

Notices

Federal Register

Vol. 63, No. 73

Thursday, April 16, 1998

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

April 10, 1998.

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), Washington, D.C. 20503 and to Departmental Information Clearance Office, USDA, OCIO, Mail Stop 7602, Washington, D.C. 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) 720-6746.

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: National Poultry Improvement Plan.

OMB Control Number: 0579-0007.

Summary of Collection: The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is revising the regulations related to the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) to allow for the participation of ostrich breeding flocks. Allowing ostrich breeders and flock owners to voluntarily participate in this program would promote objectives aimed at preventing and controlling egg-transmitted, hatchery-disseminated poultry diseases. The information collection requirements would remain the same, however, the number of respondents would increase to reflect the potential participation of the ostrich breeders and flock owners.

Need and Use of the Information: Information is collected from various types of poultry breeders and flock owners to determine the number of eggs hatched and sold as well as to report outbreaks of disease. This information allows APHIS officials to track, control, and prevent many types of poultry diseases.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit; State, Local or Tribal Government.

Number of Respondents: 9,001.

Frequency of Responses: Recordkeeping; Reporting: On occasion; Annually.

Total Burden Hours: 7,449.

Food and Nutrition Service

Title: Evaluation of Cooperative Agreement Nutrition Education Networks.

OMB Control Number: 0584-NEW.

Summary of Collection: The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) under the authority of the Food Stamp Act awarded cooperative agreements to 22 states to set up networks to develop self-sustaining organizations that, in turn, would prepare plans to implement nutrition education for food stamp families on a statewide basis. FNS is now conducting a process evaluation of the networks to examine the procedures and tasks involved in implementing the networks. A one time collection of information from representative individuals involved in the networks

through in-person and telephone interviews will be conducted to support this evaluation.

Need and use of the Information: The collection of information is designed to answer several questions: (1) How effective were the processes employed by cooperators in reaching the goals of the project? (2) What lessons can be learned about effective development of nutrition education networks? and, (3) What can FNS do to foster the development of statewide nutrition education networks? Upon completion of the information collection activity, the results of the survey will be used by FNS management to make decisions about ongoing improvements to procedures that support the state nutrition education activities directed at food stamp families, and to learn and disseminate lessons to state and local programs about innovative and effective methods to deliver nutrition education to food stamp families.

Description of Respondents: Not-for-profit institutions; Federal Government; State, Local or Tribal Government.

Number of Respondents: 139.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Other (one time).

Total Burden Hours: 138.

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Title: Imported Fire Ant.

OMB Control Number: 0579-0102.

Summary of Collection: The Plant Protection and Quarantine Service (PPQ) of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has the responsibility of enforcing quarantines that are designed to prevent Imported Fire Ants from invading areas of the United States that are not yet infested. Information is collected through a variety of forms and certificates to ensure that nursery stock are free of infestation and to regulate movement of specific articles that might carry Imported Fire Ants from infested areas to non-infested areas.

Need and Use of the Information: APHIS requires a variety of forms and certifications be provided by nursery owners to ensure that plant stock is visually inspected for Imported Fire Ants and to document what treatments were performed if Imported Fire Ants were detected. Additionally, nursery owners must provide information on the movement of regulated items from quarantined areas. APHIS officials used

this information to ensure compliance with the Federal and State Imported Fire Ant regulations. Without the collection of this information, APHIS would not be able to prevent Imported Fire Ants from moving beyond the quarantine zone.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit; Farms; Federal Government; State, Local or Tribal Government.

Number of Respondents: 2,704.

Frequency of Responses: Recordkeeping; Reporting; Other (twice monthly).

Total Burden Hours: 3,278.

Farm Service Agency

Title: CCC Conservation Contract.

OMB Control Number: 0560-0174.

Summary of Collection: The Farm Service Agency (FSA), in conjunction with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), is charged with administering the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), the Farmland Protection Program (FPP), and the Conservation Farm Option (CFO) Program. These programs provide farmers and ranchers with flexible opportunities to work with the federal government to address natural resource concerns by implementing innovative and environmentally-sound solutions. Information must be collected from potential participants who wish to apply for these programs. Additional information is required from individuals once they have been accepted into the program to ensure compliance and to issue, as appropriate, cost share and land retirement payments.

