

depreciative acts, as well as the extent to which visitors observe them; (8) experience of conflict within and between user groups and managing agency representatives. If the information is not collected resource managers will have to make visitor based decisions on very limited, potentially biased, or non-existent information.

Description of Respondents:

Individuals or households.

Number of Respondents: 3,000.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 750.

National Food and Agriculture Council (NFAC)

Title: Customer Service Information Collections for USDA Service Centers 1999–2001.

OMB Control Number: New.

Summary of Collection: The National Food and Agriculture Council (NFAC), and partner agencies in the USDA Service Center, help the USDA meet the requirements of the President's Executive Order 12862, "Setting Customer Service Standards," which requires agencies to annually "survey customers to determine the kind and quality of services they want and their level of satisfaction with existing services." Improved customer service is the core mission of the USDA Service Centers and participating partner agencies, according to the Secretary. The Service Center Customer Service Team is requesting a generic clearance for customer service information collection activities. The Customer Service Team will collect information using telephone surveys, comment and complaint cards, structured interviews, focus groups and benchmarking studies.

Need and Use of the Information: The Customer Service Team will collect information to develop and publish customer service standards for USDA Service Centers; develop a feedback system for USDA Service Center customer complaints and comments; establish performance measures consistent with GPRA requirements for the information technology investments and the strategic plans of the USDA Service Center partner agencies; and support evaluations of proposed improvements in service and analyses of service delivery by significant demographic and social characteristics. NFAC and the USDA Service Center partner agencies plan to use this information to help meet their responsibilities under GPRA, to improve operations in the USDA Service Center by preserving helpful activities and implementing needed changes.

Description of Respondents: Individuals or households.

Number of Respondents: 56,970.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion; Annually; Other: When need arises as determined by the managing and coordinating group Quality Customer Service Team.

Total Burden Hours: 11,180.

Nancy B. Sternberg,

Departmental Clearance Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Docket No. FV99–997–1 NC]

Notice 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 to a currently approved information collection in support of the Provisions Regulating the Quality of Domestically Produced Peanuts Handled by Persons Not Subject to the Marketing Agreement No. 146 based on changes in program requirements.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by March 26, 1999.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS: Contact Dawana Johnson, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, AMS, USDA, P.O. Box 96456, Room 2525–S, Washington, DC, 20090–6456, Telephone: (202) 720–1755 or Fax: (202) 720–5698.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Provisions Regulating the Quality of Domestically Produced Peanuts Handled by Person's Not Subject to the Peanut Marketing Agreement.

OMB Number: 0581–0163.

Expiration Date of Approval: September 30, 1999.

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

Abstract: Under authority of the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937 (Act), as amended (7 U.S.C. 601–674), Peanut Marketing Agreement No. 146 and the Peanut Administrative Committee (Committee) were

established by the Secretary in 1965 to minimize aflatoxin contamination in peanuts and peanut products. The Agreement was signed by a majority of domestic peanut handlers (signatory handlers). The Committee works with AMS in administering the Agreement.

Pub. L. 101–220, enacted December 12, 1989, amended section 608b of the Act to require that all handlers who have not signed the Agreement (non-signatory handlers) be subject to quality, handling, and inspection requirements to the same extent and manner as are required under the Agreement.

Regulations to implement Pub. L. 101–220 were issued and made effective on December 4, 1990 (55 FR 49983). It is estimated that 5 percent of the domestic peanut crop is marketed by non-signatory handlers and the remainder of the crop is handled by signatory handlers.

The objective of the Agreement and the non-signatory handling regulations (7 CFR part 997) is to ensure that only wholesome peanuts enter edible market channels. Under both regulations, farmers stock peanuts with visible *Aspergillus flavus* mold (the principle source of aflatoxin) are required to be diverted to non-edible uses. Both regulations also provide that shelled peanuts meeting minimum outgoing quality requirements must be chemically analyzed for aflatoxin contamination.

Peanut handlers are business entities that buy raw peanuts from farmers and process them into shelled product (kernels) that is sold to manufacturers who make peanut butter and other peanut products. Under this information collection burden, peanut handlers are respondents and recordkeepers.

A proposed and final rulemaking process, which became effective in January 1997, dramatically reduced the number of information collection burden hours for all domestic peanut handlers. The number of forms required to be filed by non-signatory peanut handlers was reduced from 11 forms to only 2 forms. That action was taken to be consistent with reductions in the reporting requirements made to the Agreement regulations and applied to signatory peanut handlers. The information collection burden for signatory handlers (OMB No. 0581–0067) was revised and approved July 27, 1998. This information collection burden report registers similar reductions in the number of forms and information collection burden for non-signer handlers.

