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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Office of the Secretary

Notice and Request for Comments

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Chapter 35, Title 44 United States Code, this notice announces the Department of Agriculture's intention to request an extension on the currently approved information collection in support of debt collection.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by September 22, 1998, to be assured of consideration.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS

CONTACT: Richard M. Guyer, Director, Fiscal Policy Division, Office of the Chief Financial Officer, USDA, Room 3022 South, 1400 Independence Avenue S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250 or FAX (202) 690-1529, telephone: (202) 690-0291, E-mail: DGuyer@cfo.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Debt Collection Act of 1982, Public Law 97-365, 96 Stat. 1749, as amended by Public Law 98-167, 97 Stat. 1104 and the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996, Public Law 104-134 requires that any monies that are payable or may become payable from the United States under contracts and other written agreements to any persons or a legal entity not any agency or subdivision of a State or local government may be subject to administrative offset for the collection of a delinquent debt the person or a legal entity owes to the United States.

Title: Debt Collection.

OMB Number: 0505-0007.

Expiration Date of Approval: September 30, 1998.

Type of Request: Extension on currently approved information collection.

Abstract: 31 U.S.C. 3716 of the Debt Collection Act authorizes the collection of debts by administrative offset and the Debt Collection Improvement Act of

1996, expanded the application of administrative offset to every instance except where a statute explicitly prohibits the use of administrative offset for collection purposes. Protection is provided to debtors by requiring that an individual debtor be given notice of a debt. The notice provides information to delinquent debtors targeted for administrative offset who want additional information; desire to enter into repayment agreements; or desire to request a review of agencies' determination to offset. Creditor agencies use the collected information to respond to and/or take appropriate action. If the relevant information is not collected, the creditor agencies cannot comply with the due process provision of the Debt Collection Act and the Debt Collection Improvement Act. Collection of information only affects delinquent debtors.

Estimate of Burden: A public reporting and record keeping burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response.

Respondents: Delinquent Debtors.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 20,725.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 2.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 41,450 hours.

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

Dated: July 20, 1998.

Allan S. Johnson,

Acting Chief Financial Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

July 20, 1998.

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 Departmental 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) 720-6746.

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.

Food and Nutrition Service

Title: National School Lunch Program.

OMB Control Number: 0584-0006.

Summary of Collection: In conjunction with the Healthy Meals for Children Act of 1996 and the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) proposes amending the information collection requirements for the National School Lunch Program. The revision would add recordkeeping requirements associated with implementing additional menu planning alternatives into the program. Information on menu planning must be reported by school food authorities to State agencies. The plans would include a written description outlining the intended menu planning procedures and how the required elements for alternative menu planning will be met.

Need and Use of the Information: The information will be collected to ensure