

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

### Food and Consumer Service

#### Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Model Food Stamp Forms, Periodic Reporting, Notice of Late/Incomplete Report, etc.

**AGENCY:** Food and Consumer Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice invites the general public and other public agencies to comment on proposed information collections. The information collection requirements described below are limited to that which is necessary to comply with Sections 3, 5, 6, 11 and 13 of the Food Stamp Act of 1977, governing the application, certification, and ongoing eligibility of food stamp households.

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted on or before April 7, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments may be sent to Judith M. Seymour, Chief, Certification Policy Branch, Program Development Division, Food and Consumer Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, VA 22302. Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information has practical utility; (b) 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; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and, (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.

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

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for additional information or copies of the pertinent forms should be directed to Judith M. Seymour (703) 305-2494.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Title:* Model Food Stamp Forms, Periodic Reporting, Notice of Late Incomplete Reports, etc.

*OMB Number:* 0584-0064.

*Form Numbers:* FCS-385, 386, 387, 394, 396, 437, 439, 441, 442.

*Expiration Date:* 04/30/97.

*Type of Request:* Extension of a currently approved information collection.

*Abstract:* Title 7 CFR Part 273 of the Food Stamp Program (Program) regulations sets forth the requirements for food stamp household application, certification, and continued eligibility for food stamp benefits.

*Ending use of FCS-designed certification related forms.* Section 835 of Pub. L. 104-193, the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, amended section 11(e)(2) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (the Act), 7 U.S.C. 2020(e)(2), to revoke the mandate that the Food and Consumer Service (FCS) develop a model application form which States are required to use. Prior to this amendment, FCS approval was required for use of a State-designed deviation from the model application form. Section 11(e)(2)(B)(ii) of the Act now makes State agencies responsible for developing an application for participation requiring information necessary to comply with the certification provisions of the Act. In the past, FCS undertook the task of developing and updating several forms relating to certification of Program applications and distributed them to State agencies. States had the option of using these forms or developing their own as long as they met the requirements described in the Program regulations. Because FCS is no longer responsible for designing uniform certification forms, include a model application form, FCS is proposing to discontinue all the FCS model

certification forms. State agencies are expected to design their own forms to document the certification activities described in the regulations. The information collection, reporting, or recordkeeping burden associated with each application/certification action remains in effect and will continue to be reported to OMB.

In addition, while this notice addresses the proposed burden associated with extending OMB approval of all line items currently covered under OMB No. 0584-0064, we intend to separate the burden described and submit two separate information collection packages to OMB for approval. One package will include only application and certification related burden as described in items 1 through 11 below and will be entitled "Application and Certification of Food Stamp Program Households." The remaining burden (items 12 through 14) will be submitted to OMB for approval separately in order to capture burden associated with all fraud related activities under one separate and distinct OMB approval number. The FCS model notices associated with these fraud activities will also be discontinued. State agencies will design their own notices.

The estimated burden hours associated with Program applications is derived from using a base figure of 18,300,000 which is the average number of applications received each year based on data obtained from the FCS-366B report submitted by State agencies to FCS. The 18,300,000 estimated figure includes both those applications which are approved for participation and those that are rejected. Thus, the actual number of application forms filed will always exceed the number of households actually participating in the program.

The actual number of households currently receiving food stamps is approximately 10,900,000 (hereafter referred to as the caseload) as reported by the FCS-388 report. This figure is used in computing burden associated with participating households. This figure is also the basis for determining burden imposed on local agency staff who deal with households on a daily basis. Due to a lack of data on the number of local staff and/or the number of food stamp cases each staff person handles in a given year. FCS assumes

there is one local agency worker per applicant/participating household. Proposed estimated information collection and recordkeeping burden hours associated with burden approved under OMB No. 0584-0064 are outlined below and adjusted to reflect recent data:

(1) *Application burden.* State agencies must design an application which contains the information necessary to comply with the eligibility requirements of the Act. Households must complete an application in order to obtain benefits. The number of burden hours assumes that all applicants will complete the entire application because no data is available on the number of households that complete only part of the application. Number of respondents is equal to the number of initial and recertification applications received annually as reported by State agencies on form FNS-366B, Program Activity Statement. The data assumes, on average, that each applicant will file either one initial or one recertification application yearly. Household burden to complete an application is estimated to be 13.274 minutes (or .2290 hours).

