

this information FNS would not be able to evaluate program operations.

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

Number of Respondents: 16,370.

Frequency of Responses:

Recordkeeping; Reporting: Monthly, Annually.

Total Burden Hours: 830,184.

Nancy B. Sternberg,

Departmental Clearance Officer.

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BILLING CODE 3410-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Docket No. FV99-902-1 NC]

Notice of Request for Approval of a Generic Information Collection

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Proposed collection; comments requested.

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 approval for a generic information collection that will combine several individual marketing order information collections into one.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by August 30, 1999, to be assured of consideration.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS: Contact Valerie L. Emmer-Scott, Marketing Specialist, Marketing Order Administration Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, AMS, USDA, P.O. Box 96456, room 2525-S, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456; Telephone: (202) 205-2829 or Fax: (202) 720-5698, or E-mail: moabdocket_clerk@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Marketing Orders for Fruit Crops.

OMB Number: Number not assigned yet.

Expiration Date of Approval: Three years from date of approval.

Type of Request: Approval for a generic information collection.

Abstract: Marketing order programs provide an opportunity for producers of fresh fruit, vegetables, and specialty crops, in specified production areas, to work together to solve marketing problems that cannot be solved individually. Order regulations help ensure adequate supplies of high quality products for consumers 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 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 marketing order programs. Under the Act, orders may authorize the following: production and marketing research, including paid advertising, volume regulations, reserves, including pools and producer allotments, container regulations, and quality control. Production and marketing research activities are paid for by assessments levied on handlers regulated under the marketing orders.

Under the marketing orders, producers and handlers are nominated by their respective peers. These nominees then serve as representatives on their respective committees/boards and must file nomination forms with the Secretary.

The respective committees/boards have developed forms as a means for persons to file required information with the committees/boards relating to supplies, shipments, and dispositions of their respective commodities, and other information needed to effectively carry out the purpose of the AMAA and their respective orders, and these forms are utilized accordingly.

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 these marketing order programs. Handlers are asked to sign an agreement to indicate their willingness to abide by the provisions of the respective orders whenever an order is amended.

This information collection will combine: OMB #0581-0068, Oranges and Grapefruit Grown in the Lower Rio Grande Valley in Texas, Marketing Order No. 906; OMB #0581-0091, Limes Grown in Florida, Marketing Order No. 911; OMB # 0581-0078, Avocados Grown in South Florida, Marketing Order No. 915; OMB #0581-0072, Nectarines Grown in California, Marketing Order No. 916; OMB #0581-0149, Kiwifruit Grown in California, Marketing Order No. 920; OMB #0581-0133, Sweet Cherries Grown in Designated Counties in Washington, Marketing Order No. 923; OMB #0581-

0134, Fresh Prunes Grown in Designated Counties in Washington and in Umatilla County, Oregon, Marketing Order No. 924; and OMB #0581-0109, Grapes Grown in a Designated Area of Southeastern California, Marketing Order No. 925.

The forms covered under this information collection will continue to 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 employees of the committees/boards and authorized representatives of the USDA, including AMS, Fruit and Vegetable Programs' regional and headquarter's staff. Authorized committee/board employees are the primary users of the information and AMS is the secondary user.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .37 hours per response.

Respondents: Producers, handlers and processors.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 3,983.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 2.75.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 10,940 hours.

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 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 through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments should reference this docket number and the appropriate marketing order, and be mailed to the Docket Clerk, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, AMS, USDA, P.O. Box 96456, room 2525-S, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456; Fax: (202) 720-5698; or E-mail: moabdocket_clerk@usda.gov.

Comments should reference the docket number and the date and page number of this issue of the **Federal Register**. All comments received will be available for public inspection in the Office of the Docket Clerk during regular USDA business hours at 14th and

Independence Avenue, S.W.,
Washington, D.C., room 2525–South
Building.

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: June 17, 1999.

Robert C. Keeney,

*Deputy Administrator, Fruit and Vegetable
Programs.*

[FR Doc. 99–16509 Filed 6–28–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–02–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

[PY–99–005]

United States Grade Standards for Shell Eggs

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service,
USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is soliciting comments on its proposal to change the United States Grade Standards for Shell Eggs. Specifically, AMS proposes to delete the general term “Inedible eggs” and its definition, revise the definition of the general term “Loss” eggs by including examples of inedible eggs, revise the term descriptive of an A quality white, and delete specifications for packaging materials. These changes would simplify and clarify the terminology used and would remove information that is no longer of value to the industry.

