

Notices

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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

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

August 25, 2008.

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), OIRA_Submission@OMB.EOP.GOV or fax (202) 395-5806 and to Departmental Clearance Office, USDA, OCIO, Mail Stop 7602, Washington, DC 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) 720-8958.

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.

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Title: Phytosanitary Export Certification.

OMB Control Number: 0579-0052.

Summary of Collection: The Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) among other things provides export certification services to assure other countries that the plants and plant products they are receiving from the United States are free of plant pests specified by the receiving country. The Federal Plant Pest Act authorizes the Department to carry out this mission. APHIS will collect information using several forms.

Need and Use of the Information: APHIS will use the information collected to locate shipments, guide inspection, and issue a certificate to meet the requirements of the importing country. Failure to provide this information would have an impact on many U.S. exporters who would no longer be able to engage in the business of exporting plants and plant products overseas.

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

Number of Respondents: 14,900.

Frequency of Responses:

Recordkeeping; Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 1,775,880.

Animal Plant and Health Inspection Service

Title: Foreign Animal Disease (Emerging Disease Investigation (FAD/ED) Database).

OMB Control Number: 0579-0071.

Summary of Collection: Title 7, U.S.C. 8301, The Animal Health Protection Act, authorizes the Secretary to prevent, control, and eliminate contagious, infectious, and communicable diseases. Through the Foreign Animal Disease Surveillance Program, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) compiles essential epidemiological and diagnostic data that are used to define foreign animal diseases (FAD) and their risk factors. The data is compiled through the Veterinary Services Emergency Management Response System, a Web-based database for reporting investigations of suspected FAD occurrences.

Need and Use of the Information: APHIS collects information such as the purpose of the diagnostician's visit to the site, the name and address of the owner/manager, the type of operation being investigated, the number of and type of animals on the premises, whether any animals have been moved to or from the premises and when this movement occurred, number of sick or dead animals, the results of physical examinations of the affected animals, the results of postmortem examinations, and the number and kinds of samples taken, and the name of the suspected disease. This information assists APHIS personnel in detecting and eradicating foreign animal disease incursions. Without the information, APHIS has no way to detect and monitor foreign animal disease outbreaks in the United States.

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

Number Of Respondents: 2,640.

Frequency Of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 2,640.

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Title: ISA—Payment of Indemnity.

OMB Control Number: 0579-0192.

Summary of Collection: Federal regulation contained in 9 CFR Subchapter B governs cooperative programs to control and eradicate communicable diseases of livestock from the United States. Infectious Salmon Anemia (ISA) poses a substantial threat to the economic viability and sustainability of salmon aquaculture in the United States and abroad. ISA is the clinical disease resulting from infection with the ISA virus; signs include hemorrhaging, anemia, and lethargy. The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) will collect information using VS Form 1-22 ISA Program Enrollment Form and VS Form 1-23 All Species Appraisal & Indemnity Claim Form.

Need and Use of the Information: Each program participant must sign an ISA Program Enrollment Form in which they agree to participate fully in USDA's and the State of Maine's ISA Program. APHIS will collect the owner's name and address, the number of fish for which the owner is seeking payment, and the appraised value of each fish. The owner must also certify as to whether the fish are subject to a

mortgage. Without the information it would be impossible for APHIS to launch its program to contain and prevent ISA outbreaks in the United States.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit.

Number of Respondents: 2.

Frequency of Responses:

Recordkeeping; Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 644.

Ruth Brown,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. E8-20059 Filed 8-28-08; 8:45 am]

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Farm Service Agency

Title: Report of Acreage.

OMB Control Number: 0560-0004.

Summary of Collection: 7 U.S.C.

7333(b)(3) specifically requires, for crops and commodities covered by the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), annual reports of acreage planted and prevented from being planted, as required by the Secretary, by the designated acreage reporting data for the crop and location as established by the Secretary. The report of acreage is conducted on an annual basis and is used by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) county offices to determine eligibility for benefits that are available to producers on the farm. Respondents must provide the information each year because variables such as previous year experience, weather occurrences and projections, market demand, new farming techniques and personal preferences affect the amount of land being farmed, the mix of crops planted, and the projected harvest. Prior year information is not sufficient on its own. Therefore, respondents must supply current data on a program year basis by the final reporting date established for their country to qualify for NAP assistance.

Need and Use of the Information: FSA will collect information verbally from the producers during visits to the county offices. FSA will collect one or more of the following data elements, as required: Crop planted, planting date, crop's intended use, type or variety, practice (irrigated or non-irrigated), acres, location of the crop (tract and field), and the producer's percent share in the crop along with the names of other producers having an interest in the crop. Once the information is collected and eligibility established, the information is used throughout the crop year to ensure the producer remains compliant with program provisions. If information is not reported, FSA has no basis to calculate APH, losses could not be determined, and information for crop insurance expansion could not be provided to RMA.

Description of Respondents:

Individuals or households.

Number of Respondents: 291,500.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Annually.

Total Burden Hours: 619,438.

Farm Service Agency

Title: Offer Forms.

OMB Control Number: 0560-0177.

Summary of Collection: The Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954, as amended, (Title II, Pub. L. 480), Section 416(b) of the Agricultural Act of 1949, as amended (Section 416(b)), and the Food for Progress Act of 1985, as amended (for Food for Progress) authorizes International Procurement Division to procure, sell, and transport agricultural commodities, and obtain discharge/delivery survey information. Contractors, vendors, and steamship companies submit competitive offers for agricultural commodities and services. The Farm Service Agency (FSA) will collect information using several forms.

Need and Use of the Information: The information collected will enable Kansas City Commodity Office (KCCO) to evaluate offers impartially, purchase or sell commodities, and obtain services to meet domestic and export program needs. Without the information KCCO could not meet program requirements.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit.

Number of Respondents: 949.

Frequency of Responses:

Recordkeeping; Reporting: On occasion; Quarterly; Weekly; Semi-annually; Monthly; Annually; Other (Bi-weekly & Bi-monthly).

Total Burden Hours: 3,405.

Ruth Brown,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. E8-20060 Filed 8-28-08; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service Solicitation of Input From Stakeholders Regarding the Establishment of the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)

AGENCY: Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting and request for stakeholder input.

SUMMARY: The Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) is creating a new research, education, and extension program called the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI). By this notice, CSREES is designated to act on behalf of the Secretary of Agriculture in soliciting public comment from interested persons regarding the implementing regulation to be developed for this new program as required under section 7406 of the