

inspection during regular business hours at the same address.

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.

Dated: March 12, 1997.

Robert C. Keeney,

Director, Fruit and Vegetable Division.

[FR Doc. 97-6784 Filed 3-17-97; 8:45 am]

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[Docket No. FV97-927-1 NC]

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

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Proposed collection; comments requested.

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) intention to request an extension for and revision to a currently approved information collection for Winter Pears Grown in Oregon, Washington, and California, Marketing Order No. 927.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by May 19, 1997 to be assured of consideration.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS: Contact Teresa L. Hutchinson, Marketing Specialist, Northwest Marketing Field Office, Fruit and Vegetable Division, AMS, USDA, 1220 SW Third Avenue, Room 369, Portland, OR 97204, Telephone: (503) 326-2055, Fax: (503) 326-7440.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Winter Pears Grown in Oregon, Washington, and California, Marketing Order 927.

OMB Number: 0581-0089.

Expiration Date of Approval: September 30, 1997.

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

Abstract: Marketing order programs provide an opportunity for producers of fresh fruits, vegetables and specialty crops, in a specified production area, to work together to solve marketing problems that cannot be solved individually. Order regulations help ensure adequate supplies of high quality product and adequate returns to producers. Under the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937 (AMAA), as amended (7 U.S.C. 601-674), marketing order programs are

established if favored in referendum among producers. The handling of the commodity is regulated. The Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to oversee the order's operations and issue regulations recommended by a committee of representatives from each commodity industry.

The information collection requirements in this request are essential to carry out the intent of the AMAA, to provide the respondents the type of service they request, and to administer the winter pear marketing order program, which has been operating since 1939.

The winter pear marketing order authorizes the issuance of grade, size, quality, inspection, and reporting requirements for any variety of winter pear. Currently grade, size, quality, and inspection requirements are not being used. The marketing order also provides authority to fund projects involving production research, marketing research and development, and marketing promotion, including paid advertising. The order, and rules and regulations issued thereunder, authorize the Winter Pear Control Committee (committee), which is responsible for locally administering the program, to require handlers and growers to submit certain information. Much of the information is compiled in aggregate and provided to the industry to assist in marketing decisions.

The Committee has developed forms as a convenience to persons who are required to file information with the Committee relating to winter pear production and supplies, shipments, inventories, and other information needed to effectively carry out the purposes of the AMAA and the order. A USDA form is used to allow growers to vote on amendments or continuance of the marketing order. In addition, winter pear growers and handlers who are nominated by their peers to serve as representatives on the committee must file nomination forms with the Secretary.

These forms require the minimum information necessary to effectively carry out the requirements of the order, and their use is necessary to fulfill the intent of the AMAA as expressed in the order.

The information collected is used only by authorized representatives of the USDA, including AMS, Fruit and Vegetable Division regional and headquarter's staff, and authorized employees of the committee. Authorized committee employees and the industry are the primary users of the information and AMS is the secondary user.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 0.7546 hours per response.

Respondents: Winter pear producers and for-profit businesses handling fresh winter pears produced in Oregon, Washington, and California.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1,890.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 2.4714

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 3,570 hours.

Comments are invited on: (1) 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; (2) 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; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) 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 should reference OMB No. 0581-0089 and the Winter Pear Marketing Order No. 927, and be sent to USDA in care of Teresa Hutchinson at the address above. All comments received will be available for public inspection during regular business hours at the same address.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record.

Dated: March 12, 1997.

Robert C. Keeney,

Director, Fruit and Vegetable Division.

[FR Doc. 97-6785 Filed 3-17-97; 8:45 am]

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Agricultural Research Service

Notice of Intent to Seek Approval to Collect Information

AGENCY: Agricultural 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