

Notices

Federal Register

Vol. 64, No. 237

Friday, December 10, 1999

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

December 6, 1999.

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, DC 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.

Food and Nutrition Service

Title: USDA National Hunger Clearinghouse Database Form.

OMB Control Number: 0584-0474.

Summary of Collection: The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is interested in maintaining and further developing an information clearinghouse (named "USDA National Hunger Clearinghouse") for groups that assist low-income individuals and communities concerning nutrition assistance programs or other assistance. Section 26 of the National School Lunch Act, which was added to the Act by Section 123 Pub. L. 102-448 on November 2, 1994 (Appendix A), mandated that FNS enter into a 4 year contract with a non governmental organization to develop and maintain a national information clearinghouse of grassroots organizations working on hunger, food, nutrition, and other agricultural issues, including food recovery. This legislation was further amended on October 13, 1998 by section 112 of Pub. L. 105-336 to continue maintenance of the database through FY 2004. The USDA National Hunger Clearinghouse uses state-of-the art computer and telecommunications technologies to connect the target audience, sharing information on effective program models, pending legislation and rule makings, surplus and emergency food distribution networks, and USDA programs and policies. FNS will collect the information through fax, regular mail, e-mail, and the Internet.

Need And Use of the Information: FNS will collect information to provide a resource for groups that assist low-income individuals or communities regarding nutrition assistance program or other assistance. The information provided by the Clearinghouse database enables these groups to do a better job of assisting the target audience.

Description of Respondents: Not-for-profit institutions; Business or other for-profit; Farms.

Number of Respondents: 1,850.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Annually.

Total Burden Hours: 148.

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Title: Pseudorabies in Swine; Payment of Indemnity.

OMB Control Number: 0579-0137.

Summary of Collection: Title 21, U.S.C. authorizes sections 111, 114, 114a, 114-1, 115, 120, 125, 126, 134a, 134c, 134f, and 134g of 21 U.S.C. These authorities permit the Secretary to prevent, control and eliminate domestic diseases such as brucellosis and tuberculosis, as well as to take actions to prevent and to manage exotic diseases such as foot-and-mouth disease and rinderpest. More specifically, 21 U.S.C. 111, 115, 118, authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to take such measures as he or she may deem proper to prevent the introduction or dissemination of any contagious or communicable disease of animals or live poultry from a foreign country into the United States or from one state to another. Disease prevention is the most effective method for maintaining a healthy animal population and enhancing our ability to compete in exporting animals and animal products. The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is conducting a pseudorabies eradication program (in cooperation with State governments and swine producers) that involves the systemic identification of pseudorabies-infected swine in the United States, and herd management to eliminate pseudorabies from the United States. APHIS will collect information using forms VS 1-23, VS 7-1, VS 7-3, VS 7-4, and PRV Eradication Acceleration Payment Form.

Need and Use of the Information: APHIS will collect information from herd owners on the number of pseudorabies-infected herds in each state and the number of herds vaccinated for pseudorabies. APHIS will also collect information on the appraised value of the swine being depopulated.

Description of Respondents: Business or other-for-profit; Farms; State, Local or Tribal Government.

Number of Respondents: 1,300.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 1,387.

Forest Service

Title: Baseline and Trend Information on Wilderness Use and Users.

OMB Control Number: 0596-0108.

Summary of Collection: The Wilderness Act (P.L. 88-577) directs that wilderness be managed to preserve natural conditions and to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. To meet these management goals, managers must adapt their programs to changes in the amount and type of use and resultant conditions. It is also important for managers to be aware of likely visitor response to proposed management actions and their preferences for resource conditions. Very little is known about trends in the characteristics, activities and preferences of visitors to wilderness and other wildlands. The Forest Service (FS) will collect information using mailback survey forms, face-to-face and on-site interviews to establish usage baselines and monitor trends in some areas for critical use and user characteristics for representative Forest Service wilderness area.

Need and use of the Information: FS will collect information from visitors to find out how many times they visit, when they plan their next visit, or if they plan to visit at all. Visitors will be asked, when visiting, if they come in groups, and if so, the size of those groups and how long they stay when visiting. Also, visitors will be asked do they use equipment such as stoves, wood for fires and do they have preferences for social conditions? If the information is not collected FS will have no basis for making management decisions and establishing policy for guiding wilderness management in general.

Description of Respondents:

Individuals or households.

Number of Respondents: 1,000.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 416.

Farm Service Agency

Title: Farm Reconstitution (7 CFR part 718).

OMB Control Number: 0560-0025.

