coordinate production practices and harvesting schedules from a central source has important implications for the operational efficiency and competitiveness in both fresh and processed produce markets. Structural changes in production and food marketing sectors have resulted in an increasingly competitive environment. The ability to regulate product flow to correspond to market conditions has evolved into an essential management tool. By definition or structure, many cooperatives are unable to access and respond to market information by adjusting their marketing activities. To

compete and survive in this changing industry, fruit and vegetable cooperatives may benefit from more coordination of production and harvesting activities. This information collection is designed as input into a study that will provide a better understanding of cooperative coordination of production and harvesting decisions. The objectives of this research study are to determine the extent that fruit and vegetable cooperatives coordinate production and harvesting decisions, examine the effects these practices have on operating efficiency and competitiveness, and to identify conditions and situations where implementation of coordination practices will have their greatest economic impact.

In order to carry out the Agency's mission of research as authorized in the Cooperative Marketing Act of 1926 (44 Stat. 802-1926), RBS needs to collect information from the cooperative community. The data needed for this study is generally not available to the Agency unless provided by the cooperatives. This one-time information collection effort will be used for a research report designed to help prepare cooperatives to compete in a continually changing environment.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1.0 hour per response.

Respondents: Fruit and vegetable cooperatives.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 300.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1 (one time survey).

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 300 hours.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Director, Regulations and Paperwork Management Division, at (202) 720-9725.

Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the function of the Agency, including whether the information will 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; and (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 Director, Regulations and Paperwork Management Division, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Ag Box 0743, Washington, D.C. 20250. 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.

Dated: May 6, 1996.

Dayton J. Watkins,

Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service.

[FR Doc. 96-11976 Filed 5-13-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-07-U

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Docket No. TB-96-21]

Burley Tobacco Advisory Committee; Meeting

In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) announcement is made of the following committee meeting:

Name: Burley Tobacco Advisory Committee.

Dates: June 12, 1996.

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Place: Campbell House Inn, South Colonial Hall, 1375 Harrodsburg Road, Lexington, Kentucky 40504.

Purpose: To elect officers, recommend opening dates, review the 1996 policies and procedures and other related matters for the 1996 burley tobacco marketing season.

The meeting is open to the public. Persons, other than members, who wish to address the Committee at the meeting should contact John P. Duncan III, Director, Tobacco Division, AMS, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 502 Annex Building, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456, (202) 205-0567, prior to the meeting. Written statements may be submitted to the Committee before, at, or after the meeting.

Dated: May 8, 1996.

John P. Duncan III,

Director, Tobacco Division.

[FR Doc. 96-12067 Filed 5-13-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

Food and Consumer Service

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request—Federal-State Special Supplemental Nutrition Program Agreement

AGENCY: Food and Consumer Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Food and Consumer Service's (FCS) intention to request OMB review of the Federal-State Special Supplemental Nutrition Program Agreement.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by July 15, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Send comments and requests for copies of this information collection to: Stanley C. Garnett, Director, Supplemental Food Programs Division, Food and Consumer Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, VA 22302.

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 will 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; and (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.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval, and will become a matter of public record.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Stanley C. Garnett, (703) 305-2749.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Federal-State Special Supplemental Nutrition Program Agreement.

OMB Number: 0584-0332.

Expiration Date: 7-31-96.

Type of Request: Extension of a Currently Approved Collection.

Abstract: The Agreement is the contract between USDA and State agencies administering the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) and

the WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP). The agreement authorizes the Department to release funds to the State agencies for the administration of WIC and the FMNP in the jurisdiction of the State agency in accordance with the provisions of 7 CFR Parts 246 and 248.

The Agreement requires the signature of the State agency official and includes a certification/assurance regarding drug-free workplace, a certification regarding lobbying and a disclosure of lobbying activities.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .25 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.

Respondents: The Chief Health Officer of the State agency or Chief Executive Officer of the State.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 103 respondents.

Estimated Number of Responses Per Respondent: One.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 52 hours.

Dated: May 3, 1996.

William E. Ludwig,

Administrator, Food and Consumer Service.

[FR Doc. 96-12056 Filed 5-13-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-30-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Foreign-Trade Zones Board

[Order No. 817]

Grant of Authority for Subzone Status; Custom Manufacturing Services, Lucent Technologies Inc. (Telecommunications and Computer Equipment) Whitsett, North Carolina

Pursuant to its authority under the Foreign-Trade Zones Act of June 18, 1934, as amended (19 U.S.C. 81a-81u), the Foreign-Trade Zones Board (the Board) adopts the following Order:

Whereas, by an Act of Congress approved June 18, 1934, an Act "To provide for the establishment * * * of foreign-trade zones in ports of entry of the United States, to expedite and encourage foreign commerce, and for other purposes," as amended (19 U.S.C. 81a-81u) (the Act), the Foreign-Trade Zones Board (the Board) is authorized to grant to qualified corporations the privilege of establishing foreign-trade zones in or adjacent to U.S. Customs ports of entry;