DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Document No. AMS–TM–21–0041]

Meat and Poultry Interstate Shipment and Inspection Readiness Program; Request for Emergency Approval of a New Information Collection

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of emergency request.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Marketing Service’s (AMS) intention to receive approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for a new information collection to administer the Meat and Poultry Interstate Shipment and Inspection Readiness Program (ISIRP) under its Grants Division. Due to the passing of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (CAA), AMS Grants Division is implementing this new grant program under section 764, which directs and authorizes USDA to administer Federal grant programs. AMS Grant Programs are administered through the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Guidance for Grants and Agreements based on its regulations under the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (2 CFR part 200) (85 FR 49506; December 13, 2020). The information collection requirements in this emergency request are needed for AMS to administer a new competitive grant program, in accordance with 2 CFR part 200, entitled the Meat and Poultry Interstate Shipment and Inspection Readiness Program (ISIRP) under OMB No. 0581–NEW. ISIRP is authorized pursuant to the authority of section 764 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (CAA) (Pub. L. 116–260) in response to the ongoing COVID–19 pandemic and supply chain risks in U.S. meat and poultry processing systems. The AMS Grants Division requests to collect information for this new grant program from meat and poultry slaughter and processing facilities to support facilities in making improvements and carrying out other planning activities necessary to obtain a Federal grant of inspection or to operate as a State-inspected facility under the Cooperative Interstate Shipping Program.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nicole Nelson Miller, Deputy Director, Grants Division; (202) 720–2188 or email Nicole.NelsonMiller@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Overview of This Information Collection

Agency: USDA, AMS.

Title: Meat and Poultry Interstate Shipment and Inspection Readiness Program (ISIRP).

OMB Number: 0581–NEW.

Type of Request: Emergency Approval of a New Information Collection.

Abstract: The Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (AMA) (7 U.S.C. 1621 et seq.) directs and authorizes USDA to administer Federal grant programs. AMS Grant Programs are administered through the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Guidance for Grants and Agreements based on its regulations under the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (2 CFR part 200) (85 FR 49506; December 13, 2020). The information collection requirements in this emergency request are needed for AMS to administer a new competitive grant program, in accordance with 2 CFR part 200, entitled the Meat and Poultry Interstate Shipment and Inspection Readiness Program (ISIRP) under OMB No. 0581–NEW.

ISIRP is authorized pursuant to the authority of section 764 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (CAA) (Pub. L. 116–260) in response to the ongoing COVID–19 pandemic and supply chain risks in U.S. meat and poultry processing systems. The AMS Grants Division requests to collect information for this new grant program from meat and poultry slaughter and processing facilities to support facilities in making improvements and carrying out other planning activities necessary to obtain a Federal grant of inspection or to operate as a State-inspected facility under the Cooperative Interstate Shipping Program.

Because this is a voluntary program, respondents request or apply for this specific competitive grant, and in doing so, they provide information. The information collected is used only by authorized representatives of USDA, AMS, Transportation and Marketing Program’s Grants Division to certify that grant participants are complying with applicable program regulations, and the data collected is the minimum information necessary to effectively carry out the program requirements.

The information collection requirements in this request are essential to carry out the intent of section 764 of the CAA, to provide the respondents the type of service they request, and to administer the program.

Upon OMB approval of the ISIRP information collection package, AMS will request OMB approval to merge this information collection into the currently approved information collection OMB control number 0581–0240 approved on January 13, 2021.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 2 hours and 5 minutes per response.

Respondents: Grant applicants; or grant recipients.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 4,350.

Estimated Total Annual Responses Including Recordkeeping: 7,350.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 29.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents and Recordkeepers: 15,363.17 hours.

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 new 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.
Obtaining OMB’s approval of this new information collection enables AMS Grants Division to publish a Request for Applications (RFA) to establish application requirements, the review and approval process, and grant administration procedures, which will enable eligible entities to develop appropriate grant applications for the program so that AMS can adequately evaluate these new proposals and obligate the funds as required by the CAA.

Erin Morris, Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Submission for OMB Review; Comments Requested

May 13, 2021.

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. Comments regarding these information collections are best assured of having their full effect if received by June 18, 2021. Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be submitted within 30 days of the publication of this notice on the following website www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain. Find this particular information collection by selecting “Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments” or by using the search function. 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: Agritourism Directory. OMB Control Number: 0581-New. Summary of Collection: Under the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1621 et seq.), AMS is responsible for conducting research to enhance market access for small and medium sized farmers. The role of the Marketing Services Division (MSD) of AMS is to facilitate distribution of U.S. agricultural products. The division identifies marketing opportunities, provides analysis to help take advantage of those opportunities and develops and evaluates strategies including methods to diversify farming operations of direct from farm-to/customer enterprises. Definitions are listed below for the following terms used by AMS for the purposes of the Agritourism Directory: Agritourism directory, a working farm, ranch, aquaculture and agroforestry.

An agritourism directory is a list of working farms, ranches, aquaculture and agroforestry operations that provide education and recreation opportunities, active-involvement experiences (e.g., farming activities, processing), as well as retailing and hospitality (e.g., accommodations, dining) facilities and services for the enjoyment of visitors that generate supplemental income, create and grow farm product markets i.e., for local foods, and build understanding of agriculture.

A working farm, ranch, aquaculture or agroforestry operation is defined as an area of land and buildings, or water (ponds, lakes, rivers, oceans), including within and around cities, that is currently being utilized to raise and grow domesticated animals, plants, trees, and freshwater and marine fish and shellfish, for food and beverages, including vegetables, fruits, herbs, meats, dairy products, oils, cereals, fish and shellfish, and products for direct sales to customers, and/or immediate consumption or enjoyment of customers, that are grown or processed there (e.g., Christmas trees, pinyon seeds, ginseng, wool, wine, beer, cheeses, nursery plants).

This information will be used to build an agritourism directory describing the characteristics of agritourism operations on working farms.

Need and Use of the Information: The data from this information collection will be used to build a web-based directory and describe the characteristics of agritourism enterprises in the United States. This directory will provide free advertisement to operators of agritourism enterprises and prospective customers as a service to the sector. There are no research objectives of this information collection. The agritourism directory will be utilized by individual customers seeking to learn more about farming operations and we anticipate will be utilized by various USDA agencies, State Departments of Agriculture, extension educators, industry stakeholders and trade associations.

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

Number of Respondents: 10,000.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Annually.

Total Burden Hours: 33.

Levi S. Harrell, Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Submission for OMB Review; Notice of Request for Emergency Extension

May 12, 2021.

In compliance with the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), the Department of Agriculture (USDA) has submitted a request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for a three-month emergency extension of the following information collection: ICR 0570–0067, Rural Energy for America Program (REAP). The requested extension would enable the collection to remain active while USDA completes the pending PRA renewal process. No changes are being made to the reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Rural Business–Cooperative Service

Title: Rural Energy for America Program. OMB Control Number: 0570–0067. Summary of Collection: The PRA renewal process for this information collection is ongoing. To ensure that OMB approval of the current information collection remains active during the PRA renewal process, USDA has submitted a request to the OMB for a short-term emergency extension, to August 31, 2021.

On May 11, 2021 the Director, Regulations Management Division, Innovation Center, Rural Development, USDA signed a memorandum to the Administrator of the Office of