

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.