

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 11, 1997.

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 (a) Whether the 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 burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; (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 should be addressed to: Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Washington, DC 20503 and to Department Clearance Office, USDA, OCIO, Mail Stop 7602, Washington, DC 20250-7602. Comments regarding these information collections are best assured of having their full effect if received within 30 days of this notification. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling (202) 720-6204 or (202) 720-6746.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number and the agency informs potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information that such persons are not required to respond to the collection of information unless it

displays a currently valid OMB control number.

• Rural Utilities Service

Title: Distance Learning and Telemedicine Loan and Grant Program (7 CFR 1703, Subpart D).

OMB Control Number: 0572-0096.

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 in order to determine eligibility; specific purpose for which 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: 300.

Frequency of Responses: Recordkeeping; Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 18,998.

• Agricultural Marketing Service

Title: Tart Cherries Grown in the States of Michigan, New York, Pennsylvania, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wisconsin.

OMB Control Number: 0581-0177.

Summary: The USDA needs information from growers to select committee numbers, to conduct referenda, and to amend the marketing order and agreement.

Need and Use of the Information: The information is used to regulate the provisions of Marketing Order No. 930.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit; Farms.

Number of Respondents: 1,268.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 990.

Donald Hulcher,

Departmental Clearance Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Office of the Chief Information Officer; Granting of Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS) Waiver for Digital Signature Standard

AGENCY: Office of the Chief Information Officer, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

ACTION: Notice of granting of FIPS waiver request.

SUMMARY: The Chief Information Officer has granted a waiver to the Agricultural Marketing Service to use Rivest, Shamir, and Adleman (RSA) digital signature technology in lieu of the Digital Signature Standard (DSS) specified by the Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) 186. This waiver was made pursuant to section 111(d) of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 as amended by the Computer Security Act of 1987, Public Law 100-235. The Waiver does not apply to any procurement, but allows use of a capability already available in the agency.

DATES: The waiver takes effect on (date of April 10, 1997) and remains valid for the life of the core software and subject to the demands of the USDA Information System Technology Architecture.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joseph Ware, Chief, Information Management Division, Office of the Chief Information Officer, USDA, 202-690-2118.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) 186, "Digital Signature Standard," establishes a standard for generating a digital signature that can be used to verify that electronic documents originated with the signatory of the document, and to protect the entire document against unauthorized modifications of its text. FIPS 186 allows Federal agency heads to waive use of the FIPS 186 under certain circumstances.

A waiver may be granted if compliance with the standard would adversely affect the accomplishment of the mission of an operator of a Federal computer system.

A waiver may also be granted if compliance with the standard would cause a major adverse financial impact on the operator of a Federal computer