Need and Use of the Information: Information will be collected from producers and ranchers who wish to voluntarily participate in either the EQIP, FPP, or CFO programs. The application information will allow agency management to select program participants which will help best achieve program objectives related to maximizing environmental benefits, minimizing land retirement, and continuing agricultural production levels. Ongoing recordkeeping and reporting requirements will be necessary to ensure compliance with program provisions.

Description of Respondents: Farms; Individuals or households; Not-for-profit institutions; State, Local or Tribal Government.

Number of Respondents: 91,000.

Frequency of Responses: Recordkeeping; Reporting; Other (When applying).

Total Burden Hours: 384,830.

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Title: 9 CFR 85 Psuedorabies.

OMB Control Number: 0579-0070.

Summary of Collection: The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), on behalf of the Secretary of Agriculture, is charged with taking actions deemed necessary to prevent the introduction or dissemination of any contagious infections or communicable disease of animals or poultry from one State or Territory of the United States to another. APHIS implements regulations that control and stop the escalating spread of pseudorabies, which is a herpes virus disease that affects many species of animal, but primarily swine. Regulating the interstate movement of swine requires the use of certain information gathering activities such as permits, certificates, and owner-shipper statements to ascertain the health status of the swine.

Need and Use of the Information: The information collected is used by APHIS to monitor the health status of swine being moved, the number of swine being moved in a particular shipment, the shipment's point of origin, the shipment's destination, and the reason for the interstate movement. This information also provides APHIS officials with critical information concerning a shipment's history, which in turn enables the agency to engage in swift, successful trace back investigations when infected swine are discovered.

Description of Respondents: Farms; Federal Government; State, Local or Tribal Government.

Number of Respondents: 30,050.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting; On occasion; Quarterly.

Total Burden Hours: 5,092.

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Title: Brucellosis Program Cooperative Agreements—Title 9, CFR Parts 50, 51, 53, 54, 71, 76, and 78.

OMB Control Number: 0579-0047.

Summary of Collection: The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), on behalf of the Secretary of Agriculture, is charged with taking actions deemed necessary to prevent the introduction or dissemination of any contagious infections or communicable disease of animals or poultry from one State or Territory of the United States to another. APHIS implements regulations controlling interstate movement of affected animals in conjunction with the State-Federal Brucellosis Eradication Program. Brucellosis is a contagious disease affecting animals which is

characterized by abortion and impaired fertility. APHIS is required to collect epidemiologic data from State authorities in an effort to locate and eradicate the Brucellosis disease.

Need and Use of the Information: The information collected is used by APHIS 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. The information is also used to determine brucellosis infected area status and aid herd owners by speeding up the detection and elimination of serious disease conditions in their herds.

Description of Respondents: Farms; State, Local or Tribal Government.

Number of Respondents: 7,278.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting; On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 52,019.

Economic Research Service

Title: Characteristics of Participants in USDA's Single Family Direct Loan Housing Program.

OMB Control Number: 0536-NEW.

Summary of Collection: The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service (ERS) has the responsibility for providing social and economic intelligence on changing rural housing needs in the United States. Information is required to establish a detailed data base on the characteristics of USDA's Section 502 Direct Loan Program participants to help assess the impact of this housing-assistance program on rural residents and their communities.

Need and Use of the Information: The information will be collected by ERS through a written survey. The information collected in the survey will help to fill a serious gap in ERS' understanding of the nature of housing needs in rural areas and will provide USDA and other policy makers with sound information to help evaluate current programs and develop more effective rural housing policies.

Description of Respondents: Individuals or households.

Number of Respondents: 3,000.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting; On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 990.

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

Title: Reporting and Recordkeeping Requirements.

OMB Control Number: 0580-0013.

Summary of Collection: The Grain Inspection Packers & Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) is mandated to

provide, upon request, inspection, certification, and identification services related to assessing the class, quality, quantity, and condition of agricultural products shipped or received in interstate and foreign commerce. Applicants requesting GIPSA services must specify the kind and level of service desired, the identification of the product, the location, the amount, and other pertinent information in order that official personnel can efficiently respond to their needs.