(2) *Calculating food stamp eligibility through use of a worksheet.* An application worksheet is used by eligibility workers to make income and resource eligibility determinations and calculate benefit levels for households. A worksheet will be used with 80% (14,640,000) of all applications received; 25% (2,289,000) of all change in circumstances report forms received (as discussed below); and 16% (3,348,480) of all monthly report forms received (as discussed below). Based on these estimates, the total average number of worksheets processed annually is estimated to be 20,277,480. Average time to complete a worksheet is estimated at 27.837 minutes (or .4640 hours).

(3) *Monthly reporting burden.* State agencies have the option to require certain households to report information on a monthly basis. These households must complete a monthly report form, designed by the State agency, in order to meet the monthly reporting requirements. The estimated number of households who submit monthly reports is 16% of the total number of households participating in the Program (1,744,000). This amount is multiplied by 12 months to determine the total number of monthly reports. Burden to complete this form is estimated to be 9.702 minutes (or .1617 hours) per form.

(4) *Explaining monthly reporting to households.* Where State agencies have opted for monthly reporting, the process must be explained to affected

households. Eligibility workers will explain the monthly reporting process at least once to 16% of the total number of households participating in the Program (1,744,000). Explaining monthly reporting is estimated to be a burden of 4.998 minutes (or .0833 hours) per household.

(5) *Households reporting changes in circumstances.* Households not required to monthly report, including those subject to less frequent periodic reporting, must report certain changes in household circumstances as they occur anything during the certification period. It is estimated that one change report form will be submitted annually by non-monthly reporting households which represents about 84% of the total caseload (9,156,000). Estimated time to complete this form is 9.703 minutes (or .1617 hours).

(6) *Notice to monthly reporting households of late/incomplete monthly reports.* Monthly households must be given additional time to file a late report or to provide missing information or verification. It is estimated that 5% (1,046,400) of the monthly reports expected to be received (10,928,000) will be late or incomplete resulting in the use of such a notice. Reporting burden is estimated to be 6.69 minutes (or .1115 hours) per notice.

(7) *Informing households about action taken on their food stamp case.* Each household that submits an initial application or a re-application must receive notification of the action taken by the State agency. The notice contains one of three actions: notice of eligibility, denial notice, or notice of pending status. Estimates are based on the need to provide this notice to 18,300,000 households annually. It is estimated that it takes a caseworker 6.69 minutes (or .1115 hours) to prepare this form.

(8) *Notifying households of the expiration of their certification periods.* Households must be provided with a notice of expiration regarding the certification process and the need to reapply for benefits. It is estimated that 10% of the caseload (those certified for less than 6 months) will submit two re-applications a year; 24% of the caseload (those certified for six months) will submit one re-application; and 66% of the caseload (those certified for more than six months) will submit either an application for recertification or an initial application. Only half (3,598,500) of the households certified for more than six months will be applying for recertification. Eligibility workers will generate notices of expiration an average of .745 times per household, for a total of 8,120,500 (10,900,000×.745). The estimated preparation time for this form

is 4.998 minutes (or .0833 hours) per form.

(9) *Informing households about a reduction in their food stamps.* Non-monthly reporting households which submit a change in circumstances report form must receive a written notice of any action to reduce or terminate benefits in advance of the date the action will become effective. It is estimated that 50% of change reports received will result in reduction or termination of benefits which require eligibility workers to provide this notice. On average, caseworkers will generate 4,578,000 of these notices annually with a preparation time of 9.96 minutes (or .1666 hours) for each notice.

(10) *Adequate notice to monthly reporting households.* Monthly reporting households must receive written notice that their benefits will be or have been increased, reduced or terminated. It is estimated that 30% of the monthly reports (6,083,244) received by caseworkers will result in an increase, a reduction or a termination of benefits. The remaining 70% of monthly reports have no change in benefits, so no notice is necessary. It is estimated that it takes caseworkers 6.69 minutes (or .1115 hours) to prepare this notice.

