

# 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

### Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

February 20, 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 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 Services

*Title:* Mexicali Valley of Mexico-Karnal Bunt.

*OMB Control Number:* 0579-New.

*Summary of Collection:* The information collection would allow the Department of Agriculture to properly monitor imports of wheat from the Mexicali Valley of Mexico to prevent the incursion and spread of Karnal Bunt.

*Need and Use of The Information:* USDA would use information collected on a phytosanitary certificate to ensure that the wheat being brought into the United States was grown in the designated Karnal bunt free area of the Mexicali Valley of Mexico.

*Description of Respondents:* Business or other for-profit; Individuals or households; Farms.

*Number of Respondents:* 20

*Frequency of Responses:* Reporting: On occasion.

*Total Burden Hours:* 120.

### Food and Consumer Services

*Title:* Employment and Training (E&T) Program Report.

*OMB Control Number:* 0584-0339.

*Summary of Collection:* The Food and Consumer Service Agency (FCS) is proposing collecting from State governments quarterly Employment and Training Program reports containing monthly figures for participation in the program. The form FCS-583 would be used to report participants newly work registered; work registrants exempt by the State from participation in an E&T program; participants who volunteer for and commence participation in an approved E&T component; E&T mandatory participants who commence an approved E&T components; work registrants sent a Notice of Adverse Action for failure to comply with E&T requirements, and the number of applications who were denied food stamp certification or recertification for failure to comply with an E&T component.

Additionally, the passage of the Balance Budget Act of 1997 resulted in additional provisions which impact the Employment and Training Program. Accordingly, FCS is proposing collecting from State governments

quarterly reports on the average number of monthly waiver exemptions for able-bodied adults without dependents; the number of filled and offered workfare slots; the amount of 100 percent Federal funds spent on workfare slots. This information can be attached to the FCS-583 report until that form is redesigned.

*Need and Use of The Information:*

The information collection will enable USDA to determine whether States have met their mandated performance standards stipulated by the Employment and Training Program and all provisions of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997.

*Description of Respondents:* State, Local, or Tribal Government; Individuals or households.

*Number of Respondents:* 4,870,542.

*Frequency of Responses:* Reporting: Quarterly.

*Total Burden Hours:* 224,587.

Emergency Processing of This Submission Has Been Requested by March 1, 1998.

### National Food and Agricultural Council

*Title:* USDA Service Center Customer Service Card.

*OMB Control Number:* 0575-New.

*Summary of Collection:* The USDA Service Center Initiative is proposing the establishment of a pilot project to test a comment and complaint system that would provide its field customers with a formal process for filing and resolving complaints. Customer Service Cards would be available in each field service center and would allow customers to voluntarily comment or complain about the service they receive.

*Need and Use of The Information:* The information collection will enable USDA customers to formally register their comments and complaints. This information will be used (1) to identify and resolve individual customer complaints about service or processes, (2) to facilitate a means for ongoing communication between customers, (3) as input for improving service and process, (4) motivate and encourage employees to provide excellent customer service. Additionally, information gained during the pilot project will be used to modify the Customer Service Cards before nationwide implementation would occur.

*Description of Respondents:* Individuals or households.

*Number of Respondents:* 13,500.

*Frequency of Responses:*  
Recordkeeping; Reporting: As needed.  
*Total Burden Hours:* 1,125.  
Emergency Processing of this  
Submission has been requested by  
March 1, 1998.

#### Forest Services

*Title:* 36 CFR Part 228, Subpart G—  
Smith River National Recreational Area.  
*OMB Control Number:* 0596-0138.

*Summary of Collection:* The proposed  
information collection affects parties or  
individuals who desire Forest Service  
approval to conduct mineral operations  
in the Smith River National Recreation  
Area. Information requirements  
associated with this collection include a  
standard operating plan or plan of  
operation as well as identification of  
hazardous materials, toxic materials,  
and similar chemical substances to be  
used during the mineral operation and  
how they will be disposed of.  
Additionally, the operator will have to  
provide the identity if the character and  
composition of the mineral that will be  
used/generated, a proposed method/  
strategy for the placement, control,  
isolation, or removal of the wastes, and  
how public health and safety are to be  
maintained.

