

agricultural commodities and products and provides grading and classing services to certify the quality or condition of products in marketing channels.

AMS provides oversight of federally sanctioned marketing orders and agreements and industry wide market research and promotion programs. In addition, the agency administers certain pesticide reporting requirements, compiles data concerning pesticide residues on certain products, and conducts or administers research and technical assistance programs to improve the efficiency of the marketing and transportation system and to identify new or expanding market opportunities for U.S. farmers and agribusiness.

#### Rural Business-Cooperative Service

The Rural Business-Cooperative Service promotes economic development in rural communities by financing needed facilities, assisting business development and rural cooperatives, and planning national strategies for rural economic development.

#### Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration

The USDA Assistant Secretary for Administration provides leadership and oversight in acquisition, asset management, civil rights, internal energy conservation, and recycling. As the USDA Energy Management Executive and the Environmental Executive (dual assignment with the Under Secretary for Research, Education and Economics), the Deputy Assistant Secretary has responsibility for coordinating environmentally preferable and energy-efficient initiatives and serves as an advocate for coordination of these initiatives in USDA facilities and programs across the country.

#### 2. Other Resources

Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998, Sec. 404 (7 U.S.C. 7624), provides authority to increase and coordinate biobased product activities in USDA.

Sustainable America, A New Consensus for Prosperity, Opportunity, and a Healthy Environment for the Future, President's Council on Sustainable Development, Washington, D.C., 186 pp., 1996. Contains a national action strategy for sustainable development which includes actions to: (1) Diversify the mix of agricultural goods produced to enhance profitability and environmental quality; and (2) promote ongoing efforts to achieve sustainable forest management.

Strategic Direction for Biobased Products Work in USDA Through the Biobased Products Coordination Council (BPCC), BPCC, Washington, DC, 16 pp., 1999. A plan to carry out programs to increase the domestic research, development and commercialization of biobased industrial and commercial products.

Executive Order 13101, Greening the Government Through Waste Prevention, Recycling, and Federal Acquisition, 63 FR 49643, Washington, D.C., September 16, 1998. Establishes guidelines and policy for each executive agency to increase and expand markets for recovered materials to create Federal Government preference and demands for such products.

The National Research Council, Biobased Industrial Products, National Academy Press, Washington D.C. (In Press). Provides an analysis of the potential benefits of encouraging a transition to more biobased industrial products through future public policies. Biological sciences are likely to make the same impact on the formation of new industries in the next century as the physical and chemical sciences have had on industrial development throughout the century now coming to a close. The biological sciences, when combined with recent and future advances in process engineering, can become the foundation for producing a wide variety of industrial products from renewable plant resources. These "biobased industrial products" will include fuels, chemicals, lubricants, plastics, and building materials. \* \* \* The long-term growth of biobased industrial products will depend on development of cost-competitive technologies and access to diverse markets.

1995 Federal Research and Development Program in Materials Science and Technology, The Materials Technology Subcommittee of the National Science and Technology Council, Gaithersburg, MD, 1995. This report describes the materials R&D programs of nine Federal departments and agencies to facilitate collaboration among the public and private sector members of the broad materials R&D community.

Plant/Crop-Based Renewable Resources 2020 Program—A Vision to Enhance U.S. Economic Security Through Renewable Plant/Crop-Based Resource Use, Department of Energy, Washington, D.C., 1998. Develops a program to provide continued economic growth, healthy standards of living, and strong national security through the development of plant/crop-based renewable resources as a viable

alternative to diminishing fossil feedstocks for biobased products.

Agenda 2020—A Technology Vision and Research Agenda for America's Forest, Wood and Paper Industry, American Forest and Paper Association, Washington, D.C., 1994. Develops a long-term strategy for sustainability of forest products by increasingly leveraging the virgin raw material with material recovery and recycling.

Vision for Agricultural Research and Development in the 21st Century, National Agriculture Biotechnology Council, Ithaca, NY 1998. Supports agricultural research and development to take the lead in providing technology for a biobased economy in the 21st century.

Done at Washington, D.C., on this 10th day of August, 1999.

**I. Miley Gonzalez,**

*Under Secretary, Research, Education and Extension.*

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BILLING CODE 3410-01-P

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 99-059-1]

#### Notice of Request for Extension of Approval of an Information Collection

**AGENCY:** Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Extension of approval of an information collection; comment request.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's intention to request an extension of approval of an information collection in support of the regulations issued under the Animal Welfare Act for guinea pigs, hamsters, and rabbits.

