

# Notices

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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

### Agricultural Marketing Service

[Docket No. FV-96-901-1]

#### Notice of Request for Approval of a Generic Information Collection

**AGENCY:** Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Proposed collection; comments requested.

**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 approval for a generic information collection that will combine several individual marketing order information collections into one.

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received by December 9, 1996 to be assured of consideration.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS:** Contact Shoshana Avrishon, Marketing Specialist, USDA-AMS-F&V—Marketing Order Administration Branch, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, DC 20090-6456. Tel.: (202) 720-6467, Fax: (202) 720-5698.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Title:* Marketing Orders for Vegetables and Specialty Crops.

*OMB Number:* Number not assigned yet.

*Expiration Date of Approval:* Three years from date of approval.

*Type of Request:* Approval for a generic information collection.

*Abstract:* Marketing order programs provide an opportunity for producers of fresh fruit, vegetables, and specialty crops, in specified production areas, to work together to solve marketing problems that cannot be solved individually. Order regulations help ensure adequate supplies of high quality products for consumers and adequate returns to producers. Under the

Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937 (Act), 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 Act, to provide the respondents the type of service they request, and to administer the marketing order programs. Under the Act, orders may authorize the following: production and marketing research including paid advertising, volume regulations, reserves including pools and producer allotments, container regulations, and quality control. Production and marketing research activities are paid for by assessments levied on handlers regulated under the marketing orders.

Under the marketing orders, producers and handlers are nominated by their respective peers. These nominees then serve as representatives on their respective committees/boards and must file nomination forms with the Secretary.

Formal rulemaking amendments to the orders must be approved in referenda conducted by the Secretary. Also, the Secretary may conduct a continuance referendum to determine industry support for continuation of these marketing order programs. Handlers are asked to sign an agreement to indicate their willingness to abide by the provisions of the respective orders whenever an order is amended.

This information collection will combine: OMB#0581-0069 Irish Potatoes Grown in Certain Designated Counties in Idaho, and Malheur County, Oregon, Marketing Order 945; OMB#0581-0070 Irish Potatoes Grown in Washington, Marketing Order 946; OMB#0581-0112 Irish Potatoes Grown in Modoc and Siskiyou Counties, California, and in all Counties in Oregon, except Malheur County, Marketing Order 947; OMB#0581-0111 Potatoes Grown in Colorado, Marketing Order 948; OMB#0581-0084 Irish Potatoes Grown in Southeastern United States, Marketing Order 953; OMB#0581-0160 Vidalia Onions Grown in Georgia, Marketing Order 955; OMB#0581-0172 Sweet Onions Grown

in the Walla Walla Valley of Southeastern Washington and Northeastern Oregon, Marketing Order 956; OMB#0581-0087 Onions Grown in Certain Designated Counties in Idaho, and Malheur County, Oregon, Marketing Order 958; OMB#0581-0074 Onions Grown in South Texas, Marketing Order 959; OMB#0581-0073 Tomatoes Grown in Florida, Marketing Order 966; OMB#0581-0076 Melons Grown in South Texas, Marketing Order 979; OMB#0581-0144 Hazelnuts Grown in Oregon and Washington, Marketing Order 982; OMB#0581-0090 Walnuts Grown in California, Marketing Order 984; OMB#0581-0077 Domestic Dates Produced or Packed in Riverside County, California, Marketing Order 987; OMB#0581-0083 Raisins Produced from Grapes Grown in California, Marketing Order 989; and, OMB#0581-0099 Dried Prunes Produced in California, Marketing Order 993.

The forms covered under this information collection will continue to require the minimum information necessary to effectively carry out the requirements of the orders, and their use is necessary to fulfill the intent of the Act as expressed in the orders.

The information collected is used only by authorized employees of the committees/boards and authorized representatives of the USDA, including AMS, Fruit and Vegetable Division regional and headquarter's staff. Authorized committee/board employees are the primary users of the information and the AMS is the secondary user.

*Estimate Burden Hours:* 9,741.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 14,100.

*Estimated Number of Responses per Respondents:* 8.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 40 minutes.

*Comments are invited on:* (1) 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; (2) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information including the validity of 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 those who respond, including use of automated,

electronic, mechanical, or other technologies.

