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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

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Doc. No. AMS-TM-23-0076]

Notice of Availability of the Final Programmatic Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact for the AMS Organic Market Development Grant Program

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) announces the availability of the Final Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the AMS Organic Market Development Grant Program.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Betsy Rakola, Associate Deputy Administrator, Transportation and Marketing Program; Telephone: (202) 690-1300; Email: OMDG@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Final PEA and FONSI analyze and disclose the potential environmental impacts associated with the establishment of the Organic Market Development Grant Program (OMDG). AMS has proposed to fund grants to support the development of new and expanded organic markets by providing additional resources for businesses transitioning to organic or initiating new organic production and processing capacity. These grants will create new and improved markets for domestically produced organic products through investments in expanded certified organic processing capacity; activities that develop, maintain, or expand commercial organic markets; and organic product developments which create new uses for producers that currently lack markets.

Selected applicants for the OMDG program may invest in certified organic infrastructure and expand processing capacities, in addition to adding manufacturing, storing, transporting, wholesaling, or distribution infrastructure. Funded activities will include developing new markets to increase demand for domestically produced organic agricultural products and providing additional market networks.

The OMDG Program is authorized by authorized by section 5(e) of the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) Charter Act, (15 U.S.C. 714(e)). Section 5(e), as amended, authorizes USDA (through the CCC) to “increase the domestic consumption of agricultural commodities (other than tobacco) by expanding or aiding in the expansion of domestic markets or by developing or aiding in the development of new and additional markets, marketing facilities, and uses for such commodities.” Recipients of funding from this proposed program would be allowed 36 months to complete work funded by the grant awards.

The environmental impacts of funding projects to enhance existing organic processing facilities have been considered in a manner consistent with the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, Public Law 91-190, 42 U.S.C. 4321-4347, as amended.

A Final PEA and FONSI have been prepared, and based on this analysis, AMS has determined there will not be a significant impact to the human environment. As a result, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has not been initiated (40 CFR 1501.6). AMS intends for this PEA to create efficiencies by establishing a framework that can be used for “tiering,” where appropriate, to project-specific actions that require additional analysis. As decisions on specific applications are made, to the extent additional NEPA analysis is required, environmental review will be conducted to supplement the analysis set forth in this PEA.

The Final PEA and FONSI are available for review online at the program website: <https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/omdg>.

Comments

AMS published a Draft PEA for public comment on November 20, 2023. The public comment period ended on

December 20, 2023. No comments were received during the designated timeframe, and as such, no substantial changes were made to the document.

Melissa Bailey,

Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 2024-02120 Filed 2-1-24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Doc. No. AMS-LP-23-0027]

Soybean Promotion, Research, and Information Program: Opportunity To Request a Referendum

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) announces that soybean producers may request a referendum to determine if producers want the Secretary to conduct a referendum on the Soybean Promotion and Research Order (Order), as authorized under the Soybean Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Act (Act). Participation in the Request for Referendum is voluntary. Producers should participate only if they wish to request a referendum on the program. If at least 10 percent (not in excess of one-fifth of which may be producers in any one State) of the 413,358 eligible producers, as determined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), participate in the Request for Referendum, a referendum would be held within 1 year from that determination. If results of the Request for Referendum indicate that a referendum is not supported, a referendum would not be conducted. The results of the Request for Referendum will be published in a notice in the **Federal Register**.

DATES: Soybean producers may request a referendum during a 4-week period beginning on May 6, 2024, and ending May 31, 2024. To be eligible to participate in the Request for Referendum, producers must certify that they or the producer entity they are authorized to represent paid an assessment at any time between January 1, 2022, and December 31, 2023.

