

Notices

Federal Register

Vol. 69, No. 80

Monday, April 26, 2004

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

Farm Service Agency

Information Collection; Tobacco Marketing Quotas and Price Support

AGENCY: Farm Service Agency, USDA.

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) is seeking comments from all interested individuals and entities on the extension and revision of a currently approved information collection associated with the Tobacco Marketing Quota and Price Support program. The regulations used to administer these activities are authorized by the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938, as amended and the Agricultural Act of 1949, as amended.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received on or before June 25, 2004, to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: The Farm Service Agency invites interested persons to submit comments on the collection of information. Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods;

- *E-Mail:* Send comments to tobcomments@wdc.usda.gov.
- *Fax:* Submit comments by facsimile transmission to: (202) 720-0549.
- *Mail:* Send comments to Director, Tobacco Division, FSA, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Room 5750-S, STOP 0514, Washington, DC 20250-0514.
- *Hand Delivery or Courier:* Deliver comments to the above address.

Comments on the information collection requirements may also be sent to Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503.

Comments may be inspected in the Tobacco Division at the address shown

above during normal business hours. Visitors are encouraged to call ahead at (202) 720-7413 to facilitate entry into the building. Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., eastern standard time, Monday through Friday.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joe Lewis Jr., Tobacco Division, (202) 720-0795 or joe_lewis@wdc.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Tobacco Marketing Quota and Price Support Program, 7 CFR parts 711, 723 and 1464.

OMB Control Number: 0560-0058.

Expiration Date: September 30, 2004.

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

Abstract: Information collected from tobacco producers and owners of farms with tobacco allotments or quotas is needed to properly establish tobacco acreage allotments and marketing quotas for farms. This information is also needed to transfer quota between farms and to determine price support eligibility. Due to the fact that tobacco marketing quotas are highly regulated, information is needed to show the following: (a) Where tobacco acreage is planted, (b) how much tobacco is planted, and (c) where and how much tobacco is marketed. Tobacco marketed in excess of a farm marketing quota is subject to a marketing penalty equal to 75 percent of the previous year's average market price to producers.

Information collected from tobacco dealers, auction warehouses, processors and others involved in the marketing, buying, or handling of tobacco is needed to effectively administer the marketing quota provisions of the tobacco program. In order to accurately account for the production and marketing of tobacco on an individual farm basis, records and reports are needed from persons that acquire or handle producer tobacco. In order to determine if any tobacco in excess of a farm marketing quota has been marketed, these persons must maintain records and make reports on their purchases and sales of tobacco. Warehouse operators must maintain records and make reports showing the sales and purchases of tobacco handled by the warehouse. These reports are reviewed to ensure that excess tobacco

is not marketed without being subject to marketing quota penalties.

Information collected from domestic manufacturers of cigarettes is needed to establish the national marketing quotas for burley and flue-cured tobacco. By statute, the national marketing quota is based, in part, on the amount of tobacco the domestic cigarette manufacturers intend to purchase from the next crop year. The domestic cigarette manufacturers must also report their actual purchases and maintain records that support their purchases of producer tobacco.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for all information collection related to the tobacco program is estimated to average 7.75 minutes per response.

Respondents: Individual tobacco producers, allotment or quota owners, tobacco auction warehouses, dealers and others involved in the marketing or buying of tobacco which may include small and medium sized businesses and five domestic manufacturers.

Estimated Number of Respondents:

Tobacco Producers: 314,236.

Dealers, Warehouses and Others: 300.

Domestic Cigarette Manufacturers: 5.

Total: 314,541.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:

Tobacco Producers: 3.

Dealers, Warehouses and Others: 15.

Domestic Cigarette Manufacturers: 2.

Total: 20.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:

Tobacco Producers: 121,766 hours.

Dealers, Warehouses and Others: 581 hours.

Domestic Cigarette Manufacturers: 1 hours.

Total: 122,348 hours.

Comment is invited on: (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.

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 request of Office of Management and Budget approval.

Signed in Washington, DC, on April 20, 2004.