Comments should reference this docket number and the appropriate marketing order, and be mailed to the Docket Clerk, Fruit and Vegetable Division, AMS, USDA, P.O. Box 96456, Room 2523-S, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456. Comments should reference the docket number and the date and page number of this issue of the Federal Register. All comments received will be available for public inspection in the Office of the Docket Clerk during regular USDA business hours at 14th and Independence Ave. S.W., Washington, D.C., Room 2523 South Building.

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

Dated: October 2, 1996.

Robert C. Keeney,

Director, Fruit and Vegetable Division.

[FR Doc. 96-25703 Filed 10-7-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

[DA-96-14]

#### Notice of Request for Extension and Revision 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 and revision to a currently approved information collection for the Dairy Inspection and Grading Program.

**DATES:** Comments must be received by December 9, 1996 to be assured consideration.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should be sent to: Office of the Director, USDA/AMS/Dairy Division, Room 2968-S, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456. Comments received will be available for public inspection at this location during regular business hours.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** F. Tracy Schonrock, USDA/AMS/Dairy Division, Dairy Grading Branch, Room 2750-South Building, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456; Tel: (202) 720-3171, Fax (202) 720-2643.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Title:* Regulations Governing the Inspection and Grading of Manufactured or Processed Dairy Products—Record Keeping. OMB Number: 0581-0110.

*Expiration Date of Approval:* March 31, 1997.

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

*Abstract:* The Agricultural Marketing Act (AMA) of 1946 directs the Department to develop programs which will provide and enable a more orderly marketing of agricultural products. One of these programs is the USDA voluntary inspection and grading program for dairy products where these dairy products are graded according to U.S. grade standards by a USDA grader. The dairy products so graded may be identified with the USDA grade mark. Dairy processors, buyers, retailers, institutional users, and consumers have requested that such a program be developed to assure the uniform quality of dairy products purchased. In order for any service program to perform satisfactorily, there must be written guides and rules, which in this case are regulations for the provider and user. For the above reasons, these regulations were developed and issued under the authority of the Act. These regulations are essential to administer the program to meet the needs of the user and to carry out the purposes of the Act.

The information collection requirements in this request are essential to carry out the intent of the AMA, to insure that dairy products are produced under sanitary conditions and that buyers are purchasing a quality product. In order for the Regulations Governing the Inspection and Grading of Manufactured or Processed Dairy Products to serve the government, industry, and the consumer, laboratory test results must be recorded.

Respondents are not required to submit information to the agency. The records are to be evaluated by a USDA inspector at the time of an inspection. As an off-setting benefit, the records required by USDA are also records which are routinely used by the inspected facility for their own supervisory and quality control purposes.

*Estimate of Burden:* Public reporting burden for this Record keeping is estimated to average 3.002 hours per year per individual record keeper.

*Record Keepers:* Dairy products manufacturing facilities.

*Estimated Number of Record Keepers:* 508.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Record Keepers:* 1525 hours.

*Comments are invited on:* (1) Whether the proposed collection of the information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency; (2) the accuracy of the

collection burden estimate and the validity of the methodology and assumptions used in estimating the burden on record keepers; (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. 0581-0110 and the Dairy Inspection and Grading Program, and be sent to USDA in care of the Office of the Director, USDA/AMS/Dairy Division, Room 2968-S, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456. Comments received will be available for public inspection at this location during regular business hours.

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: September 26, 1996.

Richard M. McKee,

Director, Dairy Division.

[FR Doc. 96-25705 Filed 10-07-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

[CN-96-006]

#### Cotton Research and Promotion Program: Determination of Whether To Conduct a Referendum Regarding 1990 Amendments to the Cotton Research and Promotion Act

**AGENCY:** Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces the Department's view, based on a review by the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), that it is not necessary to conduct a referendum among producers and importers on continuation of the 1990 amendments to the Cotton Research and Promotion Act. The 1990 amendments require the Secretary of Agriculture, once every five years, to conduct a review to determine whether to hold a referendum. The two major changes to the Cotton Research and Promotion Program made by the 1990 amendments were the elimination of assessment refunds to producers and a new assessment levied on imported cotton and the cotton content of imported products. Although USDA is of the view that a referendum is not needed, it will initiate a sign-up period as required by the Act, to allow cotton producers and importers to request a referendum.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Craig Shackelford, Chief, Cotton Research and Promotion Staff, Cotton