

Specifically, AMS proposed to lower the recommended drained weight for canned apples packed in No. 10 cans. After reviewing the Agency has decided to withdraw the proposal and terminate the action.

EFFECTIVE DATE: April 15, 2002.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Randle A. Macon, Processed Products Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 0709, South Building; STOP 0247, 1400 Independence Avenue SW; Washington, DC. 20250; faxed to (202) 690-1527; or e-mailed to Randle.Macon@usda.gov.

The United States Standards for Canned Apples is available either through the address cited above or by accessing the AMS Home Page on the Internet at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/fv/ppb.html>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

AMS received petitions from Independent Food Processors Company of Sunnyside, Washington; and Snokist Growers of Yakima, Washington, requesting the revision of the United States Standards for Grades of Canned Apples. The two petitioners represent a significant part of the Pacific Northwest apple industry. The Pacific Northwest apple industry provides almost half of the apples produced domestically.¹

The petitions stated that the recommended drained weight of 96 ounces for apples packed in No. 10 size cans, in the U.S. Standards for Grades of Canned Apples, was difficult to obtain and places the Pacific Northwest processors at an economic disadvantage in bidding for government and non-government contracts. The reasons given for this disparity were that the varietal types of apples and the growing conditions in the Northwest region are different from other apple producing regions around the country.

The petitioners also stated that to meet the standard when packing certain varieties of apples, the cans are over-filled. This condition may cause damage to the sliced apples which may cause the slices to be graded as less than "Grade A."

Petitioners went on to state that to meet USDA recommended requirements for drained weight, some processors may be required to put more product into the can, causing economic hardship, damage to the product, and sometimes loss of the integrity of the can seal. If the seal's integrity was lost during processing, the product's wholesomeness was jeopardized.

USDA reviewed the petitions and data submitted, and had gathered additional information from relevant government agencies and industry sources including growers, processors, and buyers. Based on this information, USDA found that there may be a disparity between the drained weights for canned apples from Pacific Northwest processors and those from other sections of the country.

The Department therefore proposed to lower the recommended drained weight for apples packed No. 10 size cans, from 96 ounces to 92 ounces in the U.S. Standards for Grades of Canned Apples.

Based on that information, the USDA published a notice in the **Federal Register**, on December 24, 1997 (62 FR 67326), proposing to revise the U.S. Standards for Grades of Canned Apples by lowering the recommended drained weight for sliced apples packed in No. 10 size cans, from 96 ounces to 92 ounces.

A 60 day comment period was provided for interested persons to send in comments on this recommended change to the Standards. The USDA received 19 comments responding to the notice from a wide range of sources, including trade associations, government agencies, and manufacturers. There were also comments from members of Congress which were received after the 60 day comment period had closed.

Commenters responding in favor of lowering the recommended drained weight for sliced apples packed in No. 10 size cans from 96 ounces to 92 ounces, stated that this change was necessary because the current U.S. standards puts Pacific Northwest processors at an economic disadvantage in bidding for government and non-government contracts. The reason given was that the varietal types of apples and the growing conditions in the Northwest region are different from other apple producing regions around the country. The Pacific Northwest varieties are high quality larger and firmer apples that do not pack down in the can as well as the smaller variety apples from other growing areas regardless of cut. The commenters state that to meet the standard when packing No. 10 size containers, the cans are over-filled. This condition causes damage to the sliced apples upon closure of the can which may cause the slices to be graded as less than "Grade A." This over-filled condition may lead to loss of the integrity of the can seal. If the seal's integrity is lost during processing, the product's wholesomeness is jeopardized.

Another commenter, in favor of the change, stated that in order for Pacific

Northwest apple processors to meet the recommended drained weight for sliced apples packed in No. 10 size cans, they would have to use smaller and softer (lower quality) apples when packing this product.

Of the opposing comments received, there was one central concern that was raised by most of the commenters. Most asserted that lowering the recommended drained weight for sliced apples packed in No. 10 size cans, from 96 ounces to 92 ounces, will lead to inferior quality sliced apples being utilized resulting in a negative impact on the sliced apple market. This, in turn would cause a decrease in apple consumption by the consumer.

The comments from members of Congress, which were received after the 60 day comment period had closed, echoed the same concern that lowering the recommended drained weight for sliced apples packed in No. 10 size cans, from 96 ounces to 92 ounces, would lead to inferior quality sliced apples being utilized. This action could also result in job and production losses.

