

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by January 7, 2003.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS:

Contact Valerie L. Emmer-Scott, Marketing Specialist, Marketing Order Administration Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, AMS, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., room 2525-S., STOP 0237, Washington, DC 20250-0237; Fax: (202) 205-2829, or e-mail: moab.docketclerk@usda.gov.

Small businesses may request information on this notice by contacting Jay Guerber, Regulatory Fairness Representative, Marketing Order Administration Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, AMS, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., room 2525-S., Stop 0237, Washington, DC 20250-0237; telephone: (202) 720-2491, Fax: (202) 720-8938, or e-mail: Jay.Guerber@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Specified Commodities Imported into the United States Exempt from Import Requirements.

OMB Number: 0581-0167.

Expiration Date of Approval: May 31, 2003.

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

Abstract: Section 8e of the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937 (Act), as amended (7 U.S.C. 601-674) requires that whenever the Secretary of Agriculture issues grade, size, quality, or maturity regulations under domestic marketing orders for certain commodities, the same or comparable regulations on imports of those commodities must be issued. Import regulations apply only during those periods when domestic marketing order regulations are in effect. Currently, the following commodities are subject to Section 8e import regulations: avocados, dates (other than dates for processing), hazelnuts, grapefruit, table grapes, kiwifruit, limes (suspended), olives (other than Spanish-styles olives), onions, oranges, Irish potatoes, prunes, raisins, tomatoes, and walnuts. However, imports of these commodities are exempt from such requirements if they are imported for such outlets as processing, charity, animal feed, seed, and distribution to relief agencies, when those outlets are exempt under the applicable marketing order.

Safeguard procedures in the form of importer and receiver importing requirements are used to ensure that the imported commodity is provided to authorized exempt outlets. The safeguard procedures are similar to the reports currently required by most

domestic marketing orders. The import regulations require importers and receivers of imported fruit, vegetable, and specialty crops to submit a form, as provided in sections 944.350, 980.501, and 999.500.

An importer wishing to import commodities for exempt purposes must complete, prior to importation, an Importer's Exempt Commodity Form (FV-6), which is a four-part form. Copy one is presented to the U.S. Customs Service. The importer files copy two with the Marketing Order Administration Branch (MOAB) of the Fruit and Vegetable Programs, AMS, within two days after the commodity enters the United States. The third copy of the form accompanies the exempt shipment to its intended destination. The receiver certifies that the commodity has been received and that it will be utilized for authorized exempt purposes. The receiver then files copy three with MOAB, within two days after receiving the commodity. The fourth copy is retained by the importer.

The Department of Agriculture (Department) utilizes this information to ensure that imported goods destined for exempt outlets are given no less favorable treatment than that afforded to domestic goods destined for such exempt outlets. These exemptions are consistent with Section 8e import regulations under the Act.

This form requires the minimum amount of information necessary to effectively carry out the requirements of the Act, and its use is necessary to fulfill the intent of the Act, and to administer Section 8e compliance activities.

In addition, included in this extension and revision of a currently approved information collection is another form titled, "Civil Penalty Stipulation Agreement" (FV-7). This form provides AMS with an additional tool to obtain resolution of certain cases under the Act without the cost of going to a hearing. Stipulation agreements may be appropriate for, but limited to, instances of minor violations of a marketing order or marketing agreement or Section 8e of the AMAA. However, AMS is not under any obligation to issue stipulation agreements. The only requirement for this form is a signature, therefore, there is no burden on the person if they agree to the Agreement and return it.

The information collected is used primarily by authorized representatives of the Department, including AMS, Fruit and Vegetable Programs' regional and headquarters staff. AMS is the primary user of the information.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information

is estimated to average .17 hours per response.

Respondents: Importers and receivers of exempt commodities.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 300.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 50.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 2,550 hours.

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

Comments should reference OMB No. 0581-0167 and be mailed to Docket Clerk, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, AMS, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., room 2525-S., STOP 0237, Washington, DC 20250-0237; Fax: (202) 205-2829, or e-mail: moab.docketclerk@usda.gov. Comments should reference the docket number and the date and page number of this issue of the **Federal Register**. All comments received will be available for public inspection in the Office of the Docket Clerk during regular USDA business hours at 14th and Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC, room 2525-S.