Summary of Collection: The Agricultural Act of 1938, as amended, provides for the reconstitution of farms. A reconstitution is a change in the land constituting a farm as a result of combining or dividing tracts or land or farms. The reconstitution process ensures that the farm and tract records in the County Farm Service Agency (FSA) Office are correct and up to date. A reconstitution is a required procedure when a producer wishes to increase or decrease acreage attributed to the farm from lease, sale of land, or purchase of land. Form FSA-155, Request for

Reconstitution, is used as the request for a farm reconstitution initiated by the producer.

Need and use of the Information: FSA will collect information to determine farm and tract numbers, farmland, cropland, agricultural use land, distribution of tobacco quota and allotments, peanut quota, and production flexibility contract acres resulting from combination or division of the farming operation. The information is used by the County Office employees to document farm owners and operators, farmland, cropland, crop acreages, and whether land is being purchased or sold. Failure to collect the information required by FSA-155 would result in inaccurate farm records.

Description of Respondents: Farms.

Number of Respondents: 112,820.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 197,435.

National Agricultural Statistics Service

Title: Agricultural Economics and Land Ownership Survey.

OMB Control Number: 0535-NEW.

Summary of Collection: The Agricultural Economics and Land Ownership Survey (AELOS) is an integral part of the 1997 Census of Agriculture and is conducted under the authority of the Census of Agriculture Act of 1997 (Pub. L. 105-113). This law requires the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct a census of agriculture in 1998 and every fifth year following 1998. With the end of the 20th Century rapidly approaching, farmers are facing much uncertainty about their future livelihood and ability to maintain sustainable farm operations. Lower farm prices coupled with increased input costs and farmland values that have only increased slightly in recent years have placed incredible economic pressures on the Nation's agriculture economy. The 1999 AELOS will obtain data to accurately define the economic status of U.S. farm operations and households. The AELOS is designed to provide statistically reliable estimates of key economic and demographic variables at the U.S. and state level. The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will collect information using a survey.

Need and use of the Information:

NASS will collect information to provide a current measure of key variables in agricultural economy that can be used by economists, financial organizations, and Congress to assess the overall condition of the U.S. farm population. The data will provide not only state level profiles of farm assets,

liabilities, and operator debt, but will also include tabulations of information on farm household income and wealth. The absence of the AELOS data would negatively affect economic and financial policy decisions. Federal programs, legislation, and impact studies would be subject to greater uncertainty and error.

Description of Respondents: Farms.

Number of Respondents: 77,600.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Other (One-time survey).

Total Burden Hours: 57,600.

National Agricultural Statistics Service

Title: Fruit and Vegetable Agricultural Practices Survey.

OMB Control Number: 0535-0239.

Summary of Collection: In October 1997, the President signed a directive entitled "Initiative to Ensure the Safety of Imported and Domestic Fruits and Vegetables." Part of this initiative directed the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to issue a guidance document on good agricultural practices for fresh fruits and vegetables to ensure the safety of the Nation's food supply. FDA and the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) are working together to establish a baseline of current agricultural practices. A 14-state survey of fruit and vegetable growers and packers will be the first step in gathering information which will assist in developing educational outreach programs for growers and packers. Education outreach is an important component of the President's initiative. NASS will collect information using a survey.

Need and use of the Information: NASS will collect information to establish a baseline of current agricultural practices as outlined in FDA's "Guide to Minimize Microbial Food Safety Hazards for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables." In addition, data from the operational survey will be used for development of educational outreach programs for growers, packers, and the public. Without the data, sound policy decisions could not be made and improved grower education strategies could not be developed.

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

Number of Respondents: 13,000.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Biennially.

Total Burden Hours: 10,400.

National Agricultural Statistics Service

Title: Aquaculture Survey.

OMB Control Number: 0535-0150.

Summary of Collection: The primary function of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is to estimate production and stocks of all important

agricultural food, fiber, and specialty commodities and collect data relating to rural America for other Federal agencies. In this capacity, NASS prepares estimates for trout sales, catfish processed, inventory, acreage, and sales. General authority for these data collection activities is granted under U.S. Code Title 7, Section 2204. This statute specifies that "The Secretary of Agriculture shall procure and preserve all information concerning agriculture which he can obtain * * * by the collection of statistics * * * and shall distribute them among agriculturists." Congress has mandated the collection of basic data for aquaculture and provides funding for these surveys. Aquaculture is an alternative method to produce a high protein, low fat product demanded by the consumer. Information on the producing areas and quantities is very limited. The Census of Aquaculture, which NASS completed earlier this year, provides detail information relating to on-farm aquaculture practices. NASS will collect information using a survey.

