

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. 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.

[FR Doc. 99-20896 Filed 8-12-99; 8:45 am]

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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

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: Retha F. Oliver, Chief, Quality Control Branch, Program Accountability Division, 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 OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection form and instruction should be directed to Retha F. Oliver, (703) 305-2474.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Quality Control Negative Case Action Review Schedule
Statistical Summary of Sample Disposition
Status of Sample Selection and Completion.

OMB Number: 0584-0034.

Form Numbers: FNS-245, FNS-247, & FNS-248.

Expiration Date: September 30, 1999.

Type of Request: Reinstatement without change, of this previously approved collection of information.

Abstract: The FNS-245, Negative Case Action Review Schedule, is designed to collect QC data and serve as the data entry form for negative case action quality control (QC) reviews in the Food Stamp program. State agencies complete the FNS-245 for each negative case in their QC sample. The FNS-247, Statistical Summary of Sample Disposition, summarizes the data obtained from a State's active and negative QC samples over the course of each annual reporting period. The FNS-248, Status of Sample Selection and Completion, tracks a State's progress in sample selection and case completion on a monthly basis.

Affected Public: Individuals or households; State or local governments.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 53.

Number of responses per respondent: 636.

Estimated Total annual responses: 33,718.

Hours per response: 3.0236.

Total annual reporting hours: 100,254.

Number of record keepers: 53.

Number of record keepings per respondent: 636.

Estimated Annual hours per record keepers: 15.

Hours per record keeping: 0.0236.

Total record keeping hours: 796.

Total annual reporting/record keeping hours: 101,049 (total hours per response plus total recordkeeping hours).

Dated: August 6, 1999.

Susan Carr Gossman,

Acting Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service.

[FR Doc. 99-21061 Filed 8-12-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-30-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. 98-045N2]

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration

[Docket No. 98N-1230]

Egg Safety Action Plan; Public Meeting

AGENCIES: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA; Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) are announcing a public meeting to discuss the development of an action plan to address the presence of *Salmonella enteritidis* (SE) in shell eggs and egg products using a farm-to-table approach. The purpose of the action plan is: To promote the implementation of existing technologies, to control and prevent, to the extent possible, the presence of pathogens, particularly SE, in shell eggs and egg products, in order to reduce the incidence of foodborne illness; to examine alternative regulatory inspection structures to better coordinate the government's egg safety efforts from farm-to-table; to change, through education, unsafe egg handling practices by producers, distributors, retailers, and consumers, in part, by eliminating temperature abuse as required by FDA's proposed and USDA's final rules; and to identify and develop new technologies to ensure safer shell eggs and egg products through research. FDA and FSIS have established public dockets to receive comments about the egg safety action plan.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Thursday, August 26, 1999, from 9 a.m.

to 5 p.m. Comments should be submitted to one of the dockets no later than September 11, 1999, to be considered in the development of the egg safety action plan.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Washington Plaza Hotel, 10 Thomas Circle, NW., Massachusetts Ave. and 14th St., Washington, DC. Thirty rooms have been blocked off at the government rate of \$115 for a single under reference #8613. To guarantee a room with a credit card, call the hotel at 800-424-1140 or 202-842-1300.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

For registration: Sheila A. Johnson, FSIS, 202-501-7305 or FAX 202-501-7642. Persons requiring a sign language interpreter or other special accommodations should call by August 19, 1999.

For general information: Stephanie A. Smith, FDA, 202-205-0136 or FAX 202-205-4422, or Alice Thaler, FSIS, 202-690-2683.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

The President's Council on Food Safety was established in August 1998 under Executive Order 13100 to strengthen and focus our efforts to coordinate food safety policy and resources. The Council on Food Safety was charged with developing a comprehensive, long-range strategic plan that can be used to set priorities, improve coordination and efficiency, identify gaps in the current system and how to fill those gaps, enhance and strengthen prevention and intervention strategies, and identify or develop measures to show progress.

On July 1, 1999, FDA and FSIS testified before the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, Restructuring, and the District of Columbia. The hearing explored concerns raised by an U.S. General Accounting Office report (GAO/RCED-99-184) relating to the Federal Government's current approach to shell eggs and egg products safety. During the hearing, the agencies committed to developing an action plan in 120 days to address the presence of SE in shell eggs and egg products using a farm-to-table approach. As part of the action plan development process, FDA and FSIS will hold a public meeting on August 26, 1999.

FDA and FSIS, in conjunction with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Agricultural Marketing Service, the Agricultural Research Service, and the Animal Plant and Health Inspection Service, have already begun the process of developing an egg