

(Press Release No. 0181.22, August 22, 2022). AMS revised the paperwork burden estimate for the National Organic Program information collection to include participant applications. Through the Transition to Organic Partnership Program, the USDA ensures that operations (farmers) transitioning to organic production have the support and resources needed to navigate that transition. Respondents to the Transition to Organic Partnership Program are operations (*e.g.*, farmers) seeking to transition their agricultural operation to USDA certified organic production, operations looking to expand their existing USDA certified organic operation and/or acreage, and existing USDA certified organic operations looking to serve in a mentorship role to the above listed respondents. AMS and Transition to Organic Partnership Program cooperators use this information to build a partnership network across six regions of the United States, with the purpose of connecting transitioning operations (mentees) with mentors, and to help with technical assistance events and resource material content development.

Administrative investigations are exempt from the Paperwork Reduction Act requirements [44 U.S.C. 3518(c)(1)(B)(ii)]. Therefore, information regarding the submission of complaints has not previously been included in the National Organic Program information collection. However, AMS recognizes that respondents wishing to stay anonymous go to greater lengths to preserve their anonymity. To reduce the burden on these voluntary submissions, AMS created the NOP Online Complaint Portal. Since personally identifiable information is collected from non-anonymous respondents in this portal, AMS revised the National Organic Program information collection to include these respondents. These respondents are members of the public who voluntarily submit allegations of fraudulent organic activities (complaints) using the new NOP Online Complaint Portal. Complaints have historically been received and investigated by AMS since the publication of the first USDA organic regulations (7 CFR part 205, 65 FR 80548, Dec 21, 2000). As always, the public may submit complaints how they wish, using mail, fax, phone, email, or now—the NOP Online Complaint Portal. This collected information is used by AMS to initiate administrative investigations. Additional information requests associated with AMS following up on these complaints are not

discussed here, as administrative investigations are exempt from the Paperwork Reduction Act requirements [44 U.S.C. 3518(c)(1)(B)(ii)].

At a later date, AMS will update the information collection to describe revisions to the Organic Integrity Database (INTEGRITY) due to recent rulemaking (Strengthening Organic Enforcement, 88 FR 3548, Jan 19, 2023).

*Estimate of Burden:* The total annual hours requested for this information collection is 3,382,459 hours. This estimated burden includes time needed for participant education; record creation and administration; and preparation, review, and submission of reports. Respondents include producers and handlers of certified and exempt organic products, organic inspectors, certifying agents, State governments, petitioners, complainants, and participants in the Transition to Organic Partnership Program.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 55,285 respondents.

*Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* 5.2 responses per respondent.

*Estimated Burden per Response:* 11.8 hours.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 3,382,459 hours.

*Comments are invited on:* Revisions being made to “National Organic Program,” (OMB Control Number 0581–0191) to (1) revise the explanatory/instructional text in form TM–10CG, (2) include the Transition to Organic Partnership Program, and (3) include the NOP Online Complaint Portal. Comments are also invited on: (i) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (ii) the accuracy of the agency’s estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (iii) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (iv) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. For access to the docket to read background documents (such as the spreadsheet used to estimate burden) or comments received, go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and search for Docket ID “AMS–NOP–23–0052.”

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

A copy of the information collection and related documents may be obtained free of charge by contacting the Agency as directed above in section **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT.**

**Erin Morris,**

*Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

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 are required 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 this information collection received by December 21, 2023 will be considered. 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](http://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.

### Farm Service Agency

*Title:* Customer Data Worksheet Request for Business Partner Record Change.

OMB Control Number: 0560–0265.

*Summary of Collection:* The Core Customer Data is required in order to identify USDA program participants who are individual persons and legal entities and is necessary to ensure that benefits are issued to the correct customer and valid Tax Identification Numbers. Also, the customers can be validated and also to provide a necessary basis for pursuing legal remedies in the event of error or fraud. There is no public law regarding the use or collection of Core Customer Data. The option to document and track Core Customer Data changes is necessary to ensure the integrity of the data and to provide the Farm Service Agency (FSA), Natural Resources and Conservation Service and Rural Development (RD), Risk Management Agency (RMA), and Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), a method of verifying the validity of the information, and provide a necessary basis for pursuing legal remedies when needed.

