

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

DATE: November 13, 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 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) 720-8958.

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.

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Title: Phytophthora Ramorum;
Quarantine and Regulations.

OMB Control Number: 0579-0310.

Summary of Collection: Under the Plant Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 7701-7772), the Secretary of Agriculture, either independently or in cooperation with the States, is authorized to carry out operations or measures to detect, eradicate, suppress, control, prevent, or retard the spread of plant pest new to the United States or not widely distributed throughout the United States. Under "Subpart-Phytophthora Ramorum" (7 CFR 301.92 through 301.92-11, referred to as the regulation), USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) restricts the interstate movement of certain regulated and restricted articles from quarantined areas in California and Oregon to prevent the artificial spread of *Phytophthora ramorum*, the pathogen that causes the plant disease commonly known as sudden oak death, ramorum leaf blight, and ramorum dieback.

Need and Use of the Information: APHIS will collect information through a compliance agreement to establish restrictions on the interstate movement of nursery stock from nurseries in non-quarantined counties in California, Oregon, and Washington. If California, Oregon, and Washington State did not comply with provisions by signing a compliance agreement, *P. ramorum* would have the potential to spread to eastern forests adversely impacting the ecosystem balances, foreign/domestic nursery stocks, and lumber markets.

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

Number of Respondent: 1,425.

Frequency of Responses: Recordkeeping; Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 2,263.

Ruth Brown,

*Departmental Information Collection
Clearance Officer.*

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Agricultural Marketing Service

Title: National Research, Promotion, and Consumer Information Programs.

OMB Control Number: 0581-0093.

Summary of Collection: The U.S. Department of Agriculture has the responsibility for implementing and

overseeing programs for a variety of commodities including beef, blueberries, cotton, dairy, eggs, fluid milk, Hass avocados, honey, lamb, mangos, mushrooms, peanuts, popcorn, pork, potatoes, soybeans, and watermelons. Various Acts authorizes these programs to carry out projects relating to research, consumer information, advertising, sales promotion, producer information, market development and product research to assist, improve, or promote the marketing, distribution, and utilization of their respective commodities. The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) has the responsibility to appoint board members and approve the boards' budgets, plans, and projects and for foreign projects, the Foreign Agricultural Service. AMS' objective in carrying out this responsibility is to assure the following: (1) Funds are collected and properly accounted for; (2) expenditures of all funds are for the purposes authorized by enabling legislation; and (3) the board's administration of the programs conforms to USDA policy.

Need and Use of the Information: The boards administer the various programs utilizing a variety of forms to carry out their responsibilities. Only authorized employees of the various boards and USDA employees will use the information collected. If this data were collected less frequently, (1) it would hinder data needed to collect and refund assessments in a timely manner and result in delayed or even lost revenue; (2) boards would be unable to carry out the responsibilities of their respective Acts; and (3) requiring reports less frequently than monthly would impose additional record keeping requirements.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for profit, Farms.

Number of Respondents: 231,404.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion, Weekly, Monthly, Semi-annually, Annually; Recordkeeping.

Total Burden Hours: 154,913.

Charlene Parker,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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November 14, 2007.

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Rural Housing Service

Title: Technical & Supervisory Assistance Grants.

OMB Control Number: 0575-0188.

Summary of Collection: Section 525(a) of title V of the Housing Act of 1949 gives authorization to the Rural Housing Service (RHS) to make grants to enter into contracts with eligible organizations, "to pay part or all of the cost of developing, conducting, administering or coordinating comprehensive programs of technical and supervisory assistance which will aid needy low-income individuals and families in benefiting from Federal, state, and local housing programs in rural areas."

Need and Use of the Information: RHS staff in its local, State and National offices will collect information from applicants to determine eligibility for a

grant, project feasibility, and to monitor performance after grants have been awarded. Failure to collect this information could result in waste and improper use of Federal funds.

Description of Respondents: Not for profit institutions.

Number of Respondents: 30.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Quarterly.

Total Burden Hours: 623.

Charlene Parker,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

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