

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

March 12, 2007.

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), OIRA_Submission@OMB.EOP.GOV or fax (202) 395-5806 and to Departmental Clearance Office, USDA, OCIO, Mail Stop 7602, Washington, DC 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) 720-8681.

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.

National Agricultural Statistics Service

Title: Cold Storage.

OMB Control Number: 0535-0001.

Summary of Collection: The primary objective of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is to prepare and issue State and national estimates of crop and livestock production. The monthly Cold Storage Survey provides information on national supplies of food in refrigerated storage facilities. A biennial survey of refrigerated warehouses is also conducted to provide a benchmark of the capacity available for refrigerated storage of the nation's food supply. The data will be collected under the authority of 7 U.S.C. 2204(a). This statute specifies "The Secretary of Agriculture shall procure and preserve all information concerning agriculture which he can obtain * * * by the collection of statistics * * * and shall distribute them among agriculturists."

Need and Use of the Information: USDA agencies such as the World Agricultural Outlook Board, Economic Research Service, and Agricultural Marketing Service use information from the Cold Storage report in setting and administering government commodity programs and in supply and demand analysis. Included in the report are stocks of pork bellies, frozen orange juice concentrate, butter, and cheese which are traded on the Chicago Board of Trade. The timing and frequency of the surveys have evolved to meet the needs of producers, facilities, agribusinesses, and government agencies.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit.

Number of Respondents: 4,320.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Monthly; biennially.

Total Burden Hours: 6,047.

National Agricultural Statistics Service

Title: Supplemental Qualifications Statement.

OMB Control Number: 0535-0209.

Summary of Collection: The Department of Agriculture has an Interagency Agreement (DOA-1) with the Office of Personnel Management which provides the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) with the authority to examine, rate, and certify applications for agricultural

statistician positions. In addition to resumes, curriculum vitae, and the standard Optional Application for Federal Employment, NASS has created a Supplemental Qualifications Statement (SQS) for agricultural statistician and mathematical statistician positions. The SQS allows applicants the opportunity to describe their achievements or accomplishments as they relate to the required knowledge, skills, and abilities.

Need and Use of the Information: The SQS provides applicants with information related to how they will be measured for a position and what kinds of information will be used to evaluate those abilities. NASS personnel specialist will use the information on the SQS to evaluate and rate the applicant's accomplishments or achievements. Ultimately, the information is used by the selecting official as one of the criteria in the selection process.

Description of Respondents: Individuals or households.

Number of Respondents: 50.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 150.

Charlene Parker,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

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BILLING CODE 3410-20-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Federal Advisory Committee for the Expert Review of Synthesis and Assessment Product 4.3 (CERSAP); Establishment

AGENCY: Office of the Chief Economist, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of the creation of the Federal Advisory Committee for the Expert Review of Synthesis and Assessment Product 4.3 (CERSAP).

PURPOSE: The Department of Agriculture (USDA) is the lead agency for Climate Change Science Program Synthesis and Assessment Product 4.3 titled, *The Effects of Climate Change on Agriculture, Land Resources, Water Resources, and Biodiversity*. CERSAP will provide advice to the Secretary of Agriculture on the conduct of this study.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. William Hohenstein, Global Change Program Office, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 112-A Whitten Federal Building, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250-3810; telephone: 202-720-6698.

Authority: CERSAP is established in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), 5 U.S.C. App. 2 section 9 (c). CERSAP supports the USDA in its participation in the interagency U.S. Climate Change Science Program, specifically in implementation of Synthesis and Assessment Product 4.3 (SAP 4.3), *The Effects of Climate Change on Agriculture, Land Resources, Water Resources, and Biodiversity*. The Secretary of Agriculture has determined that CERSAP is in the public interest and will support USDA in performing its duties and responsibilities.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: CERSAP will provide advice to the Secretary of Agriculture on the conduct of a study titled, *The Effects of Climate Change on Agriculture, Land Resources, Water Resources, and Biodiversity*, to be conducted as part of the U.S. Climate Change Science Program. The draft report will be published at <http://www.climatechange.gov/Library/sap/sap4-3/default.htm>. CERSAP will provide advice on the specific issues to be addressed, appropriate technical approaches, the nature of information relevant to decision makers, the content of the final report, compliance with the Information Quality Act, and other matters important to the successful achievement of the study objectives. CERSAP will respond specifically to the following seven inquiries related to the report:

1. Are the goals, objectives, and intended audience of the product clearly described in the document? Does the product address all the questions as outlined in the prospectus?