*Need and Use of the Information:* Core Customer Data is necessary to input customer information for identity purposes and to provide a point of contact for the respective customer and a valid Tax Identification Number to direct program benefits to. The form (AD–2047) will be used to document Core Customer Data changes and also to provide a method to identify who made applicable changes and when this was done. Failure to collect and timely maintain the data collected will result in erroneous or outdated point of contact information, which could result in program information and benefits being directed to incorrect recipients.

*Description of Respondents:* Individuals or households.

*Number of Respondents:* 161,250.

*Frequency of Responses:* Reporting: Other (when necessary).

*Total Burden Hours:* 8,063.

**Ruth Brown,**

*Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Census Bureau

#### Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Review and Approval; Comment Request; State and Local Government Finance Collections, and Public Employment and Payroll Collections

**AGENCY:** Census Bureau, Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of information collection, request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Commerce, in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on proposed, and continuing information collections, which helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. The purpose of this notice is to allow for 60 days of public comment on the proposed extension of the State and Local Government Finance Collections, and Public Employment and Payroll Collections prior to the submission of the information collection request (ICR) to OMB for approval.

**DATES:** To ensure consideration, comments regarding this proposed information collection must be received on or before January 22, 2024.

**ADDRESSES:** Interested persons are invited to submit written comments by email to [Thomas.J.Smith@census.gov](mailto:Thomas.J.Smith@census.gov). Please reference State and Local Government Finance Collections, and Public Employment and Payroll Collections in the subject line of your comments. You may also submit comments, identified by Docket Number USBC–2023–0014, to the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. All comments received are part of the public record. No comments will be posted to <http://www.regulations.gov> for public viewing until after the comment period has closed. Comments will generally be posted without change. All Personally Identifiable Information (for example, name and address) voluntarily submitted by the commenter may be publicly accessible. Do not submit Confidential Business Information or otherwise sensitive or protected information. You may submit attachments to electronic comments in Microsoft Word, Excel, or Adobe PDF file formats.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or specific questions related to collection

activities should be directed to Michael Reich, Assistant Division Chief, Public Sector, Economy-Wide Statistics Division, 301–763–5163; or by email [michael.r.reich@census.gov](mailto:michael.r.reich@census.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. Abstract

The Census Bureau plans to request an extension of the clearance for the Annual Survey of Public Employment & Payroll and the Annual Survey of State and Local Government Finances. There are no proposed changes since the last approved clearance. The Annual Survey of Public Employment & Payroll collects state and local government data by function for full-time and part-time employees and payroll. The Annual Survey of State and Local Government Finances collect state and local government finance data including government revenue, expenditure, debt, assets, and pension systems. Data are collected for all agencies, departments, and institutions of the fifty state governments and for a sample of all local governments (counties, municipalities, townships, and special districts). Data for school districts are collected under a separate survey and are not included here.

In years ending with 2 and 7 this collection is conducted as a part of the Census of Governments. There is no difference in content collected between a Census of Governments year and non-Census year. The only difference is that in non-Census years, we only collect from a sample of the universe of state and local governments, whereas during a Census of Governments year the entire universe is collected. The upcoming three years of this clearance extension will cover the collections for fiscal years of 2023, 2024, and 2025, all of which are non-Census years.

The data are released as part of the State and Local Government Finance and Public Employment & Payroll statistical series. The collections also produce individual data products that focus on state governments, local governments, and public pensions in greater detail than the combined financial and employment series as a by-product of their collections for the combined data series. The Census Bureau provides these data to the Bureau of Economic Analysis to develop the public sector components of the National Income and Product Accounts and for constructing the functional payrolls in the public sector of the Gross Domestic Product, payroll being the single largest component of current operations. The Census Bureau also provides these data to the Federal Reserve Board for use in the Flow of