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.

Dated: November 4, 2002.

Kenneth C. Clayton,

Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 02-28424 Filed 11-7-02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Docket No. FV02-502-N]

Notice of Request for Extension 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 a currently approved information collection for Fruit and Vegetable Market News.

DATES: Comments received by January 7, 2003 will be considered.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS: Contact Terry C. Long, Chief; Fruit and Vegetable Market News Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, AMS-USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Stop-0238, Washington, DC 20250-0238; Telephone: (202) 720-2175, Fax: (202) 720-0547. All comments will be available for public inspection at this address during the hours of 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Fruit and Vegetable Market News.

OMB Number: 0581-0006.

Expiration Date of Approval: April 30, 2003.

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

Abstract: Collection and dissemination of information for fruit, vegetable and ornamental production and to facilitate trading by providing a price base used by producers, wholesalers, and retailers to market product.

The Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1621-*et seq.*), section 203(g) directs and authorizes the collection and dissemination of marketing information including adequate outlook information, on a market area basis, for the purpose of anticipating and meeting consumer requirements, aiding in the maintenance of farm income and to bring about a balance between production and utilization.

The fruit and vegetable industry provides information on a voluntary basis, and is gathered through confidential telephone and face-to-face interviews by market reporters. Reporters request supplies, demand, and prices of over 400 fresh fruit, vegetable, nut ornamental, and other specialty crops.

The fruit and vegetable market news reports are used by academia, but are primarily used by the fruit, vegetable and ornamental trade, which includes packers, processors, brokers, retailers, and producers. The fruit and vegetable industry requested that the Department

of Agriculture issue price and supply market reports for commodities of regional, national and international significance in order to assist them in making immediate production and marketing decisions and as a guide to the amount of product in the supply channel.

Many government agencies use the reports to make their market outlook projections. Data from these reports is included in the information forwarded to the Secretary's office and staff, as needed, to keep them apprised of the current market conditions and movement of fruit, vegetable, and ornamental commodities in the United States. Economists at most major agricultural colleges and universities use the reports to make both short and long term market projections. The data is used extensively by consulting firms and private economists to aid them in determining available supplies and current pricing.

The information is collected, compiled, and disseminated by an impartial third party, in a manner which protects the confidentiality of the reporter. Further, since the Government is a purchaser of fruits and vegetables, a system to monitor the collection and reporting of data is needed.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .033 hours per response.

Respondents: Fruit, vegetable, and ornamental industry, or other for-profit businesses, individuals or households, farms.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 18,347.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 200.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 120,964.

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, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to: Terry C. Long, Chief, Fruit and Vegetable Market News Branch, Fruit

and Vegetable Programs, AMS-USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Stop-0238, Washington, DC 20250-0238.

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.

Dated: November 4, 2002.

Kenneth C. Clayton,

Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 02-28425 Filed 11-7-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

North Fork Eel Grazing Allotments EIS—Six Rivers National Forest

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: The Six Rivers National Forest will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) on a proposal to authorize grazing 591 cow-calf pairs on five allotments encompassing approximately 72,558 acres of National Forest System lands in the North Fork Eel River Watershed in Trinity County, California. The allotments within the analysis area include Zenia, Hoaglin, Soldier Creek, Long Ridge and Van Horn. Small portions of the latter three allotments extend into adjacent watersheds, for which separate environmental analyses would be conducted. They are located in all or portions of the following townships: T2SR6E, T2SR7E, T3SR6E, T3SR7E, T3SR8E, T4S6E, T4S7E, T4SR8E, T5SR6E, T5SR7E, Humboldt Meridian; T25NR12W, Mount Diablo Meridian.

The purposes of the proposal are to authorize grazing in the five cattle allotments under a strategy that protects heritage and natural resource values and maintains the biological diversity of rangelands. If approved, the Six Rivers National Forest would authorize grazing through term grazing permits for up to 10 years. The EIS will be designed to satisfy the requirements of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 and implementing regulations (43 CFR 2310.1).

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis must be received on or before 30 days after publication of this notice in the Federal Register. The draft environmental impact statement is expected in March 2003 and the final environmental impact statement is expected in June 2003.