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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Docket No. AMS-ST-19-0040]

Notice of Request for Approval of a New Information Collection for "Application for Plant Variety Protection Certification and Objective Description of Variety—Asexually Reproduced Varieties"

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 approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for a new information collection. "Application for Plant Variety Protection Certification and Objective Description of Variety—Asexually Reproduced Varieties."

DATES: Comments must be received by July 15, 2019.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments concerning this notice by using the electronic process available at <http://www.regulations.gov>. Written comments may also be submitted to the Plant Variety Protection Office (PVPO), Science and Technology, Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Room 4512-S, Stop 0274, Washington, DC 20250 or by facsimile to (202) 260-8976. All comments should reference the docket number AMS-ST-19-0040, the date, and the page number of this issue of the **Federal Register**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jeffery Haynes, Deputy Commissioner, Plant Variety Protection Office, AMS Science and Technology Program, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue SW,

Room 4512-S, Stop 0274, Washington, DC 20250-0002; telephone: (202) 260-8983; email: Jeffery.Haynes@ams.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Application for Plant Variety Protection Certification and Objective Description of Variety—Asexually Reproduced Varieties.

OMB Number: 0581-NEW.

Expiration Date of Approval: This is a NEW collection.

Type of Request: Approval of a NEW information collection.

Abstract: The Plant Variety Protection Act (PVPA) (7 U.S.C. 2321 *et seq.*) was established to encourage the development of novel varieties of plants and make them available to the public, providing protection available to those who breed, develop, or discover them, and thereby promote progress in agriculture in the public interest.

The Plant Variety Protection program (PVP) is a voluntary user funded program that grants intellectual property rights protection to breeders of new, distinct, uniform, and stable sexually reproduced, tuber propagated, and asexually reproduced plant varieties. To obtain these property rights the applicant must provide information that shows the variety is eligible for protection and that it is indeed new, distinct, uniform and stable as the law requires. Application forms, descriptive forms, and ownership forms must be submitted by each applicant in order for the Plant Variety Protection Office (PVPO) to legally issue a certificate of protection (ownership). The certificate is based on claims of the breeder and cannot be issued on the basis of reports in publications not submitted by the applicant. Regulations implementing the PVPA appear at 7 CFR part 92.

Currently approved forms ST-470, Application for Plant Variety Protection Certificate; ST-470 A, Origin and Breeding History; ST-470 B, Statement of Distinctness; Form ST-470 series, Objective Description of Variety (Exhibit C); and Form ST-470-E, Basis of Applicant's Ownership, are the basis upon which the determination is made by experts at PVPO, whether a new, distinct, uniform, and stable sexually reproduced, or tuber propagated plant variety in fact exists and is entitled to protection (7 U.S.C. F;2402).

The 2018 Farm Bill (the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018) amended

section 2402 of the PVPA (7 U.S.C. F;2402) to include asexually reproduced plant varieties. Breeders can now apply for intellectual property protection for asexually reproduced plant varieties. AMS seeks approval of a new information collection for the application for a certificate of protection for asexually propagated plant varieties. Once approved, AMS will request that the new form be merged into OMB No. 0581-0055, which includes the currently approved ST-470 forms listed above.

The ST-470 application form combines Exhibits A, B, and E into one form. The information received on applications, with certain exceptions, is required by law to remain confidential until a certificate is issued (7 U.S.C. 2421).

The information collection requirements in this request are essential to carry out the intent of the PVPA, to provide applicants with certificates of protection, to provide the respondents the type of service they request, and to administer the program.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting new burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .86 hours per response. This corresponds to 11.05 hrs. per respondent (total burden hours divided by number of respondents).

Respondents: Businesses or other for-profit, not-for-profit institutions, and Federal Government.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 50.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 12.82.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 553 (rounded).

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 the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or

other forms of information technology. All comments received will be available for public inspection during regular business hours.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record.

Dated: May 8, 2019.

Bruce Summers,

Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 2019-09839 Filed 5-13-19; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

May 9, 2019.

The Department of Agriculture will submit the following information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 on or after the date of publication of this notice. Comments are requested regarding: 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; the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and 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), New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC; New Executive Office Building, 725-17th Street NW, Washington, DC, 20503. Commenters are encouraged to submit their comments to OMB via email to: OIRA_Submission@omb.eop.gov or fax (202) 395-5806 and to Departmental Clearance Office, USDA, OClO, Mail Stop 7602, Washington, DC 20250-7602.

Comments regarding these information collections are best assured of having their full effect if received by June 13, 2019. 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.

Agricultural Marketing Service

Title: Almonds Grown in California (7 CFR part 981).

OMB Control Number: 0581-0242.

Summary of Collection: Marketing Order No. 981 (7 CFR part 981) regulates the handling of almonds grown in California and emanates from the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, (Act) Secs. 1-19, 48 Stat. 31, as amended (7 U.S.C. 601-674) to provide the respondents the type of service they request, and to administer the California almond marketing order program. The board has developed forms as a means for persons to file required information with the board relating to the treatment of almonds to reduce the potential for Salmonella bacteria prior to shipment.

Need and Use of the Information: Almond handlers are required to submit annual treatment plans to the board and inspection agency to ensure such plans are complete and auditable regarding how they plan to treat their almonds to reduce the potential for Salmonella. The plan will be approved by the Board and must address specific parameters for the handler to ship almonds. The Board also gathers information from entities interested in being almond process authorities that validate technologies, to accept and further process untreated almonds and entities interested in being auditors. The information collected would be used only by authorized representatives of USDA, including the Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs' regional and headquarters' staff, and authorized employees and agents of the board.

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

Number of Respondents: 175.

Frequency of Responses: Recordkeeping; Reporting: Annually; On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 4,200.

Kimble Brown,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2019-09902 Filed 5-13-19; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Housing Service

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Rural Utilities Service

Privacy Act of 1974; System of Records

AGENCY: Rural Housing Service, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, and Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of modified system of records.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974 as amended; Section 12204 of the Agricultural Act of 2014, Rural Development (RD) gives notice of its proposal to modify the system of records entitled USDA/RD-1 Current or Prospective Producers or Landowners, Applicants, Borrowers, Grantees, Tenants, and other participants in RD programs.

To communicate the revision to the USDA RD-1 Systems of Records Notice in which the addition of Routine Use 26 below is published.

However, this was not the only revised Routine Use—these were also revised:

1. Routine Use 21 was revised,
2. Routine Use 22 was added [OMB M-17-12 items],
3. In addition, Routine Uses 23 and 24 were renumbered to 24 and 25, respectively.

DATES: Comments must be received no later than June 13, 2019. This system of records will be effective June 13, 2019 unless RD determines otherwise.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments on this notice by any of the following methods:

- You may submit written or electronic comments on this notice by any of the following methods: Federal rulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.
 - Mail: Submit written comments via the U.S. Postal Service to the Team Lead, Innovation Center, Regulations Management Team, Rural Development, Mail Stop 1522, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20250.
 - Hand Delivery/Courier: Submit written comments via Federal Express Mail or other courier service requiring a street address to the Team Lead, Innovation Center, Rural Development, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20250, Mail Stop 1522.
- FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For general questions, please contact: