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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

Agricultural Marketing Service

[FV-01-331]

United States Standards for Grades of Dried Figs

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) of the Department of Agriculture (USDA) is soliciting comments on its proposal to revise the United States Standards for Grades of Dried Figs. USDA has received a petition from a trade association to revise the current grade standards for dried figs by eliminating the present Grade "A" quality level and changing the present Grade "B" quality level to the new Grade "A". This proposal also would elevate the present Grade "C" quality level to a new Grade "B" level thus eliminating the Grade "C" designation from the United States Standards for Grades of Dried Figs. The existing grade level Substandard would remain the same. These changes have been requested by the industry in order to bring the standards for dried figs in line with the present quality levels being marketed today and provide guidance in the effective utilization of dried figs.

DATES: Comments may be submitted on or before July 9, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Written comments may be submitted to: Lydia E. Berry, Processed Products Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, STOP 0247, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250-0247; fax (202) 690-1087; or e-mail lydia.berry@usda.gov.

Comments should reference the date and page of this issue of the **Federal Register**. All comments received will be

made available for public inspection at the address listed above during regular business hours and on the Internet.

The current United States Standards for Grades of Dried Figs, along with the proposed changes, are available either through the address cited above or by accessing AMS's Home Page on the Internet at: www.ams.usda.gov/standards/. Any comments received, regarding this proposed standard will also be posted on that site.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Lydia E. Berry at (202) 720-5021 or e-mail at lydia.berry@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 203(c) of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, as amended, directs and authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture "to develop and improve standards of quality, condition, quantity, grade and packaging and recommend and demonstrate such standards in order to encourage uniformity and consistency in commercial practices * * *" AMS is committed to carrying out this authority in a manner that facilitates the marketing of agricultural commodities and makes copies of official standards available upon request. The United States Standards for Grades of Fruits and Vegetables no longer appear in the Code of Federal Regulations but are maintained by USDA/AMS/Fruit and Vegetable Programs.

AMS is proposing to revise the U.S. Standards for Grades of Dried Figs using the procedures that appear in part 36 of Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations (7 CFR part 36).

The California Fig Advisory Board requested that USDA should revise the United States Standards for Grades of Dried Figs. The Board provided information on style, sample size and descriptions to AMS to revise the standard. A series of meetings were held between representatives of the fig industry and AMS staff. The industry representatives arrived at a consensus and submitted a letter to AMS with the revisions they desired to be incorporated into the standard.

Based on the submitted information, AMS is proposing to revise the standard for dried figs following the standard format for U.S. grade Standards. AMS is proposing to eliminate the present Grade "A" quality level and to change the present Grade "B" to the new Grade "A". This proposal also will elevate the present Grade "C" quality level to a new

Grade "B" quality level and thereby eliminate the present Grade "C" quality level. The existing grade level "Substandard" will remain the same. This proposal would establish grade levels "A", "B" and "Substandard" and with corresponding score points assigned for each level. A proposed tolerance for each quality factor for each grade level would be established. These changes are proposed to bring the standard for dried figs in line with present quality levels being marketed today and provide guidance in the effective utilization of dried figs. The grade of a sample unit of dried figs is ascertained by considering the factors of varietal characteristics, size, moisture, and flavor and odor which are not scored; the ratings for the factors of color, uniformity of size, defects, and maturity and development, which are scored; the total score; and the limiting rules which apply. The grade of a lot of dried figs covered by these standards is determined by the procedures set forth in the Regulations Governing Inspection and Certification of Processed Products Thereof, and Certain Other Processed Foods Products (§ 52.1 to § 52.83).

This notice provides for a 60 day comment period for interested parties to comment on changes to the standards.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 1621-1627.

Dated: May 3, 2001.

Kenneth C. Clayton,

Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 01-11688 Filed 5-8-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Farm Service Agency

Notice of Request for Approval of a New Information Collection

AGENCY: Farm Service Agency, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the intention of the Farm Service Agency (FSA) to request approval to collect information for use in the Land Use Pilot Project. The purpose of this pilot project is to determine the feasibility of offering an alternative method of reporting commodity data. Producers will make

required commodity reports by using the Land Use pilot project.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received on or before June 8, 2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Contact Rebecca Davis, Production, Emergencies, and Compliance Division, USDA, FSA, STOP 0517, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-0517, telephone number (202) 720-9882.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Land Use Pilot Project.

