

Copies of this information collection and related instructions can be obtained without charge from Larry Gambell, the Agency OMB Clearance Officer, at (202) 720-5778.

Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) 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; (b) 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; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (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. Comments may be sent to: Larry Gambrell, Agency OMB Clearance Officer, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Room 4162 South Building, Washington, D.C. 20250-2000.

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.

Signed at Washington, DC, January 13, 1999.

Rich Allen,

Associate Administrator, National Agricultural Statistics Service.

[FR Doc. 99-1684 Filed 1-25-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-20-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Suspension of Direct and Guaranteed Loans for Hog Production

AGENCY: Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The swine industry is currently in crisis due to over supply and low prices. The Secretary is concerned that, during this period of low prices, the availability of certain RBS credit programs may facilitate additional production capacity that will prolong the current hog price depression. Additional capacity is also likely to damage the prospects for long-term financial recovery in the industry. Continued financial stress on hog

farmers may force and accelerate concentration of the production, processing, and marketing of hogs into fewer hands. This notice temporarily suspends direct Rural Economic Development Loan and Business and Industry Guaranteed Loan financing for the construction of specialized facilities used for the production of hogs.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

William F. Hagy III, Deputy Administrator, Business Programs, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, D.C. 20250-3220, telephone (202) 720-7287.

DATES: January 26, 1999. This notice will be in effect until rescinded by the National Office.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: State Offices shall direct all questions regarding this notice to the Deputy Administrator, Business Programs. Any application for a direct or guaranteed loan for the construction or expansion of a specialized hog production facility will be accepted but held in abeyance until the suspension is lifted. A specialized hog production facility is defined as any building or enclosure and related equipment specifically to house, raise, or feed hogs of any size, age, or market class.

The loan processing time frames will not apply to these applications while the suspension is in effect. The State Office will notify both the applicant and the lender that the application is being held. All guaranteed lenders should be notified of the suspension.

Direct and guaranteed loan applications for purchase, refinancing, maintenance, or repair of facilities currently in production will continue to be processed. Direct and guaranteed loan applications that were received by Rural Development State Offices on or before the date of this notice will be processed through to completion and will not be affected by this temporary suspension. In all other cases, applications will only be processed when the Government's interest will be imperiled if the application is not processed.

Dated: January 14, 1999.

William F. Hagy III,

Acting Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service.

[FR Doc. 99-1505 Filed 1-25-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-XY-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Bureau of the Census

Census 2000 Location Report for American Flag Vessels and Census 2000 Information for American Flag Vessels

ACTION: Proposed collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506 (c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before March 29, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Linda Engelmeier, Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 5327, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the draft forms should be directed to Charles Moore, Bureau of the Census, SFC2, MS-5700, Room 1304, 4301 Suitland Road, Suitland, Maryland 20746, phone number (301) 457-2050.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The Census Bureau must provide everyone in the United States and Outlying Areas the opportunity to be counted in the Census 2000, including persons living on vessels. To that end, the Census Bureau is currently developing final plans for implementing the Census 2000 Maritime Vessel Enumeration activities. The proposed Census 2000 Location Report for American Flag Vessels and Census 2000 Information for American Flag Vessels operation will greatly facilitate the enumeration of the ship board population and is similar to other vessel enumerations conducted in previous censuses. Beginning in 1999 we will work with the Maritime Administration, American Tuna Boat Association, and other vessel organizations to obtain a list of vessel owners/operators. Each owner/operator will be sent a letter asking for a list of ships and an estimated number of crew and passengers. We will then send questionnaire packages to the owners/operators for each vessel they report and ask that they distribute the packages to

their vessels. The packages will consist of shipboard census reports (SCRs) (previously cleared by the Office of Management and Budget), envelopes, Privacy Act Notices, and a Form D-47, Census 2000 Location Report for American Flag Vessels. The ship's captain/master is asked to complete the Location Report and return it with the completed SCRs to the Census Bureau's National Processing Center in Jeffersonville, IN. Each owner/operator is asked to complete a Form D-34, Census 2000 Information for American Flag Vessels for any ship that did not receive a packet. The Census Bureau will use the information on the D-34 to prepare and mail questionnaire packets to these missed ships. The information on the D-47 will be used to geocode each vessel to its correct census geography.

II. Method of Collection

The Census Bureau will mail forms D-34 and D-47 to the owners/operators and ship's captains/masters who will manually complete the forms and return them to the Census Bureau for geocoding and additional questionnaire mailings, as necessary.

III. Data

OMB Number: Not available.

Form Number: D-34, D-47.

Type of Review: Regular Submission.

Affected Public: American flag vessel owners/operators and ship's captains/masters.

Estimated Number of Respondents:

We estimate that 780 American Flag Vessels will be reported to us initially, and that 30 ships will be missed in our initial questionnaire package mailing.

Estimated Time Per Response: Form D-34—2 minutes; Form D-47—5 minutes.

Estimated total Annual Burden: 66 hours.

Estimated total Annual Cost: There is no cost to respondents for providing information on this operation, except for a few minutes of their time.

Respondent's Obligation: Mandatory.

Legal Authority: Title 13, United States Code, Sections 141 and 193.

IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden including hours and cost of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be

collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: January 20, 1999.

Linda Engelmeier,

Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 99-1781 Filed 1-25-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-07-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Bureau of Export Administration

Competitive Enhancement Needs Assessment Survey Program

ACTION: Proposed collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before March 29, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Linda Engelmeier, Departmental Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 5327, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to Dawnielle Battle, Department of Commerce, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, room 4525, Washington, DC, 20230.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The Defense Production Act of 1950, as amended, and Executive Order 12919, authorizes the Secretary of Commerce to assess the capabilities of the defense industrial base to support the national defense and to develop policy alternatives to improve the international competitiveness of specific domestic industries and their abilities to

meet defense program needs. The information collected from voluntary surveys will be used to assist small- and medium-sized firms in defense transition and in gaining access to advanced technologies and manufacturing processes available from Federal Laboratories. The goal is to improve regions of the country adversely by cutbacks in defense spending and military base closures.

II. Method of Collection

Written survey.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0694-0083.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission for extension of a currently approved collection.

Affected Public: Individuals, businesses or other for-profit and not-for-profit institutions.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 5,000.

Estimated Time Per Response: 30 minutes per response.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 2,500.

Estimated Total Annual Cost: \$0 (no capital expenditures are required).

IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: January 21, 1999.

Linda Engelmeier,

Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 99-1782 Filed 1-25-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-JT-P