The current United States Grade Standards for Shell Eggs, along with the proposed changes, are available by contacting the address below or by visiting the AMS Internet site at: www.ams.usda.gov/poultry/standards.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before August 30, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Douglas C. Bailey, Chief, Standardization Branch, Poultry Programs, AMS, USDA, Room 3944–South Bldg., STOP 0259, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250–0259. Comments may also be faxed to (202) 690–0941.

State that your comments refer to Notice number PY–99–005 and include the date and page number of this issue of the **Federal Register**.

Comments received may be inspected at the above location between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday, except holidays.

Comments will also be posted on the Internet at www.ams.usda.gov/poultry/standards.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Douglas C. Bailey at (202) 720–3506.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (AMA), as amended (7 U.S.C. 1621 *et seq.*) authorizes the establishment of U.S. standards and grades for shell eggs. These standards and grades are maintained by AMS for use as a common language of trade among those buying and selling shell eggs. The standards are used by shell egg processors, wholesale traders, institutions, Federal and State governments, and retailers that sell eggs to the ultimate consumer. AMS also administers a voluntary grading program for shell eggs under the AMA. Any interested person, commercial firm, or government agency can, for a fee, have AMS monitor processing operations and verify that the grade and size of eggs being packaged meet the requirements of the U.S. grade standards and weight classes. Eggs meeting the requirements can be packaged into cartons or other containers bearing the USDA grade shield.

Currently, the definition of “Loss” eggs includes inedible eggs. There is also a separate definition for “Inedible eggs” that includes examples of such eggs. When applying the grade tolerances of the standard, there is no need to separately identify inedible eggs from loss eggs. Therefore, AMS proposes to delete the general term “Inedible eggs” and to add the examples of inedible eggs to the definition of “Loss” eggs. This would clarify that eggs with rots, green whites, stuck yolks, blood rings, or free yolk in the white are to be classed as “Loss” eggs when applying grade tolerances.

Candling is the process of using light to help determine the quality of an egg. Automated mass scanning equipment is used by most egg packers to detect eggs with cracked shells and interior defects. Hand-candling is done to spot-check and determine accuracy in grading. The breakout method of determining interior quality enables graders and students to calibrate their grading skills against an objective standard. In this method, a micrometer measures the height of the thick white of a broken-out egg and gives a direct reading in Haugh units. Currently, there is a Haugh unit range of “60 to 72” for A quality and “72 or higher” for AA quality. Because these values appear to overlap, AMS proposes to revise the description for A quality to read “60 up to, but not including, 72.” This would clarify the wording and

make it consistent with the intent of the description.

Specifications for packaging materials are provided as examples of quality packaging, but do not appear to be of any recognized value to today’s industry. Therefore, AMS is proposing to delete this section entirely.

The complete text of the proposed revisions to the grade standards can be obtained from the Internet at www.ams.usda.gov/poultry/standards. A copy can also be obtained by writing to the address above, calling (202) 720–3506, faxing (202) 690–0641, or e-mailing Douglas.Bailey@usda.gov.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 1621–1627.

Dated: June 23, 1999.

Enrique E. Figueroa,

*Administrator, Agricultural Marketing
Service.*

[FR Doc. 99–16451 Filed 6–28–99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 99–045–1]

Draft Guideline on Good Clinical Practices, VICH Topic GL9

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health
Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of availability and
request for comments.

SUMMARY: We are requesting comments on a draft document titled “Guideline on Good Clinical Practices” that has been developed by the International Cooperation on Harmonization of Technical Requirements for Registration of Veterinary Medicinal Products (VICH). The guideline is intended to be an international ethical and scientific quality standard for designing, conducting, monitoring, recording, auditing, analyzing, and reporting clinical studies evaluating veterinary products. Because the guideline would apply to veterinary biological products regulated by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service under the Virus-Serum-Toxin Act, we are requesting comments on its provisions so that we may include any relevant public input on the draft in the Agency’s comments to the VICH Steering Committee.

DATES: To ensure that your comments are considered, we must receive them by August 13, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Please send your comment and three copies to: Docket No. 99–045–1, Regulatory Analysis and