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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

Food and Nutrition Service

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection: Comment Request—Food Stamp Program Redemption Certificate, Form FNS-278B; Food Stamp Program Wholesaler Redemption Certificate, Form FNS-278-4

AGENCY: Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Food and Nutrition Service is publishing for public comment a summary of a proposed information collection. The proposed collection is an extension, with change, of a currently approved information collection of the Food Stamp Program for which approval expires on November 30, 2001. The Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended, requires that the Food and Nutrition Service will provide all authorized retail food stores and wholesale food concerns with redemption certificates. The redemption certificates are to be used by all authorized retailers and wholesale firms to present food coupons to insured financial institutions for credit or for cash. Requirements in the Food Stamp Program regulations are the basis for the information collected on Form FNS-278B, Food Stamp Redemption Certificate and Form FNS-278-4, Wholesaler Redemption Certificate.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by November 19, 2001 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to Karen J. Walker, Chief, Retailer Management Branch, Benefit Redemption Division, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 3101 Park

Center Drive, Room 404, Alexandria, VA 22302.

Pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3507), 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 the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

All comments will be summarized and included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval of the information collection. All comments will become matter of public record.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Karen J. Walker, (703) 305-2418.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Food Stamp Redemption Certificate.

OMB Number: 0584-0085.

Expiration Date: November 30, 2001.

Type of Request: Revision of a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture is the Federal Agency responsible for the Food Stamp Program (FSP). Section 10 of the Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended, (7 U.S.C. 2019) requires that FNS provide for the redemption, through financial institutions, of food coupons accepted by approved retail food stores and wholesale food concerns from program participants. 7 CFR 278.3 and 7 CFR 278.4 of the FSP regulations govern the participation of authorized wholesale food concerns and retail stores in the food coupon redemption process. Form FNS-278B, Food Stamp Redemption Certificate and Form FNS-278-4, Wholesaler Redemption Certificates (RCs) are required to be used by all authorized wholesalers or retailers, and are processed by financial institutions when they are presented for cash or credit. Without the RCs, no vehicle

would exist for financial institutions, Federal Reserve Banks, and FNS to track deposits of food coupons.

The burden associated with this form is derived from the number of RCs processed annually, based on information available in our Store Tracking and Redemption System (STARS) database. As of April 2001, the number of program respondents was 158,365 retailers and wholesalers and 5,850 banks participating in the Food Stamp Program. The number of completed RC responses by authorized retailers was 5,521,243 annually. We estimate that it takes an average of 1.2 minutes (or .020 hours) for a retailer to complete the information on the RC and for the financial institution to handle and process the document. For this information collection package, we calculated the burden hours from each year, added them together (2002-2004) and divided by three to obtain the average burden for which we are seeking OMB approval. We estimate the average burden hours for the next three years to be 135,947.02.

The burden for each of the three fiscal years (FYs) are estimated as follows:

In FY 2002, we estimate the number of program respondents will be 152,515 respondents with 5,850 banks continuing to participate in the FSP—a reduction of 3,113 (or 2 percent) respondents. We also estimate that the number of completed RC responses by authorized retailers to be 10,497,840 annually—providing for a reduction of 2,624,460 (or 20 percent) annual responses, and a total burden hours calculated to be 209,956.80 hours.

In FY 2003, we estimate the number of program respondents will be 149,465 respondents with 5,850 banks continuing to participate in the FSP—a reduction of 3,050.30 (or 2 percent) respondents. We also estimate that the number of completed RC responses by authorized retailers to be 6,823,596 annually—providing for a reduction of 3,674,244 (or 35 percent) annual responses, and a total burden hours calculated to be 136,471.92 hours.

In FY 2004, we estimate the number of program respondents will be 147,223 respondents with 5,850 banks continuing to participate in the FSP—a reduction of 2,241.97 (or 1.5 percent) respondents. We also estimate that the number of completed RC responses by authorized retailers to be 3,070,618

annually—providing for a reduction of 3,752,977.80 (or 55 percent) annual responses, and a total burden hours calculated to be 61,412.364 hours.