(11) *Sponsored aliens.* Recently enacted legislation has affected the food stamp eligibility of "sponsored aliens," that is, aliens lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the United States. Section 421 of Pub. L. 104-193 requires that all of an alien sponsor's income and resources and all the sponsor's spouse's income and resources be attributed to the alien until he becomes a U.S. citizen or has worked 40 qualifying quarters for any period beginning after December 31, 1996. In addition, Section 421 requires that the alien not have received any Federal means-tested public benefit during this period in order to be eligible to begin receiving a Federal means-tested public benefit such as food stamps. At the same time, various other sections of P.L. 104-193 establish new participation requirements for aliens in general and more restrictive conditions for alien immigrants in particular. For Food Stamp Program purposes, during the period that P.L. 104-193 requires the attribution of the sponsor's income, any sponsored alien without 40 qualifying quarters would already be ineligible for food stamps pursuant to Section 6(f) of the Act, 7 U.S.C. § 2015(F). However, Section 510 of Pub. L. 104-208 requires State agencies to recertify currently participating alien households during the period April 1, 1997 to August 22, 1997. Information obtained from the Immigration and Naturalization Service

by FCS showed that approximately 100,000 aliens were approved each year as lawful permanent residents. Of the 100,000 aliens approved for lawful permanent residence each year, it is assumed that 5% will actually apply for food stamps at least once during any given year. The potential number of annual responses is estimated to be 5,000. Burden is estimated to be 30 minutes (or .5000 hours) per response.

(12) *Demand Letter for Overissuance.* State agencies are required to establish a claim and send a demand letter for repayment when food stamp benefits are overissued either as a result of a household error, State agency error, or an intentional Program violation. A demand letter is used for this purpose. Based on data reporting the number of new claims established for FY 1995 (form FCS-209), State agencies generated demand letters for about .07 percent of the caseload. On average, 7.698 minutes (or .1283 hrs.) is required to compose a demand letter.

(13) *Advance Notice of Administrative Disqualification Hearing.* Household members suspected of committing an intentional Program violation must be provided with advance notice of a State agency's intent to disqualify them from participation in the Program which, among other things, announces the date of disqualification

hearing, the charge against the household, summarizes the evidence, and explains the consequences of a guilty finding by the hearing officials. Based on reports of the number of disqualification hearings held in FY 1995 (form FCS-336B), State agencies generate this notice for about .004 percent of the caseload at a rate of 15 minutes (or .2500 hrs.) per notice.

(14) *Action Taken on Administrative Disqualification Hearing.* Household members subject to an administrative disqualification hearing must receive written notice of a guilty or not guilty finding by the hearing official. The notice also explains, among other things, the reason for the decision and the date program disqualification, if appropriate, will take effect. Data contained in the FCS-366B report indicates that, State agencies generate this notice for .002 percent of the caseload annually at a rate of 9.996 minutes (or .1666 hrs.) per notice.

#### Recordkeeping Burden

*Case records:* Local agencies are required to maintain client case records for three years and to perform duplicate participation checks on individual household members to reduce the possibility of duplicate participation. The burden estimates for casefile maintenance are based on an estimated number of casefiles, the number of

records in the casefiles and assumes one recordkeeper per State (53 State welfare agencies). Using this methodology, average burden per recordkeeper is estimated to be 685,466.038 hours (36,329,700 hours/53 recordkeepers).

*Monitoring Duplicate Participation:* The estimated annual recordkeeping burden to perform duplicate participation checks is based on the average number of persons (2.442) in each food stamp household. The estimated number of applications is 18,300,000. The estimated average number of persons who must be checked is 44,688,600 (18,300,000×2.442). Burden is estimated to be 15 seconds or (or.0042 hours) per eligibility worker, which results in an estimated annual recordkeeping burden of hours of 187,692.120 (44,688,600×.0042). The average burden hours per recordkeeper is estimated to be 9,947,682.360 (187,692.120 hours×53 recordkeepers).

