

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

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Docket No. LS-95-016]

Notice of Request for Extension and Revision of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), this notice announces the Agricultural Marketing Service's (AMS) request for comments from the grain industry to improve or change the procedures for collecting information used to compile and generate grain related reports.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before February 26, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Contact Jimmy A. Beard; Assistant to the Chief; Livestock and Grain Market News Branch, Livestock and Seed Division, AMS-USDA, Room 2623 South Building, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jimmy A. Beard, (202) 720-1050.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Grain Market News Reports and Molasses Market News Reports.

OMB Number: 0581-0005.

Expiration Date of Approval: 3-31-96.

Type of Request: Extension and revision of a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: The grain industry has requested that USDA issue market news reports on grain and molasses. These reports are compiled in cooperation with the grain and feed industry and AMS. Market news reporting must be timely, accurate, and continuous if it is to be useful to producers, processors,

and the trade in general. Industry traders can use market news information to make marketing decisions on when and where to buy and sell. For example, a producer could compare prices being paid at local, terminal, or export elevators to determine which location will provide the best return. Some traders might choose to chart prices over a period of time in order to determine the most advantageous day of the week to buy or sell, or to determine the most favorable season. In addition, the reports are used by other Government agencies to evaluate market conditions and calculate price levels used for the Farmer-owned Reserve Program. Economists at most major agricultural colleges and universities use the grain and feed market news reports to make short and long-term market projections.

The Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1621), section 203(g) directs and authorizes the collection and dissemination of marketing information including adequate outlook information, on a market area basis, for the purpose of anticipating and meeting consumer requirements aiding in the maintenance of farm income and to bring about a balance between production and utilization.

The grain industry could not collect the information themselves as they would not want to divulge their information to competitors, and exchange of such information between competitors would violate antitrust laws. Consequently, the information must be collected, compiled, and disseminated by an impartial third-party, in a manner which protects the confidentiality of the reporter. Also, since the Government is a large purchaser of grain and related products, a system to monitor the collection and reporting of data is needed.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .0833 hours per response.

Respondents: Business or other for profit, individuals or households, farms, Federal Government.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 160.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 52.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 204 hours.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Jimmy A. Beard,

Livestock and Grain Market News Branch, at (202) 720-1050.

Send comments regarding the accuracy of the burden estimate, ways to minimize the burden, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology, or any other aspect of this collection of information, to: Jimmy A. Beard, Assistant to the Chief, Livestock and Grain Market News Branch, Livestock and Seed Division, AMS-USDA, Room 2623 South Building, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456.

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, and will be made available at the address above during regular business hours.

Dated: December 18, 1995.

Lon Hatamiya,

Administrator.

[FR Doc. 95-31273 Filed 12-26-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

[Docket No. LS-95-015]

Notice of Request for Extension and Revision of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), this notice announces the Agricultural Marketing Service's (AMS) request for comments from the livestock and meat industry to improve or change the procedures for collecting information used to compile and generate the Federally Inspected Estimated Daily Slaughter Report.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before February 26, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Jimmy A. Beard; Assistant to the Chief; Livestock and Grain Market News Branch, Livestock and Seed Division, AMS-USDA, Room 2623 South Building, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jimmy A. Beard, (202)720-1050.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Plan for Estimating Daily Livestock Slaughter Under Federal Inspection.

OMB Number: 0581-0050.

Expiration Date of Approval: 04-30-96.

Type of Request: Extension and revision of a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: Estimated daily livestock slaughter estimates are provided at the request of industry and are used to make production and marketing decisions. Slaughter information which is obtained from individual packers is confidential. Divulging individual information would provide competitors with an economic advantage.

The Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1621), section 203(g) directs and authorizes the collection and dissemination of marketing information including adequate outlook information, on a market area basis, for the purpose of anticipating and meeting consumer requirements aiding in the maintenance of farm income and to bring about a balance between production and utilization.

