

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Irish Potatoes Grown in Colorado, Marketing Order 948.

OMB Number: 0581-0111.

Expiration Date of Approval: April 30, 1996.

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

Abstract: Marketing order programs provide an opportunity for producers of fresh fruits, vegetables and specialty crops, in a specified production area, to work together to solve marketing problems that cannot be solved individually. Order regulations help ensure adequate supplies of high quality product and adequate returns to producers. Under the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937 (AMAA), as amended (7 U.S.C. 601-674), industries enter into marketing order programs. The Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to oversee the order operations and issue regulations recommended by a committee of representatives from each commodity industry.

The information collection requirements in this request are essential to carry out the intent of the AMAA, to provide the respondents the type of service they request, and to administer the Colorado marketing order program, which has been operating since 1941.

Under the Colorado potato marketing order, potatoes sent to processing are exempt from inspection and grade requirements but must be shipped under a special purpose shipment exemption. To ensure high quality fresh market shipments, producers must notify the Colorado Potato Committee (committee) of such special purpose shipments. Further, any business which operates as a potato canner, freezer, processor, or pre-peeler must register with the committee. These forms enable the committee, and thus, the Secretary to better monitor exempt shipments and ensure compliance with provisions of the marketing order and the AMAA.

Potato producers and handlers who are nominated by their peers to serve as representatives on the committee must file nomination forms with the Secretary.

Formal rulemaking amendments to the order must be approved in referenda conducted by the Secretary. Also, the Secretary may conduct a continuance referendum to determine industry support for continuation of the order. Such referenda ballots are included in this request.

The information collected is used only by authorized representatives of

the USDA, including AMS, Fruit and Vegetable Division regional and headquarter's staff, and authorized employees of the committee. AMS is the primary user of the information and authorized committee employees are the secondary user.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 0.1494 hours per response.

Respondents: Potato producers and for-profit businesses handling fresh and processed potatoes produced in Colorado.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 526.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 7.074.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 556 hours.

Comments are invited on: (1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the functioning of the Colorado marketing order program and USDA's oversight of that program; (2) the accuracy of the collection burden estimate and the validity of methodology and assumptions used in estimating the burden on respondents; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information requested; and (4) ways to minimize the burden, including use of automated or electronic technologies.

Comments should reference OMB No. 0581-0111 and the Colorado Marketing Order No. 948, and be sent to USDA in care of Teresa Hutchinson, Marketing Specialist, Northwest Marketing Field Office, Fruit and Vegetable Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, 1220 SW Third Avenue, Room 369, Portland, OR 97204. 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: February 22, 1996.

Martha B. Ransom,

Acting Deputy Director, Fruit and Vegetable Division.

[FR Doc. 96-4504 Filed 2-27-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

[Docket No. TB-96-15]**Notice of Request for Extension 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 a currently approved information collection in support of the Tobacco Statistics Act of 1929, the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, and Regulations Governing the Tobacco Stocks and Standards.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by April 29, 1996.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Contact Henry R. Martin, Chief, Market Information and Program Analysis Branch, Tobacco Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 505 Annex Building, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456, (202) 205-0489.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Tobacco Stocks Report and the Quarterly Report of Manufacture and Sales of Snuff, Smoking, and Chewing Tobacco.

OMB Number: 0581-0004.

Expiration Date of Approval: September 30, 1996.

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

Abstract: The Tobacco Statistics Act of 1929 (7 U.S.C. 501-508) provides for the collection and publication of statistics of tobacco by the Department of Agriculture with regard to quantity of leaf tobacco in all forms in the United States and Puerto Rico, owned by or in the possession of dealers, manufacturers, growers' cooperative associations, and others with the exception of the original growers of the tobacco.

The statistics shall show the quantity of tobacco in such detail as to types, as the Secretary of Agriculture shall deem to be practical and necessary and shall be summarized as of January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1 of each year and are due within 15 days of the summarized dates.

The information furnished under the provisions of this Act shall be used only for statistical purposes for which it is supplied. No publication shall be made by the Secretary of Agriculture whereby the data furnished by any particular establishment can be identified, nor shall anyone other than the sworn employees of the Department of Agriculture be allowed to examine the individual reports.

The regulations governing the Tobacco Stocks and Standards Act (7

CFR Part 30) issued under the Tobacco Statistics Act specifically address the reporting requirements. Tobacco in leaf form or stems is reported by types of tobacco and whether stemmed or unstemmed. Tobacco in sheet form shall be segregated as to whether for cigar wrapper, cigar binder, for cigarettes, or for other products.