The estimated reduction of respondents and annual burden hours is based on a projected decrease in the number of authorized retailers participating in the FSP, and a decrease in the number of RCs processed as a result of fewer authorized retailers accepting paper food coupons due to the increased use of the Electronic Benefit Transfer system.

Affected Public: Businesses, wholesale food concerns, or other not-for-profit financial institutions.

Estimated Average Number of Respondents: 155,584.

Estimated Average Annual Number of Responses per Respondent: 43.68923.

Estimated Total Average Annual Responses: 6,797,351.

Estimate of Burden: Estimated to average .020 hours per response.

Estimated Total Average Annual Burden: 135,947.02 hours.

Dated: September 4, 2001.

George A. Braley,

Acting Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service.

[FR Doc. 01-23215 Filed 9-17-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-30-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food and Nutrition Service

Agency Information Collection

Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request—Child Nutrition Database

AGENCY: Food and Nutrition Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the intention of the Food and Nutrition Service to request an extension of a currently approved collection. This collection is the voluntary submission of data including nutrient data from the food service industry to expand the Child Nutrition Database in support of the School Meal Initiatives for Healthy Children.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by November 19, 2001 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: 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, including 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 and will become a matter of public record. Comments may be sent to: William Wagoner, Team Leader, Technical Assistance Section, Nutrition Promotion and Training Branch, Child Nutrition Division, room 632, Food and Nutrition Service, United States Department of Agriculture, 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, VA 22302.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instruments and instruction should be directed to William Wagoner at (703) 305-2609.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Data Collection to Expand the Child Nutrition Database.

OMB Number: 0584-0494.

Expiration Date: 02-2002.

Type of Request: Extension of currently approved collection.

Abstract: The development of the Child Nutrition (CN) Database, previously known as the National Nutrient Database for Child Nutrition Programs, is regulated by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) School Meal Initiatives for Healthy Children. This database is designed to be incorporated in USDA approved nutrition analysis software programs and provide an accurate source of nutrient data. The software allows schools participating in the National School Lunch (NSLP) and School Breakfast (SBP) Programs to analyze meals and measure the compliance of the menus to established nutrition goals and standards specified in 7 CFR 210.10 for the NSLP and 7 CFR 220.8 for the SBP. The information collection for the CN Database is conducted using an outside contractor. The CN Database needs to be updated with an extensive database of brand name or manufactured foods commonly used in school food service. The Food and Nutrition Service's contractor collects this data from the food industry to expand the CN Database. The submission of data from the food industry will be strictly voluntary, and

based on analytical, calculated, or nutrition facts label sources.

Respondents: The respondents are the manufacturers of food products for school food service.

Estimate of Burden

Form FNS-709

Number of Respondents: 60.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 50.

Estimated Time per Response: 0.33 Hours (20 Minutes).

Total Annual Burden: 1,000 Hours.

Form FNS-710

Number of Respondents: 15.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 50.

Estimated Time per Response: 2 Hours.

Total Annual Burden: 1500 Hours.

Total Annual Burden for Form 710 & 709: 2500 Hours.

Dated: September 7, 2001.

George A. Braley,

Acting Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service.

[FR Doc. 01-23216 Filed 9-17-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-30-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council will meet in Burlington, Vermont, October 4-6, 2001. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss emerging issues in urban and community forestry.

DATES: The meeting will be held October 4-6, 2001. A tour of local projects will be held on October 4 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn, 1068 Williston Road, Burlington, Vermont. Individuals who wish to speak at the meeting or to propose agenda items must send their names and proposals to Suzanne M. del Villar, Executive Assistant, National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council, 20628 Diane Drive, Sonoma, CA 95370. Individuals also may fax their names and proposed agenda items to (209) 536-9089.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Suzanne M. del Villar, Cooperative Forestry Staff, (209) 536-9201.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting is open to the public. Although