

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

April 12, 1996.

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 these information collections are best assured of having their full effect if received within 30 days of this notification. Comments should be addressed to: Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Washington, D.C. 20503 and to Department Clearance Officer, USDA, OIRM, Ag Box 7630, Washington, D.C. 20250-7630. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling (202) 720-6204 or (202) 720-6746.

- **Title:** Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant Program.

Summary: The program provides grants to rural community facilities, such as schools, hospitals, and medical centers; to encourage, improve, and make affordable the use of advanced telecommunications and computer networks to provide educational and medical benefits to people living in rural areas.

Need and Use of the Information: This information is required to determine eligibility; specific purpose for which the grant will be used; project feasibility; need for improved educational or medical facility, etc.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit.

Number of Respondents: 200.

Frequency of Responses:

Recordkeeping; Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 10,626.

- **Title:** National Hunger Clearinghouse Database Form.

Summary: The Healthy Meals for Healthy Americans Act of 1994 mandated that FCS enter into a contract with a nongovernmental organization to establish and maintain an information clearinghouse for groups that assist low-income individuals or communities regarding nutrition or other assistance. In order to establish the clearinghouse database a form seeking updated program and mailing information will be sent to related organizations.

Need and Use of the Information: This project has been Congressionally mandated to provide a resource for organizations working to improve the nutrition and health of low-income Americans. The information provided by the clearinghouse database will enable their group to do a better job of assisting needy persons.

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

Number of Respondents: 11,917.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Annually.

Total Burden Hours: 993.

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

Summary: This collection requests clearance of a pool of questions and sampling alternatives to be used in establishing baseline and monitoring trends in some areas for critical use and user characteristics for representative forest service wilderness areas. Recreational visitors will be sampled.

Need and Use of the Information: Information collected will be used in wilderness planning and management by all Federal Agencies that manage wilderness and by Congress and the public in understanding the changing uses and expectations of wilderness.

Description of Respondents: Individuals or households.

Number of Respondents: 1000.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On-Occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 416.

- **Title:** FS Mail Issuance Report.
Summary: Title 7 CFR 276.2(b) requires a mail issuance loss reporting level plan for food stamps. The plan is established by those State agencies using a mail issuance system for coupon delivery. The plan reflects the issuance sites or counties that comprise each administrative unit. The State agencies shall report the number and value of all

invoices which do not reconcile with the record-for-issuance and/or master issuance file.

Need and Use of the Information: The purpose is to collect management information to assess mail issuance losses and hold State agencies liable for a portion of those losses.

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

Number of Respondents: 2,515.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Quarterly.

Total Burden Hours: 3,139.

Donald E. Hulcher,

Deputy Departmental Clearance Officer.

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Office of the Secretary

[Docket No. 96-016-4]

Declaration of Extraordinary Emergency Because of Karnal Bunt

On March 25, 1996, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (the Department) published in the Federal Register a notice of "Declaration of Extraordinary Emergency Because of Karnal Bunt" (61 FR 12508, Docket No. 96-016-1). At the time of the notice, Karnal bunt, an exotic fungal disease, had been detected in Arizona, and contaminated seed had been sent to New Mexico and Texas. Since publication of the notice, Karnal bunt has also been detected in California.

Karnal bunt (*Tilletia indica*) is a serious disease of wheat, durum wheat, and triticale, a hybrid of wheat and rye. The disease affects both yield and grain quality. It adversely affects the color, odor, and palatability of flour and other foodstuffs made from wheat. It does not present a risk to human health.

If Karnal bunt is allowed to spread, the overall crop loss and impact on quality may be significant. The disease could affect United States grain exports. The United States is the world's leading wheat exporter, accounting for one-third of the world wheat exports. Wheat exports from the United States were valued at \$4.9 billion in Fiscal Year 1995. At least 28 countries are known to regulate or prohibit grain movement on the basis of Karnal bunt.

Control and eradication of Karnal bunt is difficult. Management of the disease is through quarantine and