Tobacco stocks reporting is mandatory. The basic purpose of the information collection is to ascertain the total supply of unmanufactured tobacco available to domestic manufacturers and to calculate the amount consumed in manufactured tobacco products. This data is also used for the calculation of production quotas for individual types of tobacco and for price support calculations.

The Quarterly Report of Manufacture and Sales of Snuff, Smoking, and Chewing Tobacco is voluntary. Prior to 1965, information on the manufacture and sale of snuff, smoking, and chewing tobacco products was available from Treasury Department publications on the collection of taxes. With repeal of the Federal tax in 1965, the industry requested that the collection of basic data be continued to maintain the statistical series and all the major manufacturers agreed to furnish information. Federal taxes were reimposed in 1985 for snuff and chewing tobacco and the Treasury Department began reporting data on these products, but not in the detail desired by the industry. Data from this report is also used in the calculations to determine the production quotas of types of tobacco used in these products.

The Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1621-1627) directs and authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to collect, tabulate, and disseminate statistics on marketing agricultural products including market supplies, storage stocks, quantity, quality and condition of such products in various positions in the marketing channel, utilization of sub-products, shipments, and unloads.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 0.92 hours per response.

Respondents: Primarily tobacco dealers, manufacturers, and growers—cooperative associations including small businesses or organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 101.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 4.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 372 hours.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Henry R. Martin,

Chief, Market Information and Program Analysis Branch, at (202) 205-0489.

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 through the use of appropriated automated, electronic, mechanical, or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to Henry R. Martin, Chief, Market Information and Program Analysis Branch, Tobacco Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 505 Annex Building, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456 and will be available for public inspection in Room 505 Annex Building, USDA, AMS, Tobacco Division, Market Information and Program Analysis Branch, 300 12th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250. Comments should reference the docket number and the date and page number of this issue of the Federal Register.

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.

Dated: February 22, 1996.

Lon Hatamiya,

Administrator.

[FR Doc. 96-4505 Filed 2-27-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

[CN-95-004]

Recommendations of Advisory Committee on Universal Cotton Standards

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) held a meeting of the Universal Cotton Standards Advisory Committee in Memphis, Tennessee on June 15 and 16, 1995. This notice announces that the Advisory Committee recommended that the Universal Cotton Standards be expanded to include the current USDA High Volume Instrument (HVI) Calibration Cottons, laboratory atmospheric conditions and sample conditioning practices and procedures.

DATES: Comments must be received by March 29, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Comments and inquiries should be addressed to Ross Griffith, Cotton Division, AMS, USDA, Room 2641-S., P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456. Comments will be available for public inspection during regular business hours at the above office in Rm. 2641-S., 14th & Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ross Griffith, (202) 720-3193.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Universal Cotton Standards Advisory Committee meets triennially to consider any necessary changes to the Universal Cotton Standards and to review freshly prepared sets of Universal Cotton Standards for conformity with the existing standards.

At this meeting, the committee recommended expanding the Universal Cotton Standards to include the current USDA High Volume Instrument (HVI) Calibration Cottons (Long-Strong and Short-Weak); laboratory atmospheric conditions of 70 degrees Fahrenheit, plus or minus one degree, and 65 percent Relative Humidity, plus or minus two percent; and sample conditioning practices and procedures as follows: "Samples of cotton must be directly exposed to approved laboratory atmospheric conditions until their moisture content reaches equilibrium with that of the atmosphere. This equilibrium moisture content usually ranges from 6.75 percent to 8.25 percent. Conditioning of samples in sacks, wrappers, or other coverings is not permissible".

High Volume Instrument (HVI) Classing of cotton has been available on an optional basis since 1980. Since 1991, HVI classification has been provided on all cotton classed by USDA along with the classer color grade and leaf grade which conform to the Universal Grade Standards. HVI systems provide the most scientific and reliable sources of cotton quality information available. The advisory committee includes representatives of all segments of the U.S. cotton industry and the 21 overseas cotton associations that are signatories to the Universal Cotton Standards Agreement. Adoption of this recommendation should result in the establishment of a universal language for the marketing of U.S. cotton under the HVI Classification System.

Authority: United States Cotton Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 51 *et seq.*)