*Affected Public:* State and local governments; potential program applicants and currently participating households.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 18,305,000.

*Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* 5.9461573.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 22,681.621 hours.

	Annual number of respondents	Annual frequency	Average burden per response (hours)	Annual burden hours (Calculations may not be exact due to rounding)
<b>7 CFR 273.1, 273.3, 273.5, 273.6, 273.7 Food Stamp Application</b>				
Existing .....	18,700,000	1.00	.2290	4,282,923
Proposed .....	18,300,000	1.00	.2290	4,191,310
Difference .....				- 992,223
<b>7 CFR 273.2, 273.10, 273.11 Application Worksheet</b>				
Existing .....	11,100,000	1.798	.4640	9,258,122
Proposed .....	10,900,000	1.793	.4640	9,067,903
Difference .....				- 19,022
<b>7 CFR 273.12, 273.21 Monthly Reporting</b>				
Existing .....	11,100,000	1.920	.1617	3,446,150
Proposed .....	10,900,000	1.920	.1617	3,384,058
Difference .....				- 62,093
<b>7 CFR 273.12, 273.12 Explaining Monthly Reporting to Households</b>				
Existing .....	11,100,000	.160	.0833	147,941
Proposed .....	10,900,000	.160	.0833	145,275
Difference .....				- 2,666

	Annual number of respondents	Annual frequency	Average burden per response (hours)	Annual burden hours (Calculations may not be exact due to rounding)
<b>7 CFR 273.21 Notice of Late/Incomplete Report to Monthly Reporting Households</b>				
Existing .....	11,100,000	.096	.1115	118,816
Proposed .....	10,900,000	.096	.1115	116,674
Difference .....				-2,141
<b>7 CFR 273.2 Informing Households about Action Taken on Food Stamp Case</b>				
Existing .....	18,700,000	1.00	.1115	2,085,050
Proposed .....	18,300,000	1.00	.1115	2,040,450
Difference .....				-44,600
<b>7 CFR 273.2 Notifying Household that Certification Period Will End</b>				
Existing .....	11,100,000	.745	.0833	688,849
Proposed .....	10,900,000	.745	.0833	676,438
Difference .....				-12,412
<b>7 CFR 273.12, 273.21 Households Reporting Changes</b>				
Existing .....	11,100,000	.840	.1617	1,507,691
Proposed .....	10,900,000	.840	.1617	1,480,525
Difference .....				-21,166
<b>7 CFR 273.13 Notifying Household about a Reduction in Food Stamps</b>				
Existing .....	11,100,000	.420	.1666	776,689
Proposed .....	10,900,000	.420	.1666	762,695
Difference .....				-13,994
<b>7 CFR 273.21 Adequate Notice to Monthly Reporting Households</b>				
Existing .....	11,100,000	.576	.1115	712,886
Proposed .....	10,900,000	.576	.1115	700,042
Difference .....				-12,844
<b>7 CFR 273.11 Sponsored Aliens</b>				
Existing .....	5,000	1	.5000	2,500
Proposed .....	5,000	1	.5000	2,500
<b>7 CFR 273.18 Demand Letter for Overissuance</b>				
Existing .....	11,100,000	.069	.1283	98,880
Proposed .....	10,900,000	.071	.1283	99,291
Difference .....				+557
<b>7 CFR 273.17 Advance Notice of Administrative Disqualification Hearing</b>				
Existing .....	11,100,000	.004	.2500	11,095
Proposed .....	10,900,000	.004	.2500	11,163
Difference .....				+68
<b>7 CFR 273.16 Action Taken on Administrative Disqualification Hearing</b>				
Existing .....	11,100,000	.002	.1666	4,234
Proposed .....	10,900,000	.002	.1666	2,724
Difference .....				-1,510

Dated: January 27, 1997.  
 William E. Ludwig,  
 Administrator, Food and Consumer Service.  
 [FR Doc. 97-2832 Filed 2-4-97; 8:45 am]  
 BILLING CODE 3410-30-M

## National Agricultural Statistics Service

### Notice of Intent To Request a Revision of a Currently Approved Information Collection

**AGENCY:** National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13) and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations at 5 CFR Part 1320 (60 FR 44978, August 29, 1995), this notice announces the National Agricultural Statistics Service's (NASS) intention to request a revision to a currently approved information collection, the June Agricultural Survey.