Michael W. Yost,

Acting Administrator, Farm Service Agency.
[FR Doc. 04-9418 Filed 4-23-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-05-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Foreign Agricultural Service

Advisory Committee on Emerging Markets: Nominations

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that nominations are being sought for fifteen (15) qualified persons to serve on the Advisory Committee on Emerging Markets (the Committee). The role of the Committee is to provide information and advice, based upon knowledge and expertise of the members, useful to the Department of Agriculture (USDA) in implementing the Emerging Markets Program (EMP). The Committee also advises USDA on ways to increase the involvement of the U.S. private sector in emerging markets in food and rural business systems and reviews proposals submitted to the Program for funding technical assistance activities.

DATES: Written nominations must be received by the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) by 5 p.m. on May 26, 2004.

ADDRESSES: All nominating materials should be sent to Mr. Douglas Freeman, Foreign Agricultural Service, Room 4932—Stop 1042, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-1042. Forms may also be submitted by fax to (202) 720-9361.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Persons interested in serving on the Committee, or in nominating individuals to serve, should contact Mr. Douglas Freeman, Foreign Agricultural Service, by telephone (202) 720-4327, by fax (202) 720-9361, or by electronic mail to emo@fas.usda.gov and request Form AD-755 and Form SF-181. Persons with disabilities who require an alternative means for communication of information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's

Target Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Committee is authorized by section 1542 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act of 1990, as amended. The overall purpose of the Committee is to provide USDA with information that may be useful in carrying out the provisions of the Emerging Markets Program. The Committee is composed of representatives of the various sectors of the food and rural business systems of the United States. More information about the purpose and function of the Committee and about the Emerging Markets Program may be found at the FAS/Emerging Markets Program Web site: <http://www.fas.usda.gov/mos/em-markets/em-markets.html>. Form AD-755 is required and is available on the EMP home page at <http://www.fas.usda.gov/mos/em-markets/Form%20AD-755.doc>. Form SF-181 is requested, but optional, and is available at <http://www.opm.gov/forms/pdfimage/sf181.pdf>. The members of the Committee are appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture and serve at the discretion of the Secretary. Committee members serve without compensation, but can receive reimbursement for travel expenses to attend committee meetings, if requested, in accordance with USDA travel regulations.

The Committee has a balanced membership of up to 20 members, representing a broad cross-section of the U.S. agricultural and agribusiness industry. All appointments will expire two years from the date of appointment. The Secretary may renew an appointment for one or more additional terms.

Most meetings will be held in Washington, DC, though other locations may be selected on an occasional basis. Committee meetings will be open to the public, unless the Secretary of Agriculture determines that the Committee will be discussing issues, the disclosure of which justify closing all or a portion of a meeting, in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552b(c).

Nominations are open to all individuals without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, physical handicap, marital status, or sexual orientation. To ensure that the work of the Committee takes into account the needs of the diverse groups served by USDA, membership shall include, to the extent practicable, individuals with demonstrated ability to represent the interest of minorities, women and persons with disabilities.

Members should have experience, expertise and knowledge of

international agriculture and of trade and development issues as they affect emerging markets. No person, company, producer, farm organization, trade association or other entity has a right to representation on the Committee. In making selections, every effort will be made to maintain balanced representation of the various broad industries within the United States as well as geographic diversity.

Signed in Washington, DC, on April 9, 2004.

A. Ellen Terpstra,

Administrator, Foreign Agricultural Service.
[FR Doc. 04-9420 Filed 4-23-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-10-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[OR-930-6333-DT; HAG 04-0111]

Notice of Availability (NOA) Record of Decision (ROD) for the Clarification of Provisions Relating to the Aquatic Conservation Strategy in the 1994 Record of Decision for the Northwest Forest Plan; National Forests and Bureau of Land Management Districts Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl; Western Oregon and Washington, and Northwestern California

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA; Bureau of Land Management, USDI.

ACTION: Notice of availability of record of decision.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, and the National Forest Management Act, the USDI Bureau of Land Management and the USDA Forest Service announce the decision to amend selected portions of the 1994 Record of Decision for the Northwest Forest Plan. The Aquatic Conservation Strategy (ACS) of the Northwest Forest Plan is intended to maintain or restore watersheds. The Under Secretary of Agriculture and the Assistant Secretary of the Interior have made limited changes to clarify how to implement the ACS. Projects needed to achieve Northwest Forest Plan goals have been delayed or stopped due to misapplication of certain passages in the ACS. The agencies are responding to the underlying need for increased agency success planning and implementing projects, to the extent that the current