

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. FV97-932-1 NC]

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) intention to request an extension for and revision of a currently-approved information collection for olives grown in California, Marketing Order 932 (7 CFR 932).

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by June 9, 1997 to be assured of consideration.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS: Contact Terry Vawter, Marketing Specialist, California Marketing Field Office, Fruit and Vegetable Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 2202 Monterey Street, Suite 102B, Fresno, CA 93721, Tel: (209) 487-5901, Fax: (209) 487-5906.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Olives Grown in California, Marketing Order No. 932.

OMB Number: 0581-0142.

Expiration Date of Approval: September 30, 1997.

Type of Request: Intent to extend and revise 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 good 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 by producers in referenda. The handling of the commodity is regulated. The Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to oversee order 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 California olive marketing order program.

The California olive marketing order, which has been operating since 1965, authorizes the issuance of grade and size standards, and inspection requirements. The order also has authority for research and development projects, including paid advertising. Pursuant to section 608(e)(1) of the AMAA, import grade and condition requirements are implemented on olives imported into the United States.

The order and its rules and regulations authorize the California Olive Committee (committee), the agency responsible for local administration of the order, to require handlers and producers to submit certain information. Much of this information is compiled in aggregate and provided to the industry to assist in marketing decisions.

The committee has developed forms as a means for persons to file required information with the committee relating to olives supplies, shipments, dispositions, and other information necessary to effectively carry out the purpose of the Act and the order. California olives are shipped year-round and these forms are used accordingly. A USDA form is used to allow growers to vote on amendments to or continuance of the order.

Olive producers who are nominated by their peers to serve as representatives on the committee must file nomination forms with the Secretary. Handler representatives must also file nomination forms with the Secretary.

Since the previous submission, there has been a decrease in the number of

handlers; and, therefore, the number of recordkeepers. In addition, all current handlers have representatives on the committee. Handlers are also required to file forms relating to the receipt, storage, use, disposition, inventory, and shipments of olives.

Formal rulemaking amendments to the order must be approved in referenda conducted by the Secretary. Also, the Secretary may conduct a continuance referendum to determine industry support for continuation of the order. Handlers are asked to sign an agreement to indicate their willingness to abide by the provisions of the order whenever the order is amended. These forms are included in this request.

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, and the rules and regulations issued under 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 .28 hours per response.

Respondents: California olive producers and handlers.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 692.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 19.82.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 3,881 hours.

Comments: Comments are invited on: (1) Whether the proposed collection of the 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. 0581-0142 and California Olive Marketing Order No. 932, and be sent to the USDA in care of Terry Vawter, Marketing Specialist, California Marketing Field Office, Fruit and Vegetable Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 2202 Monterey Street, Suite 102B, Fresno, CA 93721. 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: April 1, 1997.

Robert C. Keeney,

Director, Fruit and Vegetable Division.

[FR Doc. 97-8903 Filed 4-7-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

[No. LS-97-006]

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) intention to request an extension of and revision to the currently approved collections of information for 7 CFR Part 54—Meats, Prepared Meats, and Meat Products (Grading, Certification, and Standards), which includes Form LS-313, "Application for Grading or Certification Service" and Form LS-315, "Application for Commitment Grading or Certification Service."

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by June 9, 1997, to be assured consideration.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS: Contact Terry L. Lutz, Assistant to the Chief, Meat Grading and Certification Branch, Livestock and Seed Division, AMS, USDA, STOP 0248, Room 2628-S, P.O. BOX 96456, Washington, DC 20090-6456, Telephone (202) 720-1114, or FAX (202) 690-4119.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: 7 CFR Part 54—Meats, Prepared Meats, and Meat Products (Grading, Certification, and Standards).

OMB Number: 0581-0124.

Expiration Date of Approval: September 30, 1997.

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

Abstract: The application for meat grading and certification services requests Department of Agriculture employees to perform such services in the requesting establishment. The information contained on the applications constitutes an agreement between USDA and the requesting establishment.

The Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, as amended, authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to provide voluntary Federal meat grading and certification services that facilitate the marketing of meat and meat products. The Meat Grading and Certification (MGC) Branch provides these services pursuant to 7 CFR Part 54—Meats, Prepared Meats, and Meat Products (Grading, Certification, and Standards).

Due to the voluntary nature of grading and certification services, 7 CFR Part 54 contains provisions for the collection of fees from users of MGC Branch services that as nearly as possible are equal to the cost of providing the requested services. Applicants (individual or businesses with financial interest in the product) may request MGC Branch services through either submission of Form LS-313 or Form LS-315.

Congress did not specifically authorize this collections of information, but as a user-fee branch, completion and submission of Form LS-313 or Form LS-315 serves as an agreement by the requester to pay for services provided.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .0208 hours per response.

Respondents: Livestock and meat industry or other for-profit businesses.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1,154.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 21.028.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 504 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 may be sent to Terry L. Lutz, Assistant to the Chief, Meat Grading and Certification Branch, Livestock and Seed Division, AMS, USDA, STOP 0248, Room 2628-S, P.O. BOX 96456, Washington, DC 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.

Dated: April 2, 1997.

Barry L. Carpenter,

Director, Livestock and Seed Division.

[FR Doc. 97-8923 Filed 4-7-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food and Consumer Service

Nutrition Program for the Elderly; Initial Level of Assistance From October 1, 1996 to September 30, 1997

AGENCY: Food and Consumer Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the initial level of per-meal assistance for the Nutrition Program for the Elderly (NPE) for Fiscal Year 1997. The Fiscal Year 1997 initial level of assistance is set at \$.5857 for each eligible meal in accordance with section 311(a)(4) of the Older Americans Act of 1965, as amended by section 310 of the Older Americans Act Amendments of 1992 and preempted by the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1996. This is a slight reduction from the Fiscal Year 1996 level of \$.5864. The appropriation for the program was decreased from \$150 million in Fiscal Year 1996 to \$140 million in Fiscal Year 1997.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ellen Henigan, Chief, Schools and Institutions Branch, Food Distribution Division, Food and Consumer Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, Virginia 22302-1594 or telephone (703) 305-2644.