

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

Office of the Secretary

National Commission on Small Farms; Meeting

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Secretary of Agriculture by Departmental Regulation No. 1043-43 dated July 9, 1997, established the National Commission on Small Farms (Commission) and further identified the Natural Resources Conservation Service to provide support to the Commission. The purpose of the Commission is to gather and analyze information regarding small farms and ranches and recommend to the Secretary of Agriculture a national policy and strategy to ensure their continued viability. The Commission's next meeting is October 14 and 15, 1997.

PLACE, DATE AND TIME OF MEETING: The Commission's fifth meeting is October 14 and 15, 1997, at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Jamie L. Whitten Building, Room 107A, 1400 Independence Avenue S.W., Washington, D.C. The meeting is open to the public. On each day the Commission will meet from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. to conduct Commission business. The purpose of the meeting is to finalize the Commission's findings and recommendations for consideration by the Secretary of Agriculture.

ADDRESSES: National Commission on Small Farms, USDA, PO Box 2890, Room 5237, South Building, Washington, D.C. 20013.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jennifer Yezak Molen, Director, National Commission on Small Farms, at the address above or at (202) 690-0648 or (202) 690-0673. The fax number is (202) 720-0596.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the Commission is to gather and evaluate background information,

studies, and data pertinent to small farms and ranches, including limited-resource farmers. On the basis of the review, the Commission shall analyze all relevant issues and make findings, develop strategies, and make recommendations for consideration by the Secretary of Agriculture toward a national strategy on small farms. The national strategy shall include, but not be limited to: changes in existing policies, programs, regulations, training, and program delivery and outreach systems; approaches that assist beginning farmers and involve the private sectors and government, including assurances that the needs of minorities, women, and persons with disabilities are addressed; areas where new partnerships and collaborations are needed; and other approaches that it would deem advisable or which the Secretary of Agriculture or the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service may request the Commission to consider.

The Secretary of Agriculture has determined that the work of the Commission is in the public interest and within the duties and responsibilities of USDA. Establishment of the Commission also implements a recommendation of the USDA Civil Rights Action Report to appoint a diverse commission to develop a national policy on small farms. Individuals may submit written comments to the contact person listed above before or after the meeting.

Dated: September 24, 1997.

Pearlie S. Reed,

Acting Assistant Secretary for Administration.

[FR Doc. 97-25741 Filed 9-26-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-16-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Docket No. FV-97-330]

Notice of Request for Extension and Revision of a Currently Approved Information Collection

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 an extension for and revision to a currently approved information collection for "Regulations Governing Inspection and Certification of Processed Fruits and Vegetables and Related Products."

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by November 28, 1997 to be assured of consideration.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS: Contact Mr. James R. Rodeheaver, Processed Products Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 96456, Room 0709 South Building, Washington, DC 20090-6456, (202) 720-4693 telephone; (202) 690-1087 Fax.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: "Regulations Governing Inspection and Certification of Processed Fruits and Vegetables and Related Products—7 CFR 52."

OMB Number: 0581-0123.

Expiration Date of Approval: March 31, 1998.

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

Abstract: Information is needed to carry out inspection and grading services to evaluate products as to quality for compliance with the respective grade standards or product specifications. Affected public may include any partnership, association, business trust, corporation, organized group, and State, County or Municipal government, and any authorized agent that has a financial interest in the commodity involved.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 0.0538 hours per response.

Respondents: Applicants who are applying for grading and inspection services.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1,700.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 12.189.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 1,114.

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. Comments may be sent to Mr. James R. Rodeheaver, Processed Products Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 96456, Room 0709 South Building, Washington, DC 20090-6456, (202) 720-4693 telephone; (202) 690-1087 Fax.

All comments received will be available for public inspection during regular business hours at the same address.

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: September 23, 1997.

Robert C. Keeney,

Deputy Administrator, Fruit and Vegetable Programs.

[FR Doc. 97-25760 Filed 9-26-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 97-057-1]

General Conference Committee of the National Poultry Improvement Plan; Renewal

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of renewal.

SUMMARY: We are giving notice that the Secretary of Agriculture has renewed the General Conference Committee of the National Poultry Improvement Plan for a 2-year period. The Secretary has determined that the Committee is necessary and in the public interest.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Andrew Rhorer, Senior Coordinator, National Poultry Improvement Plan, VS, APHIS, Suite A102, 1500 Klondike Road, Conyers, Georgia 30207-5115, (404) 922-3496.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the General Conference Committee of the National Poultry Improvement Plan (Committee) is to maintain and ensure industry involvement in Federal administration of matters pertaining to poultry health.

The Committee Chairperson and the Vice Chairperson shall be elected by the Committee from among its members. There are seven members on the Committee with 4-year staggered terms. This Committee differs somewhat from other advisory committees in the selection process and composition of its membership. The poultry industry elects the members of the Committee. The members represent six geographic areas with one member-at-large. The membership is not subject to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's review, and a formal request for nominations for membership is not published in the **Federal Register**.

Done in Washington, DC, this 24th day of September 1997.

Pearlie S. Reed,

Acting Assistant Secretary for Administration.

[FR Doc. 97-25759 Filed 9-26-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Commodity Credit Corporation

Request for Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Commodity Credit Corporation.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the intention of the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) to request an extension for an information collection currently approved in support of the Cotton Loan Program Regulations issued under authority of the CCC Charter Act (15 U.S.C. 714 *et seq.*).

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received on or before November 28, 1997 to be assured consideration.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: George A. Stickels, Agricultural Program Specialist, USDA, Farm Service Agency (FSA), Price Support Division, STOP 0512, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-0512; telephone (202) 720-7935; e-mail gstickel@wdc.fsa.usda.gov; or facsimile (202) 690-3307.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Cotton Loan Program, 7 CFR part 1427.

OMB Control Number: 0560-0074.

Expiration Date: January 31, 1998.

Type of Request: Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection.

Abstract: The information collected under Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Control Number 0560-0074, as identified above, is needed to enable the FSA to effectively administer the regulation relating to all aspects of the cotton loan program.

USDA Service Centers, independent Cotton Clerks, Cooperative Marketing Associations and Loan Servicing Agents use various manual and automated forms to collect information from cotton producers for purposes of administering the cotton loan program. The public reporting burden for cotton loan program participants is shown in the following estimates:

Respondents: Cotton producers.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 200,000.

Estimated Average Time to Respond: 15 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Responses: 513,255.

Estimated Number of Reports Filed per Person: 2.56.

Estimated Total Burden Hours: 128,318 hours.

Topics for comments include, but are not limited to, the following: (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; or (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. Comments should be sent to the Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, D.C. 20503 and to George A. Stickels, Program Specialist, USDA, Farm Service Agency, Price Support Division, STOP 0512, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-0512; telephone (202) 720-7935; e-mail gstickel@wdc.fsa.usda.gov; e-mail copies of the information collection may be obtained from George A. Stickels at