

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

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Docket No. FV96-911-5 NC]

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Proposed collection; comments requested.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Agricultural Marketing Service's (AMS) intention to request an extension for and revision to a currently approved information collection for Limes Grown in Florida, Marketing Order No. 911, and Avocados Grown in South Florida, Marketing Order No. 915.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by November 12, 1996 to be assured of consideration.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS: Contact Caroline C. Thorpe, Marketing Order Administration Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Division, AMS, USDA, P.O. Box 96456, room 2522-S, Washington, DC 20090-6456; telephone: 202-720-5127; or Aleck J. Jonas, Marketing Specialist, Southeast Marketing Field Office, Fruit and Vegetable Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 2276, Winter Haven, Florida 33883; telephone: (941) 299-4770, Fax (941) 299-5169.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Limes Grown in Florida

Title: Limes Grown in Florida, Marketing Order No. 911.

OMB Number: 0581-0091.

Expiration Date of Approval: January 31, 1997.

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

Avocados Grown in South Florida

Title: Avocados Grown in South Florida, Marketing Order No. 915.

OMB Number: 0581-0078.

Expiration Date of Approval: September 30, 1997.

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

Abstract: Marketing order programs provide an opportunity for producers of fresh fruits, vegetables and specialty crops, in a specified production area, to work together to solve marketing problems that cannot be solved individually. The marketing orders' regulations help ensure adequate supplies of high quality product and adequate returns to producers. Under the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937 (Act), as amended (7 U.S.C. 601-674), industries enter into marketing order programs. The Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to oversee the marketing order operations and issue regulations recommended by a committee of representatives from each commodity industry.

The information collection requirements in this request are essential to carry out the intent of the Act, to provide the respondents the type of service they request, and to administer the Florida lime and avocado marketing order programs, which have been operating since 1955 and 1954, respectively.

The lime order authorizes the issuance of grade, size, quality, container, pack, and flow-to-market regulations. The avocado order authorizes the issuance of grade, size, quality, maturity, container, and pack regulations. Both orders authorize production research, and market research and development. Regulatory provisions apply to limes and avocados shipped both within and out of the production area to any market, except those specifically exempt.

The orders, and rules and regulations issued thereunder, authorize the Florida Lime Administrative Committee and the Avocado Administrative Committee as the agencies responsible for local administration of the orders. The orders require handlers and producers to submit certain information. Much of this information is compiled in aggregate and provided to the industry to assist in marketing decisions.

The committees have developed forms as a means for persons to file required information with the committees relating to lime and avocado supplies, shipments, dispositions, and other information needed to effectively carry out the purpose of the Act and the marketing order programs. Florida limes and avocados are shipped throughout the year, and these forms are utilized accordingly. A Department form is used to allow producers to vote on amendments to or continuance of the marketing orders. In addition, lime and avocado producers and handlers who are nominated by their peers to serve as representatives on the committees must file nomination forms with the Secretary.

Formal rulemaking amendments to the orders must be approved in referenda conducted by the Secretary. Also, the Secretary may conduct a continuance referendum to determine industry support for continuation of the orders. Such referenda ballots are included in this request.

These forms require the minimum information necessary to effectively carry out the requirements of the orders, and their use is necessary to fulfill the intent of the Act as expressed in the orders.

The information collected is used only by authorized representatives of the Department, including AMS, Fruit and Vegetable Division regional and headquarters staff, and authorized employees of the respective committees. AMS is the primary user of the information and authorized committee employees are the secondary users.

Limes Grown in Florida

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 0.13 hours per response.

Respondents: Lime producers and for-profit businesses handling fresh limes produced in Florida.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 55.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 14.1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 101 hours.

Avocados Grown in South Florida

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 0.11 hours per response.

Respondents: Avocado producers and for-profit businesses handling fresh avocados produced in Florida.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 208.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 4.48.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 103 hours.

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of functions of the marketing orders and the Department's oversight of those programs, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the AMS'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 the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collections techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments should reference either or both the OMB No. 0581-0091 (the Florida Lime Marketing Order No. 911), and OMB No. 0581-0078 (the Florida Avocado Marketing Order No. 915), and be sent to USDA in the care of Caroline C. Thorpe or Aleck J. Jonas at the addresses above.

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

Dated: September 3, 1996.

Robert C. Keeney,

Director, Fruit and Vegetable Division.

[FR Doc. 96-23017 Filed 9-9-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

[No. LS-96-008]

Notice of Request for Extension and Revision of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), this notice announces the Agricultural Marketing Service's (AMS) request for comments from the livestock and meat industry to improve or change the procedures for collecting information used to compile and generate new and expand existing livestock and meat reports to assist the

trade in making production and marketing decisions.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before November 12, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Jimmy A. Beard, Assistant to the Chief, Livestock and Grain Market News Branch, Livestock and Seed Division, AMS-USDA, Room 2623 South Building, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jimmy A. Beard, (202) 720-1050.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Livestock and Meat Market News.

OMB Number: 0581-0154.

Expiration Date of Approval: 11-30-96.

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

Abstract: Collection and dissemination of information for livestock, meat, and meat production facilities trading by providing a price base used by packers, wholesalers, and retailers to market products.

The Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1621), section 203(g) directs and authorizes the collection and dissemination of marketing information including adequate outlook information on a market area basis, for the purpose of anticipating and meeting consumer requirements aiding in the maintenance of farm income and to bring about a balance between production and utilization.

The livestock and market news reports are used by academia, but are primarily used by the livestock and meat trade, which includes packers, processors, brokers, retailers, and producers. The livestock and meat industry requested that the Department of Agriculture issue livestock and meat trade market reports for livestock, beef carcasses, boxed beef cuts, pork cuts, calf, lamb, and meat byproducts in order to assist them in making immediate production and marketing decisions and as a guide to the amount of product in the supply channel.

Many government agencies use the reports to make their market outlook projections. Data from these reports is included in the information forwarded to the Secretary's Office as well as his staff to keep them apprised of the current market conditions and movement of livestock and meat in the United States. Economists at most major agricultural colleges and universities use the reports to make both short and long term market productions. The data is used extensively by consulting firms and private economists to aid them in

determining available supplies and current pricing.

The industry could not collect the information themselves as they would not want to divulge their information to competitors, and exchange of such information between competitors would violate antitrust laws. Consequently, the information must be collected, compiled, and disseminated by an impartial third party, in a manner which protects the confidentiality of the reporter. Also, since the Government is a large purchaser of meat, a system to monitor the collection and reporting of data is needed.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .03 hours per response.

Respondents: Livestock and meat industry, or other for profit businesses, individuals or households, farms, or Federal Government.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 450.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 520.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 7,020 hours.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Jimmy A. Beard, Livestock and Grain Market News Branch, at (202) 720-1050.

Send comments regarding the accuracy of the burden estimate, ways to minimize the burden, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology, or any other aspect of this collection of information, to: Jimmy A. Beard, Assistant to the Chief, Livestock and Grain Market News Branch, Livestock and Seed Division, AMS-USDA, Room 2623 South Building, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456.

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, and will be made available at the address above, during regular business hours.

Dated: September 3, 1996.

Lon Hatamiya,

Administrator.

[FR Doc. 96-23018 Filed 9-9-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-M

[Docket No. FV-96-303]

Notice of Request for Extension and Revision of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.