One commenter stated that lowering the recommended drained weight for sliced apples packed in No. 10 size cans, might cause processors outside of the Pacific Northwest to produce canned sliced apples that will seem not completely filled or slack filled which will also result in a negative consumer reaction. At the same time, Pacific Northwest packs might be viewed as superior because the cans are always full.

The comments reflect a diverse spectrum of views on both sides of the issue as well as considerable opposition within the industry, to the proposed amendments. After reviewing and considering the comments, The Department has decided not to proceed with this action, but will consider any additional views or recommendations from the industry. Therefore, the proposed revision as published in the December 24, 1997, notice is withdrawn.

Dated: April 9, 2002.

A.J. Yates,

Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 02-9053 Filed 4-12-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Information Collection; Ride-Along Program

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

¹ Source—USDA, NASS, ASB.

ACTION: Notice; request for comment.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Forest Service is seeking comments from all interested individuals and organizations on a new information collection associated with the Ride-along Program application, a program which allows a private citizen to apply to ride along with Forest Service Law Enforcement officers.

DATES: Comments must be received in writing on or before June 14, 2002 to be assured of consideration. Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

ADDRESSES: Comments concerning this notice should be addressed to the Director of Law Enforcement and Investigation, Forest Service, USDA, Mail Stop 1140, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, D.C. 20250-1140.

Comments also may be submitted via facsimile to (703) 605-5112 or by e-mail to broemeling@fs.fed.us.

The public may inspect comments received at 1621 N. Kent Street, Room 1015 Rosslyn Plaza East, Arlington, VA, during normal business hours. Visitors are encouraged to call ahead to (703) 605-4690 to facilitate entry to the building.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Byran Roemeling, LE&I, (703) 605-4690 or Mary Ann Ball, Forest Service Information Collection Coordinator, (703) 605-4572, or send an e-mail to maryball@fs.fed.us. Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Description of Information Collection

Title: Ride-along Program.
OMB Number: 0596-New.
Type of Request: New.

Abstract: This information collection is necessary for Forest Service Law Enforcement and Investigation (LE&I) officers to approve a rider who applies to participate in the Ride-along program. This information collection provides additional protection for LE&I officers by confirming the identity and status of riders before allowing them to accompany LE&I officers in boats, cars, trucks, or other Forest Service vehicles. The purpose of the Ride-Along Program is for citizens to learn about and observe Forest Service Law Enforcement and Investigation (LE&I) tasks and activities. The program is intended to enhance

Forest Service law enforcement community relationships and cooperation, improve the quality of Forest Service customer service, and provide LE&I personnel a recruitment tool. A rider must complete two forms in order to participate. Form FS-5300-33 asks for the participant's name, address, social security number, driver's license number, work address, location of the Ride-Along, and the reason for the Ride-Along. Law enforcement officers use Form FS-5300-33 to conduct a minimum background check before authorizing a person to ride along. Form FS-5300-34 is signed by riders to exempt law enforcement officers and the Forest Service from damage, loss, or injury liability incurred during the rider's participation in the program. If the information is not collected, riders will not be able to ride along with Forest Service law enforcement officers.

Estimate of Annual Burden:

	<i>Minutes</i>	
FS-5300-33	5	
FS-5300-34	5	
Total	10	

Type of Respondents: Citizens.

Estimated Annual Number of Respondents: 1200.

Estimated Annual Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 34 hours per year.

Comment Is invited

Comment is invited on: (1) Whether this collection of information is necessary for the stated purposes and the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical or scientific utility; (2) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the 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 respondents, including the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

All comments received in response to this notice, including names and addresses when provided, will be a matter of public record. Comments will be summarized and included in the information collection submission for Office of Management and Budget approval.

Dated: April 2, 2002.

Sally D. Collins,

Associate Chief.

[FR Doc. 02-9016 Filed 4-12-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Census Bureau

National Survey of Volunteering and Giving Among Teens

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 or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before June 14, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Madeleine Clayton, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6608, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at mclayton@doc.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to Ken Kaplan or Sue Montfort, U.S. Census Bureau, FOB 3, Room 3351, Washington, DC 20233-8400 at (301) 457-3836.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

This national survey will be the third in a series of surveys on volunteering and giving among teens in the United States. Independent Sector, a nonprofit, nonpartisan coalition of more than 700 national organizations, foundations, and corporate philanthropy programs, began the series in 1992, with a second study conducted in 1996. The purpose of this survey, and the series itself, is to provide trend data on the volunteering and giving behavior of young people; to chart the impact of major institutions, such as schools and religious institutions on encouraging such behavior; to highlight teens' attitudes on a variety of issues relating to their volunteering behavior; and to explore behavioral and motivational factors that influence volunteering and giving.