Need and use of the Information: NASS will collect information to demonstrate the growing importance of aquaculture to officials of Federal and State government agencies who manage and direct policy over programs in agriculture and natural resources. The type of information collected and reported provides extension educators and research scientists with data that indicates important areas that require special educational and/or research efforts, such as causes for losses of fish and pond inventories of fish of various sizes.

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

Number of Respondents: 3,025.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Semi-annually.

Total Burden Hours: 825.

Nancy B. Sternberg,

Departmental Information Collection Officer.
[FR Doc. 99-32010 Filed 12-9-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Office of the Chief Economist

Notice of Appointment of the Advisory Committee on Small Farms

AGENCY: Office of the Chief Economist, USDA.

ACTION: Notification of appointment to the Advisory Committee on Small Farms

SUMMARY: The Office of the Secretary of Agriculture, in accordance with the

Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. 2, announces members appointed to the Advisory Committee on Small Farms. Nineteen members were appointed from nominations of more than 100 well-qualified individuals, representing owners and operators of small farms, ranches and woodlots and the diverse groups USDA programs serve. Four of the appointed members served on the USDA's National Commission on Small Farms whose term expired in July 1999. Inclusion of previous Commission members will ensure the continued consideration and implementation of the recommendations made by the Commission in its report, "A Time to Act." Equal opportunity practices were followed in appointing committee members. To ensure that the recommendations of advisory committee take into account the needs of the diverse groups served by the Department, membership includes, to the extent practicable, individuals with demonstrated ability to represent minorities, women and persons with disabilities

The following appointments to the Advisory Committee on Small Farms have been made:

Dr. James Harness, will serve as chair of the Committee. He is the Director of Special Programs and Associate Extension Administrator of Alcorn State University in Fayette, Mississippi, and member of the National Commission on Small Farms;

Dayle Larue Aldridge, Director of Small Farms Outreach for the Oklahoma Landowners and Tenants Association in Taft, Oklahoma;

Jon W. Anderson, Executive Secretary at the Vermont Department of Agriculture, Food and Markets in Montpelier, Vermont;

Karen S. Armstrong-Cummings, Director, Commodity Growers Cooperative Association in Frankfort, Kentucky and member of the National Commission on Small Farms;

Suzanne L. Bertrand, Small Farms Special Project Coordinator, Heifer Project International in Little Rock, Arkansas;

Marion Long Bowlan, Farmer and Executive Director of Pennsylvania Farm Link, Inc. in Manheim, Pennsylvania and member of the National Commission on Small Farms;

Don R. Crittenden, Farmer/Rancher, Cherokee National Tribal Council Member in Taklequah, Oklahoma;

Harold Eugene Garrett, Professor and Director of the Center for Agroforestry, University of Missouri in Columbia, Missouri;

Helen Gonzalez, Farmer and Director of Farmers Feed Cooperative, St. Croix, Virgin Islands;

Luz Bazan Gutierrez, President, Washington Association of Minority Entrepreneurs, Inc., in Yakima, Washington;

Neil D. Hamilton, Director of Agricultural Law Center and Professor of Law, Drake University Law School in Waukee, Iowa;

Golden J. Hardy, Farmer and member of Jefferson County Farm Service Agency Committee in Beaumont, Texas;

Archilus L. Hart, Assistant to the Commissioner of Agriculture on Small Farms Agricultural Policy in Knightdale, North Carolina;

Edgar J. Hicks, President, DHV Inc., a farmers commodities corporation in Omaha, Nebraska;

Majorie Jarrett, Rancher in Wray, Colorado;

Calvin R. King, Sr., Founder and Executive Director, Arkansas Land and Farm Development Corporation in Aubrey, Arkansas;

George L. Siemon, Farmer and CEO, Organic Valley Cooperative in Viroqua, Wisconsin;

Ranvir Singh, Fruit farmer in Marysville, California;

Thomas Joseph Trantham, Jr., Dairy farmer in Pelzer, South Carolina and member of the National Commission on Small Farms.

Committee members will serve two-year terms. In the event of a vacancy, the Secretary will appoint a new member as appropriate and subject to the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The duties of the Committee are solely advisory. The Committee will monitor government and private sector actions, policy and program proposals that relate to small farms, ranches and woodlots, including limited-resource farms, ranches and woodlots, and evaluate the impact such actions and proposals may have upon their viability and economic livelihood. The Committee will review USDA programs and strategies to implement small farm policy, advise the Secretary on actions to strengthen USDA programs; and evaluate other approaches that the Committee would deem advisable or which the Secretary of Agriculture or the Director of Sustainable Development and Small Farms may request the Committee to consider. The Committee will advise the Secretary through an annual report and other means as necessary and appropriate.

The Committee will hold at least one public meeting per year, and conduct working sessions and teleconference calls as determined by the Chair.