

Notices

Federal Register

Vol. 61, No. 75

Wednesday, April 17, 1996

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

National Agricultural Statistics Service

Notice of Intent To Extend and Revise Three Currently Approved Information Collections

AGENCY: National Agricultural Statistics 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 National Agricultural Statistics Service's (NASS) intention to combine three currently approved information collections: the Pesticide Data/Water Quality Program, the Farm Costs and Returns Survey, and the Sugarcane Processors Survey.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by June 21, 1996 to be assured for consideration.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS: Contact Rich Allen, Associate Administrator, National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-2000, (202) 720-4333.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Agricultural Resource Management Study.

OMB Number: 0535-0218.

Expiration Date of Approval: September 30, 1996.

Type of Request: Intent to extend, revise and merge three currently approved information collections.

Abstract: The Agricultural Resource Management Study is a joint effort between the National Agricultural Statistics Service and the Economic Research Service. A primary objective of the National Agricultural Statistics Service is to collect data on farm

pesticide usage, commodity production practices and costs, and whole farm economics. A primary objective of the Economic Research Service is to provide analyses of these collected data. These data are collected under the authority of 7 U.S.C. 2204(a). Individually identifiable data collected under this authority are governed by Section 1770 of the Food Security Act of 1985, 7 U.S.C. 2276, which requires USDA to afford strict confidentiality to non-aggregated data provided by respondents.

The Pesticide Data/Water Quality Program (0535-0218) collects basic pesticide statistics in order to prepare and issue current State and national estimates. Statistics are published on acres treated, rate of application, number of applications, and total amount applied per crop year by active ingredient for vegetables, fruits, and field crops. The Economic Research Service utilizes reported pest management practices, production characteristics, and expenses to evaluate the economic health and measure the adoption of production practices. Other Federal agencies use the aggregate data in their assessment of environmental issues. This statistical information is used by producers, chemical manufacturers and suppliers, processors, and others in the environmental arena as a basis for ensuring a safe food and water supply. Government agencies use these estimates to evaluate chemical use and production decisions.

The Farm Costs and Returns Survey (0535-0125) determines the financial situation of farm businesses and farm operator households, including measurements of net farm income, farm production expenditures, and farm assets and debt; relates farm operator management strategies to the financial situation of the business; and estimates costs of production for individual crop and livestock commodities. The Sugarcane Processors Survey (0536-0008), formerly conducted by the Economic Research Service, estimates cane sugar costs of production. This information is used by Congress, the Department of Agriculture, farm organizations, and agricultural business to evaluate farm policies. Net farm income estimates are used by the Department of Commerce to develop National Income and Product Accounts

for the United States. The aggregate data are also used to complete a mandated annual report to Congress on the status of family farms.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 60 minutes per response.

Respondents: Farms.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 48,000.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 48,000 hours.

Copies of this information collection and related instructions can be obtained without charge from Larry Gambrell, the Agency OMB Clearance Officer, at (202) 720-5778.

Comments

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 will have 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: Larry Gambrell, Agency OMB Clearance Officer, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 14th and Independence Ave., SW, Room 4162 South Building, Washington, D.C. 20250-2000.

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.

Signed at Washington, D.C., April 11, 1996.

Donald M. Bay,

Administrator, National Agricultural Statistics Service.

[FR Doc. 96-9461 Filed 4-16-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-20-M