The Daily Estimated Livestock Slaughter Under Federal Inspection Report is used by a wide range of industry contacts, including packers, processors, producers, brokers, and retailers of meat and meat products. The livestock and meat industry requested that USDA issue slaughter estimates (daily and weekly), by species, for cattle, calves, hogs, and sheep in order to assist them in making immediate production and marketing decisions and as a guide to the volume of meat in the marketing channel. The information solicited from respondents includes their estimation of the current day's slaughter at their plant(s) and the actual slaughter for the previous day.

The industry could not collect the information themselves as they would not want to divulge their information to competitors, and exchange of such information between competitors would violate antitrust laws. Consequently, the information must be collected, compiled, and disseminated by an impartial third party, in a manner which protects the confidentiality of the reporter. Industry has grown to depend on the slaughter information for assistance to make marketing and production decisions. Also, since the Government is a large purchaser of meat, a system to monitor the collection and reporting of data is needed.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .01667 hours per response.

Respondents: Business or other for-profit, individuals or households, farms, Federal Government.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 77.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 260.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 854 hours.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Jimmy A. Beard, Livestock and Grain Market News Branch, at (202)720-1050.

Send comments regarding the accuracy of the burden estimate, ways to minimize the burden, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology, or any other aspect of this collection of information, to: Jimmy A. Beard, Assistant to the Chief, Livestock and Grain Market News Branch, Livestock and Seed Division, AMS-USDA, Room 2623 South Building, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456.

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, and will be made available at the address above, during regular business hours.

Dated: December 18, 1995.

Lon Hatamiya,

Administrator.

[FR Doc. 95-31277 Filed 12-26-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

[FV-96-353]

Information About Legislative Changes In License Fees Under The Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This document gives notice to the public of changes in the fee structure of licenses under the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act (PACA).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

M.A. Clancy, PACA Branch, USDA, AMS, F&V Division, P.O. Box 96456, Room 2715-So. Bldg., Washington, D.C., 20090-6456, 202-720-2814.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Public Law 104-48, the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act Amendments of 1995, signed by President Clinton on November 15, 1995, restructured the license fees to be paid by PACA licensees. The PACA Amendments of 1995 phases out, over a 3 year period, annual license fees for retailers and

grocery wholesalers, and increases the base fee from \$400 to \$550 for all other licensees during that period. The \$200 fee for each branch or additional business facility, in excess of nine, and the maximum aggregate fee of \$4000 remain unchanged, with the exception for retailers and grocery wholesalers noted below.

During the phase-out period, the new license and annual renewal fee for retailers and grocery wholesalers will be as follows:

A. From November 15, 1995, through November 14, 1996, \$400 plus \$200 for each branch or additional business facility operated by the applicant, in excess of nine. In no case shall the aggregate annual fees paid by any applicant exceed \$4,000.

B. From November 15, 1996 through November 14, 1997, the annual fee will be 75 percent of the aggregate fee paid under paragraph "A."

C. From November 15, 1997 through November 14, 1998, the annual fee will be 50 percent of the aggregate fee paid under paragraph "A."

At the end of the 3 year phase-out period, as of November 15, 1998, and thereafter, retailer and grocery wholesalers will not be required to pay license fees and new retailer and grocery wholesaler applicants will pay a one-time administrative fee of \$100. Other licensees and new applicants will continue to pay \$550 plus branch fees, or whatever fee is prescribed by the Secretary under rulemaking authority provided in the PACA Amendments of 1995 to cover the cost of the PACA program. Whether required to pay license fees or not, all licensees will continue to be required to file license applications or renewals.

Dated: December 18, 1995.

Shirley R. Watkins,

Acting Assistant Secretary, Marketing and Regulatory Programs.

[FR Doc. 95-31276 Filed 12-26-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

Forest Service

Southwest Oregon Provincial Interagency Executive Committee (PIEC), Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Southwest Oregon PIEC Advisory Committee will meet on January 17, 1996 at the Riverside Motel, 971 SE 6th Street, Grants Pass, Oregon. The meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m. and continue until 4:30 p.m. Agenda items to be covered include: (1)