OMB Control Number: 0560-NEW

Type of Request: Approval of a new information collection.

Abstract: This pilot was developed in response to OMB requests to lessen commodity reporting burden on producers. The Land Use Pilot Project modernizes and streamlines the commodity reporting function by lessening customer/producer and Service Center reporting burden while improving efficiency. The reporting method is customer/producer-based and focuses on collecting and maintaining information needed for Service Center program determinations, to serve as a customer/producer resource, and facilitate data sharing partnerships with other governmental and non-governmental entities. The collection process will be accomplished through the use of personal computers at the Service Center, customer/producer's home or at other remote sites. Currently the land use information that is used as a basis for many USDA programs is acquired independently by the various agencies. Data sharing between agencies is often informal and there is little, if any, use of alternative acquisition sources outside of the partner agencies, with the exception of the Risk Management Agency (RMA) obtaining production totals from reinsurance companies. This leads to duplicative measures to obtain and manage information, use of out-dated information and unawareness of existing determination and appeal status. The Land Use Pilot Project provides a national commodity reporting database that can be queried by the Service Center agencies and other USDA agencies and their partners. In addition, this allows greater land use information sharing with agencies such as RMA and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), that are not part of the USDA Service Centers. The information can also be shared with State and local Governments that need farm or customer/producer-level information.

Additionally, the current system was designed primarily for the original

program crops of wheat, corn, grain sorghum, barley and oats. The growth of alternative crops and aquaculture have produced reporting needs that are not met by the attributes associated with these acreage-based crops. The Land Use Project will provide a reliable source of shared land use data that will be flexible enough to capture a wide range of commodity and farming practice variations. Some farming practices performed on the land will be identified but may not be collected without a specific partnership or program requirement necessitating them. Standardizing information will facilitate its use by USDA programs and will provide the capability for the information to be acquired from and used by partners. The user chooses program(s) for which a report is intended. The program selection determines the required commodity attributes to be reported, thus resulting in time savings for both the Service Center and the customer/producer. The process allows commodity reporting through the selection of customer/producer with their associated link(s) to land. Land (farm, tract and common land units (CLUs), formerly known as "fields") is displayed allowing users to designate, by a "point and click" method, reported commodity locations directly onto a digital map's CLUs. Digital maps may be printed for the producer which will show commodity(ies) reported with associated commodity location. When a commodity is selected which applies to all fields, a "select all" CLU function may be used to eliminate designating individual CLU selection(s). Historical commodity reports (previous year's reports) may be selected to populate CLUs when minimal change is needed (i.e., different commodity report date). In addition to historical commodity selection options, when accessing the current commodity reporting function and selecting a commodity that had been reported during the most recent report, that commodity will automatically populate the previously reported CLUs. Built into this package is an acreage reduction calculator which automatically calculates any deductions as designated by the user which eliminates the need to hand calculate acreage deductions such as sod waterways. Revised and updated commodity tables have been incorporated as an integrated part of the Land Use Pilot Project which has simplified the commodity selection options.

Land Use Project objectives are to:

(1) Provide a reliable source of land use data usable by multiple entities to;

(a) eliminate redundancy capturing and storing data and

(b) develop data standards for Land Use information that allows input and verification of data from multiple sources.

(2) Minimize public and Service Center burden by;

(a) eliminating redundant reporting requirements,

(b) reducing processing time for program applications by automatically populating application fields with previously reported land use data and

(c) selecting the program for which a report is being made. The program selection allows only required commodities to be reported.

(3) Maximize use of geo-spatial and partnership data to reduce producer's acreage and production reporting requirements by;

(a) enabling customers/producers to report land use data for all of their farming interests at any Service Center or alternative reporting site and

(b) re-engineering reporting procedures.

(4) Enhance the reporting process of customer/producer and Service Center personnel by developing alternative customer/producer reporting methods such as web-based and mail-in reporting.

The Land Use Pilot Project requires the customer/producer only to report commodity, acres or units, owner, operator and shares, and planting date and is a drastic departure from the Farm Service Agency's (FSA) historical collection of commodity and land use data.

