

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

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Docket Number FV-05-304]

United States Standards for Grades of Fresh Asparagus

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice, request for public comment.

SUMMARY: The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), prior to undertaking research and other work associated with revising an official grade standard, is soliciting comments on a possible revision to the United States Standards for Grades of Fresh Asparagus. At a 2003 meeting of the Fruit and Vegetable Industry Advisory Committee, AMS was asked to review all the fresh fruit and vegetable grade standards for usefulness in serving the industry. As a result, AMS has noted that currently there are no provisions to allow purple or white asparagus to be graded using the standards. Therefore, AMS is soliciting comments on the possible revision of the color requirements in the grade standards. Additionally, AMS is seeking comments regarding any other revisions that may be necessary to better serve the industry.

DATES: Comments must be received by May 31, 2005.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments to the Standardization Section, Fresh Products Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Room 1661 South Building, Stop 0240, Washington, DC 20250-0240; Fax (202) 720-8871, e-mail FPB.DocketClerk@usda.gov. Comments should make reference to the dates and page number of this issue of the **Federal Register** and will be made available for

public inspection in the above office during regular business hours. The United States Standards for Grades of Fresh Asparagus is available either at the above address or by accessing the Fresh Products Branch Web site at: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/standards/stanfifv.htm>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

David L. Priester, at the above address or call (202) 720-2185; e-mail David.Priester@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 203(c) of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1621-1627), as amended, directs and authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture "to develop and improve standards of quality, condition, quality, 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 Fruit and Vegetables not connected with Federal Marketing Orders or U.S. Import Requirements, no longer appear in the Code of Federal Regulations, but are maintained by the USDA/AMS/Fruit and Vegetable Programs.

AMS is proposing to revise the U.S. Standards for Grades of Fresh Asparagus using the procedures that appear in Part 36, Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations (7 CFR part 36). These standards were last revised in 1966.

Background

At a meeting of the Fruit and Vegetable Industry Committee, AMS was asked to review all the fresh fruit and vegetable grade standards for usefulness in serving the industry. As a result, AMS has identified the U.S. Standards for Grades of Fresh Asparagus green color requirement for possible updating. Currently the standards require two-thirds of the asparagus stalk to be green color. AMS is proposing to revise the requirement to allow for purple and white asparagus to be graded using the standards. AMS believes that a revision to include purple and white asparagus in the color requirement section is warranted to better serve the industry. However, prior to undertaking detailed work to develop a proposed

revision to the standard, AMS is soliciting comments on the possible revision to the standard and the probable impact on distributors, processors, and growers. Additionally, AMS is seeking comments regarding any other revisions that may be necessary to better serve the industry.

This notice provides for a 60-day comment period for interested parties to comment on changes to the standard. Should AMS conclude that there is a need for the revision of the standard, the proposed revision of the standard will be published in the **Federal Register** with a request for comments in accordance with 7 CFR part 36.

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

Dated: March 23, 2005.

Kenneth C. Clayton,

Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 05-6083 Filed 3-28-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Research Service

United States National Arboretum (USNA); Notice of Intent To Renew Expired Information Collection

AGENCY: Agricultural Research Service; Research, Education, and Economics; USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comment.

SUMMARY: The Department of Agriculture (USDA) seeks comments on the intent of the USNA to renew an information collection that expires on May 31, 2005. The information collection serves as a means to collect fees to be charged for certain uses of the facilities, grounds, and services. This includes fees for use of the grounds and facilities, as well as for commercial photography and cinematography. Fees generated will be used to defray USNA expenses or to promote the missions of the USNA.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before June 2, 2005.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by (docket number and/or RIN Number _____), by any of the following methods:

Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

E-mail: elias@ars.usda.gov. Include (docket number and/or RIN number _____) in the subject line of text. Fax: (202) 245-4514

Mail: Director, U.S. National Arboretum, Beltsville Area, Agricultural Research Service, 3501 New York Avenue, NE., Washington, DC 20002.

Hand Delivery/Courier: Director, U.S. National Arboretum, Beltsville Area, Agricultural Research Service, 3501 New York Avenue, NE., Washington, DC 20002.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Intent to Renew an Expired Information Collection.

OMB Number: 0518-0024, expiration date of approval, May 31, 2005.

Type of Request: To extend an approved information collection.

