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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

Agricultural Marketing Service

[CN-01-002]

Cotton Research and Promotion Program: Request for Comments To Be Used in a Review of 1990 Amendments to the Cotton Research and Promotion Act

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is announcing its intention to conduct a review to ascertain whether a referendum is needed to determine whether producers and importers favor continuation of amendments to the Cotton Research and Promotion Order as provided for by the Cotton Research and Promotion Act Amendments of 1990. This notice invites all interested parties to submit written comments to the Department of Agriculture (USDA). USDA will consider these comments in determining whether a referendum is warranted. USDA should announce review results sometime during the latter part of September 2001.

DATES: Comments must be received by June 25, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments concerning this notice to Whitney Rick, Chief, Research and Promotion Staff, Cotton Program, Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA, Stop 0224, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Room 2641-S South Building, Washington, DC 20250-0224. Comments should be submitted in triplicate and will be made available for public inspection at the above address during regular business hours. Comments may also be submitted electronically to: cottoncomments@usda.gov. All comments should reference the docket

number and the date and page number of this issue of the **Federal Register**. A copy of this notice may be found at: www.ams.usda.gov/cotton/rulemaking.htm.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Whitney Rick, Chief, Research and Promotion Staff, Cotton Program, AMS, USDA, Stop 0224, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-0224, telephone (202) 720-2259, facsimile (202) 690-1718 or email at whitney.rick@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Cotton Research and Promotion Act of 1966 (7 U.S.C. 2101 *et seq.*) authorized a national Cotton Research and Promotion Program which is industry operated and funded, with oversight by USDA. The program's objective is to enable cotton growers and importers to establish, finance, and carry out a coordinated program of research and promotion to improve the competitive position of, and to expand markets for cotton.

The program became effective on December 31, 1966, when the Cotton Research and Promotion Order (7 CFR part 1205) was issued. Assessments began with the 1967 cotton crop. The Order was amended and a supplemental assessment initiated, not to exceed one percent of the value of each bale, effective January 26, 1977.

The program is currently financed through assessments levied on domestic and imported cotton and cotton-containing products. Assessments under this program are used to fund promotional campaigns and to conduct research in the areas of U.S. marketing, international marketing, cotton production and processing, and textile research and implementation.

The program is administered by the Cotton Board, which has thirty members, thirty alternate members and one consumer advisor. The Cotton Board is composed of representatives of cotton producers and cotton importers, each of whom has an alternate selected by the Secretary of Agriculture from nominations submitted by eligible producer and importer organizations. All members and their alternates serve terms of three years. The Cotton Board's responsibility is to administer the provisions of the Cotton Research and Promotion Order issued pursuant to the Act. These responsibilities include collecting, holding and safeguarding

funds; making refunds when refunds are a provision of the Order; contracting with an organization for the development and implementation of programs of research and promotion; reviewing and making recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture on proposed programs and budgets; and making funds available for such programs when approved. The objective of the Cotton Research and Promotion Program is to strengthen cotton's competitive position and to maintain and expand domestic and foreign markets and uses for cotton. The Cotton Board is prohibited from participating in any matters influencing governmental policies or action except recommendations for amendments to the Order.

Amendments to the Act were enacted under subtitle G of title XIX of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (Pub. L. 101-624, 104 Stat. 3909, November 28, 1990). These amendments provided for: (1) Importer representation on the Cotton Board; (2) the assessment of imported cotton and cotton products; (3) increasing the amount the Secretary of Agriculture can be reimbursed for conduct of a referendum from \$200,000 to \$300,000; (4) reimbursing government agencies who assist in administering the collection of assessments on imported cotton and cotton products; and (5) terminating the right of a producer to demand a refund of assessments. The Act Amendments of 1990 were approved by a majority (60 percent) of importers and producers of cotton voting in a referendum conducted July 17-26, 1991, as required by the Act. Results of this referendum were announced in a nationally distributed press release dated August 2, 1991.

The Cotton Research and Promotion Act Amendment of 1990, Section 8(c) provides that once every five years after the July 1991 referendum, the Secretary of Agriculture is to conduct a review to ascertain whether a referendum is needed. In such a referendum, producers and importers would determine whether they favor continuation of the amendments to the Order provided for in the Cotton Research and Promotion Act Amendments of 1990. These amendments to the Order were promulgated in final rules published in the **Federal Register** on December 10,

1991 (56 FR 64470), corrected at (56 FR 66670).