*Need and Use of the Information:* The  
Forest Service needs this information to  
assess the impact of a proposed mineral  
operations on the land and surrounding  
resources within the Smith River  
National Recreation Area and provide  
the requested approvals to proceed. By  
receiving and reviewing the plan of  
operations and other information  
required by this collection, Forest  
Service authorized officers can ensure  
the resources, public safety, and health  
are protected when mineral activities  
are being conducted in the Smith River  
National Recreation Area.

*Description of Respondents:* Business  
or other for-profit; Individuals or  
households.

*Number of Respondents:* 2.

*Frequency of Responses:* Reporting:  
On occasion.

*Total Burden Hours:* 40.

**Nancy Sternberg,**

*Departmental Clearance Officer.*

[FR Doc. 98-4889 Filed 2-25-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-01-M

#### DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

##### Public Briefings on Development of a U.S. Action Plan on Food Security

**AGENCY:** Foreign Agricultural Service,  
USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that a  
public workshop regarding development  
of the domestic portion of a U.S. Action  
Plan on Food Security will be held on  
March 6, 1998. The workshop is for the  
purpose of briefing the public on the  
domestic food security discussion  
paper, responding to questions and  
receiving individual reactions to the  
paper in order to facilitate public  
participation in the process of  
developing the U.S. Action Plan on  
Food Security.

**DATES:** The workshop on the domestic  
paper will be on March 6, 1998, 9 a.m.  
to 4 p.m. in Room 107A, Administration  
Building, U.S. Department of  
Agriculture in Washington, D.C.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The  
meeting is open to the public. The  
discussion paper is available from the  
Office of the National Food Security  
Coordinator, Foreign Agricultural  
Service, Room 3008 South Building,  
U.S. Department of Agriculture, 14th  
and Independence Ave., SW,  
Washington, D.C. 20250 telephone (202)  
690-0776 or fax (202) 720-6103. The  
paper is also posted on the U.S.  
Government Food Security Home Page  
(<http://www.fas.usda.gov/icd/summit/summit.html>).

Signed in Washington, D.C. February 19,  
1998.

**Lon Hatamiya,**

*Administrator, Foreign Agricultural Service.*

[FR Doc. 98-4861 Filed 2-25-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-10-M

#### 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, USDA.

**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 to extend the clearance for an  
existing information collection in order  
to render service to associations of  
producers of agricultural, forestry, and  
fisheries products and federations and  
subsidiaries thereof as authorized in the  
Cooperative Marketing Act of 1926.

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be  
received by April 27, 1998 to be assured  
of consideration.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**  
Tracey L. Kennedy, Agricultural

Economist, RBS, U.S. Department of  
Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue  
SW., Stop 3252, Washington, DC.  
20250-3252, Telephone (202) 690-1428.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Title:* Annual Survey of Cooperative  
Involvement in International Markets.

*Type of Request:* Information  
collection.

*Abstract:* The mission of the Rural  
Business-Cooperative Service (RBS),  
formerly Agricultural Cooperative  
Service (ACS), is to assist farmer-owned  
cooperatives in improving the economic  
well-being of their farmer-members.  
This is accomplished through a  
comprehensive program of research on  
structural, operational, and policy  
issues affecting cooperatives; technical  
advisory assistance to individual  
cooperatives and to groups of producers  
who wish to organize cooperatives; and  
development of educational and  
informational material. The authority to  
carry out RBS's mission is defined in  
the Cooperative Marketing Act of 1926  
(44 Stat. 802-1926). 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 to:

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

(2) 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 organizations.

(3) 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.

(4) Acquire from all available sources,  
information concerning crop prospects,