ADDRESSES: Form LP-51-1, Soybean Promotion and Research Order Request for Referendum, may be obtained by mail, fax, or in person from the Farm Service Agency (FSA) county offices from May 6, 2024, to May 31, 2024. Form LP-51-1 may also be obtained via the internet at <https://www.ams.usda.gov/rules-regulations/research-promotion/soybean> during the same time period. Completed forms and supporting documentation must be returned to the appropriate county FSA office by fax or in person no later than close of business May 31, 2024, or if returned by mail, must be postmarked by midnight May 31, 2024, and received in the county FSA office by close of business on June 7, 2024.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jason Julian, Agricultural Marketing Specialist, Research and Promotion Division, Livestock and Poultry Program, AMS, USDA, STOP 0249, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250-0249; Telephone (202) 720-5705; or Email to Jason.Julian@usda.gov; or contact a local FSA Office; the phone numbers, fax numbers, and mailing addresses can be found at <https://www.farmers.gov/>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with the Act (7 U.S.C. 6301-6311), this notice announces the dates when the Request for Referendum will be conducted and the place where soybean producers may request a referendum on the Order (7 CFR part 1220). The Act provides that the Secretary, 5 years after the conduct of the initial referendum and every 5 years thereafter, shall give soybean producers an opportunity to request a referendum on the Order. The initial referendum was held in February 1994, and the results were announced on April 1, 1994. During the initial referendum, 85,606 valid ballots were cast, with 46,060 (53.8 percent) in favor of continuing the Order and 39,546 votes (46.2 percent) against continuing the Order. The Act required approval by a simple majority for the Order to continue.

The most recent opportunity for producers to request a referendum on the Order was in May 2019. During that period, 708 producers completed valid requests—short of the 51,501 required to trigger a referendum. On July 17, 2019, USDA announced the results of the Request for Referendum and that the requisite number of producers had not requested that a referendum be conducted.

Eligibility

To be eligible to participate, soybean producers must certify that they or the entity they are authorized to represent paid an assessment under the Soybean Checkoff Program at sometime between January 1, 2022, and December 31, 2023. They must complete and submit Form LP-51-1—Soybean Promotion and Research Order Request for Referendum, in person; by mail, postmarked by May 31, 2024, and received no later than June 7, 2024; or by fax between May 6, 2024, and May 31, 2024. Individual producers and other producer entities would request a referendum at the county FSA office where FSA maintains and processes the producer's, corporation's, or other entity's administrative farm records. For the producer, corporation, or other entity not participating in FSA programs, the opportunity to request a referendum would be provided at the county FSA office serving the county where the producer, corporation, or other entity owns or rents land. Form LP-51-1 may also be obtained via the internet at <https://www.ams.usda.gov/rules-regulations/research-promotion/soybean>. If obtained by the internet, Form LP-51-1 must be completed and returned by mail, fax, or in person with the supporting documentation to the county FSA office where FSA maintains and processes the producer's, corporation's, or other entity's administrative farm records.

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501-3521), the information collection requirements connected with the Request for Referendum have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and assigned OMB control number 0581-0093.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 6301-6311.

Melissa Bailey,

Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 2024-02136 Filed 2-1-24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Notice of Request for Approval of an Information Collection

AGENCY: Office of the Chief Economist, Office of Pest Management Policy, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the intention of

USDA's Office of Pest Management Policy to request renewal of an existing information collection for Multiple Crop and Pesticide Use Surveys.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by April 2, 2024 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: USDA invites interested persons to submit comments on this notice. Comments may be submitted by one of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* This website provides the ability to type short comments directly into the comment field on this web page or attach a file for lengthier comments. Go to <https://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the on-line instructions at that site for submitting comments.

- *Mail, including CD-ROMs, etc.:* Send to Docket Clerk, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of Pest Management Policy, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Room 3871—South Building, Mailstop 3817, Washington, DC 20250-3700.

- *Hand- or courier-delivered submissions:* Deliver to 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Room 4054—South Building, Washington, DC 20250-3700. You may also want to send comments to the Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503.

Instructions: All items submitted by mail or electronic mail must include the Agency name and docket number. Comments received in response to this docket will be made available for public inspection and posted without change, including any personal information, to <https://www.regulations.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michelle Ranville, Office of the Chief Economist, Office of Pest Management Policy, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20250-3700, (202) 577-1980.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Generic Clearance to Conduct Multiple Crop and Pesticide Use Surveys.

OMB Number: 0503-0026.

Expiration Date of Approval: Three years from approval date.

Type of Request: Renewal and revision of a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: The Office of Pest Management Policy (OPMP) of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) requests approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for generic clearance that will allow OPMP to collect information from