

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, Correction

September 29, 2009.

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) 720-8958.

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.

Food Safety and Inspection Service

Title: Consumer Focus Groups.
OMB Control Number: 0583-New.
Summary of Collection: The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) has been delegated the authority to exercise the functions of the Secretary as provided in the Federal Meat Inspection Act (FMIA) (21 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*), the Poultry Products Inspection Act (PPIA) (21 U.S.C. 451 *et seq.*), and the Egg Products Inspection Act (EPIA) (21 U.S.C. 1031 *et seq.*). These statutes mandate that FSIS protect the public by verifying that meat and poultry products are safe, wholesome, unadulterated, and properly labeled and packaged. To assist in fulfilling its public health mission, FSIS needs at times to obtain information from consumers to assess the effectiveness of its consumer protection initiatives and to gain data to support Agency decision-making and policy formulation. Foodborne illness is a significant public health problem in the United States. FSIS is seeking information about the content of public health messages, and methods of delivery of those messages, that will promote safe food handling and preparation practices among consumers. FSIS will use consumer focus groups to determine the perceptions of segments of the general population and at-risk populations regarding relevant food safety messages.

Need and Use of the Information: FSIS will collect information to conduct qualitative research with consumers to (1) assess consumers' understanding of cooking instructions for specific products (*e.g.* uncooked, breaded, boneless poultry products) and (2) collect information on consumers' understanding of existing public health messages (*e.g.*, use a thermometer to check the doneness of meat and poultry). FSIS will use the results of the focus groups to inform the development of labeling policy for meat, poultry, and egg products and to refine, and to decide how to disseminate, public health messages to ensure that they are useful for effecting behavioral changes and reducing foodborne illness.

Description of Respondents: Individuals or households.

Number of Respondents: 400.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: One time.

Total Burden Hours: 215.

Ruth Brown,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. E9-23870 Filed 10-2-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-DM-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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September 29, 2009.

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Agricultural Research Service

Title: Peer Review Related Forms for the Office of Scientific Quality Review.
OMB Control Number: 0518-0028.

Summary of Collection: The Office of Scientific Quality Review (OSQR) oversees peer review of Agricultural Research Service (ARS) research plans in response to Congressional mandate in the Agricultural Research Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (Pub. L. 105-185, Section 103d). The ARS peer-review panels are scientists who review current scientific research projects.

Need and Use of the Information: ARS will collect the following information: confidentiality agreement, panelist information, peer review of an ARS research project, critique of ARS research project, panelist expense report, and panelist invoice. The information is used to manage the travel and stipend payments to panel reviewers and provide well-organized feedback to ARS' researchers about their projects. If information were not collected, ARS would not meet the administrative or legislative requirements of the Peer Review Process as mandated by Public Law 105-185.

Description of Respondents: Individuals or households.

Number of Respondents: 160.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Quarterly; Weekly; Annually.

Total Burden Hours: 3,053.

Ruth Brown,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. E9-23871 Filed 10-2-09; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

September 30, 2009.

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

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Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service

Title: Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP).

OMB Control Number: 0524-NEW.

Summary of Collection: In January 2003, the National Veterinary Medical Service Act (NVMSA) was passed into law adding section 1415A to the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1997. This law established a new Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP) (7 U.S.C. 3151a) authorizing the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out a program of entering into agreements with veterinarians under which they agree to provide veterinary services in veterinarian shortage situations. The purpose of the program is to assure an adequate supply of trained food animal veterinarians in shortage situations and provide USDA with a pool of veterinary specialists to assist in the control and eradication of animal disease outbreaks.

Need and Use of the Information: The Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service will collect information using the Veterinarian Shortage Situation Nomination form. Applications for the VMLRP will be accepted from eligible veterinarians who agree to serve in one of the

designated shortage situations in exchange for the repayment of an amount of the principal and interest of the veterinarian's qualifying educational loans. The nomination form includes a series of questions that will need to be answered before the nomination can be submitted to the peer panelists for their review and recommendations.

Description of Respondents: State, Local or Tribal Government.

Number of Respondents: 57.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Biennially.

Total Burden Hours: 228.

Ruth Brown,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. E9-23937 Filed 10-2-09; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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September 30, 2009.

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