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received by April 11, 1997 to be assured of consideration.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS:** Contact Rich Allen, Associate Administrator, National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Room 4117 South Building, Washington, D.C. 20250-2000, (202) 720-4333.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Title:* June Agricultural Survey.  
*OMB Number:* 0535-0089.

*Expiration Date of Approval:* July 31, 1999.

*Type of Request:* To revise a currently approved information collection.

*Abstract:* The primary objective of the National Agricultural Statistics Service is to prepare and issue state and national estimates of crop and livestock production. The June Agricultural Survey collects information on planted acreage for major crops, livestock inventories, and on-farm grain stocks. The survey establishes a base for estimating crop production and value for the remainder of the crop year. Information from this survey is used by government agencies in planning, farm policy analysis, and program administration. In order to maximize its utility, this information collection is being resubmitted to add acreage, equine, and computer ownership/usage questions and to eliminate selected cattle and hog questions. NASS will ask for OMB approval within 60 days of submitting the request.

*Estimate of Burden:* Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 13 minutes per response.

*Respondents:* Farms.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 83,000.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 18,000 hours.

Copies of this information collection and related instructions can be obtained without charge from Larry Gambrell, the Agency OMB Clearance Officer, at (202) 720-5778.

*Comments:* Comments are invited on: (a) 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; (b) 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; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, such as through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to: Larry Gambrell, Agency OMB Clearance Officer, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Room 4162 South Building, Washington, D.C. 20250-2000.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval.

All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Signed at Washington, D.C., January 30, 1997.

Rich Allen,  
 Acting Administrator, National Agricultural Statistics Service.

[FR Doc. 97-2831 Filed 2-4-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-20-M

the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights will commence on Thursday, March 6, through Saturday, March 8, 1997, beginning daily at 8:30 a.m., in the Mississippi Room at the Ramada Inn, 2700 U.S. Highway 82 East, Greenville, Mississippi 38704.

The purpose of the hearing is to collect information within the jurisdiction of the Commission, under 45 CFR 702.2, related particularly to voting rights, public education, and equality of economic opportunity in the Mississippi Delta region in order to examine underlying causes of racial and ethnic tensions in the United States.

The Commission is authorized to hold hearings and to issue subpoenas for the production of documents and the attendance of witnesses pursuant to 45 CFR Section 701.2(c). The Commission is an independent bipartisan, factfinding agency authorized to study, collect, and disseminate information, and to appraise the laws and policies of the Federal Government, and to study and collect information with respect to discrimination or denials of equal protection of the laws under the Constitution because of race, color, religion, sex, age, disability, or national origin, or in the administration of justice.

Hearing impaired persons who will attend the hearing and require the services of a sign language interpreter, should contact Betty Edmiston, Administrative Services and Clearinghouse Division at (202) 376-8105 (TDD (202) 376-8116), at least five (5) working days before the scheduled date of the hearing.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Barbara Brooks, Press and Communications (202) 367-8312.  
 Stephanie Y. Moore,  
 General Counsel.

[FR Doc. 97-2925 Filed 2-3-97; 10:53 am]

BILLING CODE 6335-01-M

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Bureau of the Census

#### 1998 Dress Rehearsal Integrated Coverage Measurement (ICM) Address Listing Activities

**ACTION:** Proposed collection: Comment request.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information

## COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

#### Hearing on Racial and Ethnic Tensions in American Communities: Poverty, Inequality, and Discrimination—Mississippi Delta

**AGENCY:** Commission on Civil Rights.

**ACTION:** Notice of hearing.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given pursuant to the provisions of the Civil Rights Commission Amendments Act of 1994, Section 3, Pub. L. 103-419, 108 Stat. 4338, as amended, and 45 CFR Section 702.3, that a public hearing of