2. Are the findings and recommendations adequately supported by evidence and analysis? If any recommendations are based on value judgments or the collective opinions of the authors, is this acknowledged and are adequate reasons given for reaching those judgments?

3. Are the data and analyses handled competently? Are statistical methods applied appropriately? Are uncertainties and confidence levels evaluated and communicated appropriately?

4. Are the document's presentation and organization effective? Are the questions outlined in the prospectus addressed and communicated in a manner that is appropriate for the intended audience?

5. Is the document scientifically objective and policy-neutral? Is it

consistent with the scientific literature, including recent National Research Council reports and other scientific assessments on the same topic?

6. Does the summary concisely and accurately describe the content, key findings, and recommendations? Is it consistent with other sections of the document?

7. What significant improvements, if any, might be made in the document?

Duties: CERSAP will provide expert peer-review to SAP 4.3, according to the criteria listed above. CERSAP will generate a list of comments and suggestions to increase the merit of SAP 4.3. After SAP 4.3's authors have responded to those comments, CERSAP will review those responses to ensure that their review comments have been adequately considered and addressed.

The duties of the CERSAP are solely advisory in nature.

Official(s) To Whom CERSAP Reports: CERSAP will submit advice and report to the Secretary of Agriculture through the Director of USDA's Global Change Program Office (GCPO) within the Office of the Chief Economist (OCE).

Estimated Number and Frequency of Meetings: CERSAP expects to meet approximately two (2) times. Meetings are expected to occur when the draft report, *The Effects of Climate Change on Agriculture, Land Resources, Water Resources, and Biodiversity*, is initially available, and again to finalize the review document, or as needed and approved by the Designated Federal Officer (DFO). USDA may pay travel and per diem expenses when determined necessary and appropriate. A full-time or permanent part-time employee of USDA will be appointed as the DFO. The DFO or a designee will be present at all meetings and each meeting will be conducted in accordance with an agenda approved in advance by the DFO. The DFO is authorized to adjourn any meeting when he or she determines it is in the public interest to do so.

As required by FACA, CERSAP will hold open meetings unless the Secretary of Agriculture determines that a meeting or a portion of a meeting may be closed to the public in accordance with subsection c of Section 522(b) of Title 5, United States Code. Interested persons may attend meetings, appear before CERSAP as time permits, and file comments with the CERSAP.

Duration and Termination: This charter will be in effect until publication of SAP 4.3. The charter will expire upon publication of SAP 4.3, and will not be renewed.

Member Composition: CERSAP will be composed of approximately twelve (12) members. Members will be

appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture through the Office of the Chief Economist. No member shall have served as an author of the draft SAP 4.3.

Most members shall be designated Special Government Employees, reflecting their selection based upon their scientific expertise in the fields of climate change effects on the ecosystems and ecosystem services investigated by SAP 4.3. Other members may be Regular Government Employees, and will have comparable expertise.

Equal opportunity practices, in line with USDA policies, will be followed in all membership appointments to CERSAP. To ensure that the recommendations of CERSAP have taken into account the needs of the diverse groups served by the Department, membership shall include, to the extent practicable, individuals with demonstrated ability to represent minorities, women, and persons with disabilities.

Subgroups: USDA, or CERSAP with USDA's approval, may form CERSAP subcommittees or workgroups for any purpose consistent with this charter. Such subcommittees or workgroups may not work independently of CERSAP and must report their recommendations and advice to the full CERSAP committee for deliberation and discussion. Subcommittees or workgroups have no authority to make decisions on behalf of the full CERSAP committee, nor can they report directly to the Secretary of Agriculture or other USDA officials.

Keith Collins,

Chief Economist,

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Federal Advisory Committee for the Expert Review of Synthesis and Assessment Product 4.3 (CERSAP); Nomination Request

AGENCY: Office of the Chief Economist, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

ACTION: Request for nominations to the Committee for the Expert Review of Synthesis and Assessment Product 4.3 (CERSAP).

SUMMARY: The Department of Agriculture (USDA) is inviting nominations for membership on the Committee for the Expert Review of Synthesis and Assessment Product 4.3 (CERSAP). The purpose of the Committee is to provide advice on the conduct of a study titled *The Effects of Climate Change on Agriculture, Land Resources, Water Resources, and*