Information formerly needed from the 11 forms has been condensed into 2 forms that must be filed by non-signer

handlers. Some of the information formerly required on the 11 forms is no longer needed because certain non-signer regulations were terminated. That information had to do with restricted and unrestricted peanuts (terms no longer used in the regulations) and disposal of non-edible peanuts to certain outlets (no longer regulated and monitored). Using the 2 forms decreases the estimated total annual burden on handlers by 327 hours, from 591 to 264 hours. Also, the number of total annual responses supplied by handlers for the entire non-signer peanut information collection decreases from 1,500 to 792.

Handlers Monthly Report of Farmers Stock—Form FV-117, deals with each handler's shelled peanuts and what is done with those shelled peanuts to get them ready for sale to manufacturers. This report is filed monthly.

Monthly Report of Dispositions of Peanuts—Form FV-117-1, deals with information on each handler's acquisitions and dispositions of farmers stock peanuts. Farmers stock peanuts are raw, inshell peanuts delivered by farmers to peanut handlers. This report is also filed monthly.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 0.25 hours (15 minutes) per response.

Respondents: Peanut handlers who have not signed the peanut marketing Agreement.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 33.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 24.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 264 hrs.

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, and mechanical or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments should reference OMB No. 0581-0163 and the Provisions Regulating The Quality Of Domestically Produced Peanuts Handled By Persons Not Subject To The Peanut Marketing Agreement (7 CFR Part 997) and be sent

to USDA in care of Dawana Johnson 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 a final request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record.

Dated: January 19, 1999.

Robert C. Keeney,

Deputy Administrator, Fruit and Vegetable Programs.

[FR Doc. 99-1610 Filed 1-22-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

[TM-99-00-1]

Notice of Meeting of the National Organic Standards Board

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) announces a forthcoming meeting of the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB).

DATES: February 9, 1999, at 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; February 10, 1999, from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; and February 11, 1999, from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

PLACE: U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Room 3501 South Building, Washington, D.C. 20250. Phone: (202) 720-3252.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Keith Jones, Program Manager, Room 2945 South Building, U.S. Department of Agriculture, AMS, Transportation and Marketing, National Organic Program, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456 Phone (202) 720-3252.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 2119 (7 U.S.C. 6518) of the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (OFPA), as amended (7 U.S.C. Section 6501 *et seq.*) Requires the establishment of the NOSB. The purpose of the NOSB is to assist in the development of standards for substances to be used in organic production and to advise the Secretary on any other aspects the implementation of OFPA. The NOSB met for the first time in Washington, D.C., in March 1992 and currently has six committees working on various aspects of the program. The committees are: Crops Standards; Processing;

Labeling and Packaging; Livestock Standards; Accreditation; Materials; and International Issues. In August 1994, the NOSB provided its initial recommendations for the National Organic Program (NOP) to the Secretary of Agriculture and since that time has submitted 30 addenda to the recommendations and reviewed more than 170 substances for inclusion on the National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances. The last meeting of the NOSB was held October 27-29, 1998, in Washington, DC. The Department of Agriculture (USDA) published its proposed rule in the **Federal Register** on December 16, 1997 (62 FR 65849). An extension of the comment period on the proposed rule was published in the **Federal Register** on February 9, 1998 (63 FR 6498-6499). The comment period was extended until April 30, 1998. On October 28, 1998, the USDA published for public comment three issue papers in the **Federal Register** (63 FR 57624-57626) The papers addressed certain issues raised during the National Organic Program's proposed rule comment period. The issue papers were: Issue paper 1. Livestock Confinement in Organic Production Systems; Issue Paper 2. The Use of Antibiotics and Parasiticides in Organic Livestock Production; and Paper 3. Termination of Certification by Private Certifiers. Comments received on these papers will be considered during the development of a revised National Organic Program proposed rule. The comment period for the issue papers closed December 14, 1998.

Purpose and Agenda

The principal purpose of this meeting is to provide an opportunity for the NOSB to receive committee reports from its standing and ad hoc committees and to engage working sessions to address issues resulting from the October 1998 NOSB meeting. These issues include, but are not limited to, the International Committee's proposed recommendation on Fumigation, the Livestock Committee's proposed recommendation on Wild Animals, the Accreditation Committee's proposed recommendation on Enforcement Actions, the Interdisciplinary Taskforce's proposal on processing principles and the NOSB's request for comment on criteria for the acceptance of materials used in processing. Additionally, the Agency will give a status report on the proposed rule and characterize for the NOSB public comment on the option papers. Copies of committee proposals can be requested from Ms. Karen Thomas, Room 2510 South Building, U.S. Department of Agriculture, AMS,