Need and Use of the Information: The information collected is used by GIPSA employees to guide them in the performance of their duties. Additionally, producers, elevator operators, and/or merchandisers who obtain official inspection, testing, and weighing services are required to keep records related to the grain or commodity for 3 years. Personnel who provide official inspection, testing, and weighing services are required to maintain records related to the lot of grain or related commodity for a period of 5 years. This information is used for the purpose of investigating suspected violations.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit; Federal Government; State, Local or Tribal Government.

Number of Respondents: 3,200.

Frequency of Responses: Recordkeeping; Reporting: On occasion; Weekly; Semi-annually, Monthly; Annually.

Total Burden Hours: 468,024.

Nancy Sternberg,

Departmental Information Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 98-10048 Filed 4-15-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Farm Service Agency

Notice Request for Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Farm Service Agency, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Farm Service Agency's (FSA) intention to request an extension for a currently approved information collection. This information collection is critical to reach minority and female farm producers, to ensure as many eligible voters as possible receive FSA county committee election ballots. This action is in response to the report issued by the Civil Rights Action Team.

DATE: Comments on this notice must be received by June 15, 1998 to be assured consideration.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS: Contact Karl V. Choice, Assistant to the Director, USDA, FSA, OAS, STOP 0540, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-0540; telephone (202) 720-8782; e-mail karlchoice@wdc.usda.gov.; or facsimile (202) 690-3354.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Request for a FSA County Committee Ballot and Declaration of Eligibility to Vote.

OMB Control Number: 0560-0181.

Expiration Date of Approval: April 30, 1998.

Type of Request: Extension of currently approved information collection.

Abstract: The Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act of 1938, as amended, authorizes the establishment of FSA county committees by the Secretary of Agriculture. In February 1997, the USDA Civil Rights Action Team focused upon under-representation of minorities and females on county committees. This under-representation could mean that minority and female producers hear less about programs and lack specific information on available services. In an effort to increase representation by members of groups who are under-represented, an effort is begun to obtain the names and addresses of unregistered, eligible voters. Once an eligible voter's name and address is obtained, he/she will become a registered voter and will be sent a ballot in order to vote in applicable county committee elections.

Estimate of Respondent Burden:

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 5 minutes per response.

Respondents: Individual minority and female owners, operators, share croppers, and tenants of farms.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 5,000.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours on Respondents: \$4,160 (416 hours times \$10 per hour).

Proposed topics comments include: (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; or (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond. Comments must be sent to the Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, D.C. 20503; and to Karl V. Choice, Assistant to the Director, USDA-FSA-OAS, STOP 0540, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-0540; telephone (202) 720-8782; e-mail karlchoice@wdc.fsa.usda.gov. Copies of the information collection may be obtained from Karl Choice at the above address.

OMB is required to make a decision concerning the collection of information contained in these proposed regulations between 30 and 60 days after publication of this document in the **Federal Register**. Therefore, a comment to OMB is best assured of having full effect if OMB receives it within 30 days of publication.

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.

Signed at Washington, DC, on April 9, 1998.

Bruce R. Weber,

Acting Administrator, Farm Service Agency.

[FR Doc. 98-10049 Filed 4-15-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-05-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Klamath Provincial Advisory Committee (PAC)

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Klamath Provincial Advisory Committee will meet on April 29 and 30, 1998 at the Mt. Shasta Resort Siskiyou Room, 1000 Siskiyou Lake Blvd., Mt. Shasta, California. On April 29, the meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. and adjourn at 5:00 p.m. The meeting on April 30 will resume at 8:00 a.m. and adjourn at 2:00 p.m. Agenda items to be covered include: (1) DFO comments; (2) salvage recommendations; (3) subcommittee reports; (4) road management issues; (5) followup to the Joint 3PAC/SCERT meeting; and (6) public comment periods. All PAC meetings are open to the public. Interested citizens are encouraged to attend.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Connie Hendryx, USDA, Klamath National Forest, at 1312 Fairlane Road,