The results of the first review report of the Cotton Research and Promotion Program were issued on October 8, 1996. USDA announced its view (61 FR 52772) not to conduct a referendum regarding the 1991 amendments to the Order. In accordance with Section 8(c)(2) of the Act, USDA provided an opportunity for all eligible persons to request a continuance referendum on the 1991 amendments by making such a request during a sign-up period. During the period of January 15 through April 14, 1997, the Department conducted a sign-up period for all eligible persons to request a continuance referendum on the 1990 Act amendments. The results of the sign-up period did not meet the criteria established for a continuance referendum by the Cotton Research and Promotion Act and therefore, a referendum was not conducted.

In 2001, in accordance with the provisions of the Act, the Secretary of Agriculture will conduct a review of the Cotton Research and Promotion Program Act amendments to ascertain whether a referendum is needed to determine whether producers and importers support continuation of the amendments to the Order, as provided for by the 1990 Act amendments. The Secretary of Agriculture should make a public announcement of the results of the review on September 24, 2001 (60 days after each fifth anniversary date of the referendum). If the Secretary of Agriculture determines that a referendum is needed, the Secretary of Agriculture should conduct the referendum by September 24, 2002 (within 12 months after a public announcement of the determination to conduct the referendum).

If the Secretary determines that a referendum is not warranted, a sign-up period to request such a referendum will be made available to cotton producers and importers. A referendum will be held if requested by 10 percent or more of those voting in the most recent referendum as long as not more than 20 percent are from any one State or importers of cotton. This sign-up period would begin approximately November 25, 2001 and would be announced in the **Federal Register**. If the requisite number of people request a referendum, it will be held not later than February 2003. A ninety-day comment period is provided for interested persons to provide comments to be used by USDA in its review. All interested persons are invited to submit written comments.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 2101–2118.

Dated: March 19, 2001.

Kenneth C. Clayton,

Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Program.

[FR Doc. 01–7395 Filed 3–23–01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Economic Research Service

Notice of Intent To Seek Approval to Collect Information

AGENCY: Economic Research Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104–13) and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations at 5 CFR part 1320 (60 FR 44978, August 29, 1995), this notice announces the Economic Research Service's (ERS) intention to request approval for a new information collection from Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) State agencies. The study will collect existing data from the State agencies related to administrative cost reimbursement of sponsoring organizations that administer the family day care homes (FDCH) portion of the Program.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by May 25, 2001 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Address all comments concerning this Notice to Linda Ghelfi, Food Assistance and Rural Economy Branch, Food and Rural Economics Division, Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1800 M Street, NW., Washington, DC 20036–5831, 202–694–5437. Submit electronic comments to lghelfi@ers.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: CACFP Administrative Cost Reimbursement Study.

OMB Number: Not yet assigned.

Expiration Date: N/A.

Type of Request: Approval for the collection of existing data from CACFP State agencies pertaining to the sponsoring organizations that administer the Program to family day care homes (FDCH).

Abstract: USDA needs to obtain budgetary and cost information on FDCH sponsoring organizations in order to assess the CACFP administrative cost reimbursement system. Such knowledge will help the USDA determine whether future changes in that reimbursement system are warranted. Currently, very little administrative data are collected at

the national level on the operations of the CACFP administrative cost reimbursement system. The last national study of those costs collected data in 1980.

To evaluate how sponsoring organizations are being reimbursed for administering family day care homes, information must be obtained from the State agencies that administer the CACFP. Existing information to be collected from the State agencies includes:

- FY2001 administrative budget and supporting documentation for each sponsoring organization
- FY2000 administrative costs reimbursement; food reimbursement; actual administrative costs, if available; and final budget amount for each sponsoring organization
- Sponsor Characteristics, including type of organization (public vs. private and multi vs. sole purpose), geographic area of operations, length of time in the Program, and numbers of sponsored homes by tier for selected months in FY2000 and FY2001.

USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) conducted management improvement training during FY2000 that impacted the format, consistency, and detail in the budgets submitted by the sponsoring organizations to their State agencies. For this reason, FY2001 budgets contain more detail on cost categories, such as wages, benefits, office rent, and supplies, than earlier years' budgets. However, in order to provide information on the relationships among reimbursements, budgets, costs, and sponsor characteristics in a timely and useful manner, end-of-year totals and sponsor characteristics are required from FY2000.

The data will be collected on a one-time basis in 2001, to provide USDA and Congress with information to inform policy and program decisions sufficiently in advance of reauthorization.

The FY2001 budgets are expected to be readily available for clerical staff to photocopy. The FY2001 budgets are one to two pages and the budget justification is expected to average approximately 10 pages. This justification explains what costs the sponsor has reported in each budget category and will allow an analysis of budgets by types of expenses. State requests for budget changes or clarifications will most often be a few pages of correspondence between the State and the sponsor. Collection of the correspondence that was required for the State to approve the sponsor's budget at time of initial submission will also help clarify how