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received by October 12, 1999 to be assured of consideration.

**ADDRESSES:** We invite you to comment regarding the accuracy of burden estimate, ways to minimize the burden (such as through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology), or any other aspect of this collection of information. Please send your comment and three copies to: Docket No. 99-059-1, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Suite 3C03, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238.

Please state that your comment refers to Docket No. 99-059-1.

You may read any comments that we receive on this docket in our reading room. The reading room is located in room 1141 of the USDA South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC. Normal reading room hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. To be sure someone is there to help you, please call (202) 690-2817 before coming.

APHIS documents published in the **Federal Register**, and related information, including the names of organizations and individuals who have commented on APHIS rules, are available on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppd/rad/webrepor.html>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For information regarding the regulations for guinea pigs, hamsters, and rabbits, 9 CFR, part 3, subparts B and C, contact Dr. Jerry DePoyster, Animal Care Staff Officer, AC, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 84, Riverdale, MD 20737-1234; (301) 734-7833; or e-mail: [Jerry.D.Depoyster@usda.gov](mailto:Jerry.D.Depoyster@usda.gov). For copies of more detailed information on the information collection, contact Ms. Cheryl Groves, APHIS' Information Collection Coordinator, at (301) 734-5086.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title:* Animal Welfare.

*OMB Number:* 0579-0092.

*Expiration Date of Approval:* October 31, 1999.

*Type of Request:* Extension of approval of an information collection.

*Abstract:* Regulations have been promulgated under the Animal Welfare Act (the Act) to promote and ensure the humane care and treatment of regulated animals under the Act. Title 9, part 3, subparts B and C, of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) address specific care and handling regulations for guinea pigs, hamsters, and rabbits. Enforcement of the Act and regulations require documentation of specified information concerning the transportation of these animals.

The regulations for transporting guinea pigs, hamsters, and rabbits require intermediate handlers and carriers to accept only shipping enclosures that meet the minimum requirements set forth in the regulations (§ 3.36) or are accompanied by documentation signed by the consignor verifying that the shipping enclosures comply with the regulations. If guinea pigs, hamsters, and rabbits are transported in cargo space that falls below 45 °F (7.2 °C), the regulations

specify that the animals must be accompanied by a certificate of acclimation signed by a U.S. Department of Agriculture accredited veterinarian.

In addition, all shipping enclosures must be marked "Live Animals" and have arrows indicating the correct upright position of the container. Intermediate handlers and carriers are required to attempt to contact the consignee at least once every 6 hours upon the arrival of any live animals. Documentation of these attempts must be recorded by the intermediate handlers and carriers and maintained for inspection by Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) personnel.

The above reporting and recordkeeping requirements do not mandate the use of any official government form.

The burden generated by APHIS requirements that all shipping documents be attached to the container has been cleared by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under OMB No. 0579-0036.

The reporting and recordkeeping requirements of 9 CFR, part 3, subparts B & C, are necessary to enforce regulations intended to ensure the humane treatment of guinea pigs, hamsters, and rabbits during transportation in commerce.

We are asking the Office of Management and Budget to approve the continued use of this information collection.

The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public (as well as affected agencies) concerning our information collection. These comments will help us:

- (1) Evaluate whether the proposed information collection is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;
- (2) Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- (3) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- (4) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, through use, as appropriate, of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other collection technologies, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

*Estimate of burden:* The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .125 hours per response.

*Respondents:* Intermediate handlers, carriers, "A" and "B" dealers (as consignors), USDA accredited veterinarians.

*Estimated annual number of respondents:* 1,470.

*Estimated annual number of responses per respondent:* 1,408.

*Estimated annual number of responses:* 2,070.

*Estimated total annual burden on respondents:* 260 hours. (Due to rounding, the total annual burden hours may not equal the product of the annual number of responses multiplied by the average reporting burden per response.)

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.

Done in Washington, DC, this 4th day of August 1999.

**Bobby R. Acord,**

*Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Food and Nutrition Service

#### Agency Information Collection

**Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request; FNS-245, Negative Case Action Review Schedule; FNS-247, Statistical Summary of Sample Disposition; and FNS-248, Status of Sample Selection and Completion**

**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 FNS-245, Negative Case Action Review Schedule; the FNS-247, Statistical Summary of Sample Disposition; and the FNS-248, Status of Sample Selection and Completion. The proposed collection is an extension of collection currently approved under OMB No. 0584-0034.

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted on or before October 12, 1999.

**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 has practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of