FSA's approach to collecting this information is to collect only the information needed to support program eligibility and compliance requirements. Three pilot sites chosen for the Land Use Pilot Project are: Okeechobee, Florida; Miami, Kansas; and, The Dalles, Oregon.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for the Land Use Pilot Project is estimated to average 3.75 minutes per response reflecting a 75 percent decrease in reporting time.

Respondents: Individual customers/producers.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 2340 × 3.75 minutes per response time.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 146.25 burden hours times \$12.00 per hour = \$1755.

Proposed topics for comment include:

(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 collected; or (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of the information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments should be sent to the Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503, and to Rebecca Davis, Production, Emergencies, and Compliance Division, USDA, FSA, STOP 0517, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-0517, (202) 720-9882. All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record.

Signed at Washington, DC, on May 2, 2001.

James R. Little,

Acting Administrator, Farm Service Agency.

[FR Doc. 01-11687 Filed 5-8-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-05-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food and Nutrition Service

Agency Information Collection

Activities: Proposed collection; comment request -The Integrity Profile (TIP)

AGENCY: Food and Nutrition Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Food and Nutrition Service's intention to request OMB review of The Integrity Profile data collection and reporting system.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received or postmarked by July 9, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Send comments and requests for copies of this information collection to: Patricia Daniels, Director, Supplemental Food Programs Division, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, VA 22302.

Pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3507), 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.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval, and will become a matter of public record.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Patricia Daniels, (703) 305-2746.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: The Integrity Profile (TIP).

OMB Number: 0584-0401.

Expiration Date: 6-30-01.

Type of Request: Extension of a Currently Approved Collection.

Abstract: State agencies administering the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC Program) are required by 7 CFR 246.12(i)(3) to submit to the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) an annual summary of the results of their vendor monitoring efforts in order to provide Congress, senior FNS officials, as well as the general public, assurance that every reasonable effort is being made to ensure integrity in the WIC Program.

Since 1989, integrity data has been required to be submitted annually for analysis and the The Integrity Profile (TIP) report has been traditionally produced by FNS which shows the level of monitoring and investigation conducted by WIC State agencies to detect and eliminate, or substantially reduce, vendor fraud and abuse. Most State agencies downloaded the data from State systems and transmit it electronically to FNS.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 20.8 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.

Respondents: The Program Director of each WIC State agency, which is generally a State Health Department or an Indian Tribal Organization.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 88 respondents.

Estimated Number of Responses Per Respondent: One.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 1,830.4 hours.

Dated: April 27, 2001.

George A. Braley,

Acting Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service.

[FR Doc. 01-11622 Filed 5-8-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-30-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Foreign Agricultural Service

Agricultural Policy Advisory Committee for Trade and the Agricultural Technical Advisory Committees for Trade; Reestablishment and Nominations.

AGENCY: Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Secretary of Agriculture, after consultation with the United States Trade Representative, has reestablished the Agricultural Policy Advisory Committee for Trade (APAC) and the Agricultural Technical Advisory Committees for Trade (ATACs). FAS also announces that nominations are being sought for persons to serve on the APAC and the ATACs.

DATES: Written nominations must be received by the Foreign Agricultural Service before or close of business June 8, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Send all nominating materials to Ms Sharon McClure, Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA, Room 5065-S, STOP 1001, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-1001. The forms may also be submitted by fax to (202) 720-8097.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Comments regarding the reestablishment of these committees should be addressed to Ms. Sharon McClure, Acting Executive Secretary, Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Room 5065-S, Stop 1001, Washington, DC 20250-1001, or Ms. Denise Bell at the same address. Persons interested in serving on the APAC or an ATAC, or in nominating individuals to serve, should contact FAS by telephone (202)-720-6829, fax (202)-720-8097, by mail (Ms. Sharon McClure, Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Room 5065-S, Stop 1001, Washington, DC 20250-1001) or electronic mail (belld@fas.usda.gov) and request Form AD-755 and Form SF-181. These forms are also available on the Internet at the FAS homepage. For Form AD-755, go to <http://www.fas.usda.gov/ad755.pdf>. For Form SF-181, go to <http://www.fas.usda.gov/admin/ad1086>.