

Notices

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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

July 19, 2000.

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, D.C. 20503 and to Departmental Clearance Office, USDA, OCIO, Mail Stop 7602, Washington, D.C. 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.

Agricultural Marketing Service

Title: 7 CFR Part 54—Meats, Prepared Meats, and Meat Products (Grading, Certification, and Standards).

OMB Control Number: 0581-0124.

Summary of Collection: The Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, as amended, authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to provide consumers with voluntary Federal meat grading and certification services that facilitate the marketing of meat and meat products. This is accomplished by providing meat and meat products that are uniform in quality. The Meat Grading and Certification (MGC) Branch provides these services under the authority of 7 CFR Part 54—Meats, Prepared Meats, and Meat Products (Grading, Certification, and Standards). The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) will collect information using forms LS-313, "Application for Service," and LS-315, "Application for Commitment Grading or Certification Service."

Need and Use of the Information: AMS will collect information to identify the responsible authorities in establishments requesting services and to initiate billing and collection accounts. A signed and approved application (Form LS-313 or LS-315) constitutes authorization for any employee of AMS to enter the establishment for the purpose of performing official functions under the regulations. Without a properly signed and approved Form LS-313 or LS-315, AMS officials would not have the authority to enter the premises to provide grading and/or certification services nor would users of the services be legally obligated to abide by the regulations or to remit payment for services rendered.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit.

Number of Respondents: 888.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 406.

Agricultural Marketing Service

Title: Olives Grown in California.

OMB Control Number: 0581-0142.

Summary of Collection: Marketing Order 932 (7 CFR Part 932), covering the handling of olives grown in California, emanates from enabling legislation (The Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act

of 1937, Sections 1-19, 48 Stats. 31, as amended; 7 USC 601-674). The order authorizes the issuance of grade and size standards, and incoming and outgoing inspection requirements. The order also has authority for research and development projects, including paid advertising. The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) will collect information using several forms.

Need and Use of the Information: AMS will collect information to determine olive inventories, acquisition of olives, shipments, and disposition. Only authorized representatives of the USDA, including AMS, Fruit and Vegetable Programs' regional and headquarters' staff, and authorized employees of the committee would use the information collected.

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

Number of Respondents: 691.

Frequency of Responses: Recordkeeping; reporting: On occasion; Other (2-6 years)

Total Burden Hours: 2,947.

Food and Nutrition Service

Title: Interoperability Funding Agreement.

OMB Control Number: 0584-NEW.

Summary of Collection: Under Section 7(k) of Pub. L. 106-71, the Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) Interoperability and Portability Act of 2000, the Secretary is required to ensure that electronic benefit transfer (EBT) systems used for the issuance and redemption of food stamp program (FSP) benefits are interoperable and that food stamp benefits are portable among all States by October 1, 2002, except where exemptions apply or a temporary waiver is granted.

Need and Use of the Information: The Interoperability Funding Agreement will inform State agencies of the administrative procedures for requesting enhanced funding for interoperability costs, including prescribed formats for submitting requests for payment and submission deadlines. State agencies that request funding will be required to submit the signed agreement concurrent with the State agency's first request for payment for each fiscal year, indicating that it agrees to comply with the procedures established by the Department. If the agreement is not submitted it would prevent the Food and Nutrition Service from obligating enhanced funding each fiscal year for

interoperability costs incurred by State agencies.

Description of Respondents: State, Local, or Tribal Government.

Number of Respondents: 51.

Frequency of Responses: Recordkeeping; reporting: Annually.

Total Burden Hours: 38.

Agency is requesting an emergency approval by 7/31/00.

Nancy B. Sternberg,

Departmental Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 00-18695 Filed 7-24-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Research Service

Notice of Federal Invention Available for Licensing and Intent To Grant Exclusive License

AGENCY: Agricultural Research Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of availability and intent.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the soybean varieties designated "N6210," "N7101," "N7102," and "N7103" are available for licensing and that the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service intends to grant to North Carolina State University of Raleigh, North Carolina, an exclusive license to these varieties.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before October 23, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to: USDA, ARS, Office of Technology Transfer, 5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Room 4-1158, Beltsville, Maryland 20705-5131.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: June Blalock of the Office of Technology Transfer at the Beltsville address given above; telephone: 301-504-5257.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Federal Government's intellectual property rights to these inventions are assigned to the United States of America, as represented by the Secretary of Agriculture. The prospective exclusive licenses will be royalty-bearing and will comply with the terms and conditions of 35 U.S.C. 209 and 37 CFR 404.7. The prospective exclusive licenses may be granted unless, within ninety (90) days from the date of this published Notice, the Agricultural Research Service receives written evidence and argument which establishes that the grant of the licenses would not be consistent with the

requirements of 35 U.S.C. 209 and 37 CFR 404.7.

Richard M. Parry, Jr.,

Assistant Administrator.

[FR Doc. 00-18768 Filed 7-24-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-03-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 00-054-1]

Notice of Request for Approval of an Information Collection

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: New information collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's intention to request approval of additional information collections, Feedlot '99 and Ongoing Monitoring, in support of the National Animal Health Monitoring System. These collection activities will include conducting a national study on feedlot cattle, increasing the number of participants in the sentinel feedlot monitoring study as part of our ongoing monitoring, and collecting antimicrobial susceptibility testing results from veterinary diagnostic laboratories as a new component to ongoing monitoring.

DATES: We invite you to comment on this docket. We will consider all comments that we receive by September 25, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Please send your comment and three copies to: Docket No. 00-054-1, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Suite 3C03, 4700 River Road, Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238. Please state that your comment refers to Docket No. 00-054-1.

You may read any comments that we receive on this docket in our reading room. The reading room is located in room 1141 of the USDA South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC. Normal reading room hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. To be sure someone is there to help you, please call (202) 690-2817 before coming.

APHIS documents published in the **Federal Register**, and related information, including the names of organizations and individuals who have commented on APHIS dockets, are available on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppd/rad/webrepor.html>.

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information on the national feedlot study and ongoing monitoring data collection activities, contact Ms. Marj Swanson, Management Analyst, Centers for Epidemiology and Animal Health, VS, APHIS, 555 S. Howes, Fort Collins, CO 80521; (970) 490-7978. For copies of more detailed information on the information collection, contact Ms. Cheryl Groves, APHIS' Information Collection Coordinator, at (301) 734-5086.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: *Title:* National Animal Health Monitoring System (Feedlot '99 and Ongoing Monitoring).

OMB Number: 0579-XXXX.

Type of Request: Approval of a new information collection.

Abstract: The United States Department of Agriculture is responsible for protecting the health of our nation's livestock and poultry populations by preventing the importation and interstate spread of contagious, infectious, or communicable diseases of livestock and poultry and for eradicating such diseases from the United States when feasible. In connection with this mission, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service operates the National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS), which collects, on a national basis, statistically valid and scientifically sound data on the prevalence and economic importance of livestock and poultry diseases. Information from these studies is disseminated and used by livestock and poultry producers, consumers, animal health officials, private veterinary practitioners, animal industry groups, policymakers, public health officials, the media, educational institutions, and others to improve agriculture's productivity and competitiveness.

NAHMS' national studies have evolved into a collaborative industry and government initiative to help improve product quality and to determine the most effective means of producing animal and poultry products. We are the only agency responsible for collecting national data on animal and poultry health. Participation in any NAHMS study is voluntary, and all data are confidential.

Feedlot '99: The Feedlot '99 study is NAHMS' second national study of the beef feedlot industry. The NAHMS' 1994 Cattle on Feed Evaluation results provided producer-requested baseline information that will be used with Feedlot '99 information to identify