

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

Food and Nutrition Service; Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request: Study of Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Participant and Program Characteristics: 1998 and 2000

AGENCY: Food and Nutrition 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 collection of the Study of WIC Participant and Program Characteristics: 1998 and 2000.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by March 16, 1998.

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 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: Michael E. Fishman, Acting Director, Office of Analysis and Evaluation, Food and Nutrition 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 Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information should be directed to Michael E. Fishman, (703) 305-2117.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Study of WIC Participant and Program Characteristics: 1998 and 2000.

OMB Number: Not yet assigned.

Expiration Date: N/A.

Type of Request: New collection of information.

Abstract: The purposes of the study of WIC participant and program characteristics are to collect data, prepare reports, and develop analysis files on the characteristics of WIC participants and programs for 1998 and 2000. Data collected for the study will be used by the Food and Nutrition Service to manage the WIC Program, prepare WIC budgets, answer specific analytic questions, and guide future research. Data on characteristics of individuals receiving benefits from WIC have personal identifiers removed and are then compiled electronically from State management information systems. This information is analyzed for patterns in aggregate data. Surveys of State and local WIC agencies provide information on agency policies and practices. The Food and Nutrition Service has been using this protocol to biennially collect participant and program characteristic data since 1992.

The Study's Data Collection Component Is Comprised Of

1. Mail surveys in 1998 and 2000 to the 88 State WIC agencies (50 States, American Samoa, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, the American Virgin Islands, and 33 Indian Tribal Organizations) that deliver WIC services. The survey obtains information on State WIC program characteristics and includes questions on: income determination policies and procedures; documentation and recording of nutritional risk criteria and dietary intake data; food package tailoring practices; breastfeeding promotion and documentation; frequency of food instrument issuance; actual/estimated average costs of food packages; State-specific information on nutritional risk eligibility criteria; and computerization.

2. Mail surveys in 1998 and 2000 to a nationally representative sample of

400 local WIC agencies. The survey provides the Food and Nutrition Service with information on actual delivery of WIC services and collects data on: the structure of local agencies; income eligibility; nutritional risk eligibility; nutrition education; food package tailoring; breastfeeding promotion and documentation; health care and social service referrals; and computerization. The 1996 study of WIC participant and program characteristics included a survey of 400 local agencies and the same agencies will be surveyed in both 1998 and 2000 to provide a longitudinal sample for analyzing changes in local agency policies and procedures.

Affected Public: WIC State and local agency administrators.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 88 State WIC administrators and 400 local WIC administrators.

Estimated Time per Response: For the 88 State WIC administrators, one 20 minute response in 1998 and one 20 minute response in 2000. For the 400 local WIC administrators, one 30 minute response in 1998 and one 30 minute response in 2000.

Estimated Total Annual Burden: 229 hours in 1998 and 229 hours in 2000.

Dated: December 19, 1997.

Yvette Jackson,

Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service.

[FR Doc. 98-732 Filed 1-12-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-30-U

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Docket No. LS-97-009]

Notice of Request for Extension and Revision of 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) intention to request an extension for and revision to a currently approved information collection for the Seed Service Testing Program.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by March 16, 1998, to be assured of consideration.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS: James P. Triplitt, Chief, Seed Regulatory and Testing Branch (SRTB), Livestock and Seed Program, AMS, Room 209, Building 306, BARC-E., Beltsville, Maryland 20705-2325, telephone (301) 504-9430, FAX (301) 504-5454.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Seed Service Testing Program.
OMB Number: 0581-0140.

Expiration Date of Approval: June 30, 1998.

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

Abstract: This information collection is necessary for the conduct voluntary seed testing on a fee for service basis. The Agricultural Marketing Act (AMA) of 1946, as amended, (7 U.S.C. 1621 *et seq.*) Section 203(h) authorizes the Secretary to inspect and certify the quality of agricultural products and collect such fees as reasonable to cover the cost of service rendered.

The purpose of the voluntary program is to promote efficient, orderly marketing of seeds, and assist in the development of new and expanding markets. Under the program samples of agricultural and vegetable seeds submitted to the Agricultural Marketing Service are tested for factors such as purity and germination at the request of the applicant for the service. In addition, grain samples, submitted at the applicant's request, by the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration are examined for the presence of certain weed and crop seed. A Federal Seed Analysis Certificate is issued giving the test results. Most of the seed tested under this program is scheduled for export. Many importing countries require a Federal Seed Analysis Certificate on United States seed.

The only information collected is information needed to provide the service requested by the applicant. This includes information to identify the seed being tested, the seed treatment (if treated with a pesticide), the tests to be performed, and any other appropriate information required by the applicant to be on the Federal Seed Analysis Certificate.

The burden for this collection is reduced because fewer samples were submitted for test than estimated in current information collection. Since information is collected for each sample an applicant submits for test, when applicants submit fewer samples the information collected is reduced.

The information in this collection is used only by authorized AMS employees to track, test, and report test results to the applicant.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .25 hours per response.

Respondents: Applicants for seed testing service.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 92.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 16.9.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 390.

Comments are invited on: (1) 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; (2) 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; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) 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 collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to James P. Triplitt, Chief, Seed Regulatory and Testing Branch, LS, AMS, USDA, Room 209, Building 306, BARC-E., Beltsville, Maryland 20705-2325. All comments received will be available for public inspection during regular business hours at the same address.

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: January 6, 1998.

Barry L. Carpenter,

Deputy Administrator, Livestock and Seed Program.

[FR Doc. 98-733 Filed 1-12-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Docket No. LS-97-010]

Notice of Request for Extension and Revision of 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) intention to request an extension for and revision to a currently approved information collection for Federal Seed Act Labeling and Enforcement.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by March 16, 1998, to be assured of consideration.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS: Contact James P. Triplitt, Chief, Seed Regulatory and Testing Branch (SRTB), Livestock and Seed Program, AMS, Room 209, Building 306, BARC-E., Beltsville, Maryland 20705-2325, telephone (301) 504-9430, FAX (301) 504-5454.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Federal Seed Act Program.

OMB Number: 0581-0026.

Expiration Date of Approval: June 30, 1998.

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

Abstract: This information collection is necessary to conduct of the Federal Seed Act (FSA) (7 U.S.C. 1551 *et seq.*) program with respect to certain testing, labeling, and recordkeeping requirements of agricultural and vegetable seeds in interstate commerce.

The FSA, Title II, is a truth-in-labeling law that regulates agricultural and vegetable planting seed in interstate commerce. Seed subject to the FSA must be labeled with certain quality information and it requires that information to be truthful. The Act prohibits the interstate shipment of falsely advertised seed and seed containing noxious-weed seeds that are prohibited from sale in the State the seed into which the seed is being shipped.

Besides providing farmers and other seed buyers with information necessary to make an informed choice and protect the buyer from buying mislabeled seed, the FSA promotes fair competition within the seed industry. It also encourages uniformity in labeling, aiding the movement of seed between the States. Because seed moving in interstate commerce must be labeled according to the FSA, most State laws have seed labeling requirements similar to those of the FSA, causing more uniformity of State laws.

Although anyone can submit a complaint to the SRTB, the FSA is primarily enforced through cooperative agreements with the States. State seed inspectors inspect and sample seed