Abstract: The mission of the U.S. National Arboretum (USNA) is to serve the public need for scientific research, education, and gardens that conserve and showcase plants to enhance the environment. The USNA is a 446-acre public facility, open to the general public for purposes of education and passive recreation. Horticulture and gardening are important aspects of American life. The USNA receives approximately 500,000 visitors on the grounds each year. Garden clubs and societies like to use the USNA grounds to showcase their activities. The USNA has many spectacular features and garden displays which are very popular with the visitors. In order to administer the use of the USNA facilities and to determine if the requested use is consistent with the mission of the USNA, it is necessary for the USNA to obtain information from the requestor. The requestor is asked to indicate by whom and for what purpose the USNA facilities are to be used. This information is collected by officials using applications in the form of questionnaires. Applications are in hard copy format and available on the USNA Web site (www.usna.usda.gov). Completed permit requests are received in person, by mail, and by facsimile. Work is underway to accept permits electronically.

Paperwork Reduction Act

In accordance with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations (5 CFR part 1320) which implements the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), the information collection and record keeping requirements that will be imposed will be submitted to OMB for approval. These requirements will not become effective prior to OMB approval.

Background

Section 890 (b) of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996, Public Law 104-127 (1996 Act), expanded the authorities of the Secretary of Agriculture to charge reasonable fees for the use of USNA facilities and grounds. These authorities included the ability to charge fees for temporary use by individuals or groups of USNA facilities and grounds in furtherance of the mission of the USNA. Also, authority was provided to charge fees for tram tours and for the use of the USNA for commercial photography and cinematography. All rules and regulations noted in 7 CFR 500, subpart A, conduct on the USNA property, will apply to individuals or groups granted approval to use facilities and grounds.

Estimate of burden: The USNA estimates 200 requests for the use of the facilities and 100 for photography and cinematography on an annual basis. Each request will require the completion of an application. The application is simple and requires only information readily available to the requestor. A copy of the application may be obtained from the USNA or on the USNA Web site.

Estimate Total Annual Burden on Respondents: The estimated completion time for the application requires less than 15 minutes. The total cost for responding is \$1,755 for 65 hours of time at \$27 per hour. In addition to the current process of obtaining the permit request in person, by mail, and by facsimile, (and receiving them back in a like manner), the application for photography and cinematography is available on the USNA Web site (<http://www.usda.usda.gov/information/photography.html>). The application for the use of facilities will be available on the website by the end of the calendar year. Completed permit requests can then be submitted to the Administrative Group, USDA, ARS, U.S. National Arboretum, 3501 New York Avenue, NE., Washington, DC 20002.

Comments

Comments are invited on whether the proposed collection is necessary for the proper functioning of the facility, including whether the information will have practical ability; whether the estimate of the burden of the proposed collection is accurate; how to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and whether the burden of collection could be minimized.

Done at Washington, DC, this 21st day of March 2005.

Edward B. Knipling,

Administrator, Agricultural Research Service.

[FR Doc. 05-6133 Filed 3-24-05; 12:44 pm]

BILLING CODE 3410-03-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Federal Crop Insurance Corporation

Grants and Cooperative Agreements; Availability, etc: Commodity Partnerships for Risk Management Education Program

Funding Opportunity Title: Commodity Partnerships for Risk Management Education (Commodity Partnerships program).

Announcement Type: Notice of Funding Availability for Competitive Partnership Agreements—Initial.

CFDA Number: 10.457.

Dates: Applications are due 5 p.m. EDT, May 31, 2005.

Executive Summary: The Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC), operating through the Risk Management Agency (RMA), announces the availability of approximately \$4.0 million for Commodity Partnerships for Risk Management Education (the Commodity Partnerships program). The purpose of this partnership agreement program is to deliver training and information in the management of production, marketing, and financial risk to U.S. agricultural producers. The program gives priority to educating producers of crops currently not insured under Federal crop insurance, specialty crops, and underserved commodities, including livestock and forage. A maximum of 40 partnership agreements will be funded, with no more than four in each of the ten designated RMA Regions. The maximum award for any partnership agreement will be \$150,000. Recipients of awards must demonstrate non-financial benefits from a partnership agreement and must agree to the substantial involvement of RMA in the project. Funding availability for this program may be announced at approximately the same time as funding availability for similar but separate programs—CFDA No. 10.455 (Community Outreach and Assistance Partnerships), CFDA No. 10.456 (Risk Management Research Partnerships), CFDA No. 10.458 (Crop Insurance Education in Targeted States) and CFDA No. 10.459 (Commodity Partnerships for Small Agricultural Risk Management Education Sessions). Prospective applicants should carefully examine and compare the notices for each program.