

forms previously cleared under OMB 0560-0004 to eliminate confusion with other requirements and to provide clear information specifically for the authorization of Power of Attorney.

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received on or before August 1, 1997 to be assured consideration.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS:** Contact Joanne Franta, Agricultural Program Specialist, Compliance and Production Adjustment Division, USDA, FSA, STOP 0517, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-0517, (202)720-5103.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION OR COMMENTS:**

*Title:* Power of Attorney.

*OMB Number:* 0560-0004.

*Expiration Date:* June 30, 1997.

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

*Abstract:* Producers may file Power of Attorney information authorizing someone to act for the producer under a variety of programs administered by FSA. A Power of Attorney form is completed once and remains in full force and effect until written notice of its revocation has been duly served upon FSA. This one-time collection supports all FSA requirements for Power of Attorney authorization. The authority granted by a Power of Attorney is valid in all counties of the United States unless otherwise noted. Completion of a Power of Attorney form grants the attorney authority to act with respect to actions involving FSA. The Power of Attorney, Form FSA-211, grants to the attorney full authority with respect to programs and records to complete FSA transactions(s). Such programs and records for which a Power of Attorney may be used are determined by FSA. The Form FSA-211-1 is used by one spouse to grant signing authority for another for such programs and records as determined by FSA. These forms provide a service to producers who are not always able to be present to sign documents. They save the producers the legal fees associated with obtaining a power of attorney and protect the government and producers from an unauthorized individual signing on behalf of the producer.

*Estimate of Burden.* Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 15 minutes per response for either the FSA-211 or FSA-211-1.

FSA-211, Power of Attorney;

*Respondents:* Individual producers.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 500,000.

*Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* 1.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 125,000 hours.

FSA-211-1, Power of Attorney for Husband and Wife:

*Respondents:* Spouse.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 100,000.

*Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* 1.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 25,000 hours.

*Proposed topics for comment include:*

(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 collected; or (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of the information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical or other forms of information technology. Comments should be sent to the Desk officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington D.C. 20503, and to Joanne Franta, Agricultural Program Specialist, USDA, Farm Service Agency, Compliance and Production Adjustment Division, STOP 0517, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-0517, (202) 720-5103.

Signed at Washington, DC, on May 13, 1997.

**Richard O. Newman,**

*Acting Executive Vice President, Commodity Credit Corporation.*

[FR Doc. 97-14268 Filed 5-30-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-05-P

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Food and Consumer Service

#### Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request—Reaching the Working Poor and Poor Elderly

**AGENCY:** Food and Consumer Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Food and Consumer Service's intention to request

Office of Management and Budget approval of the Reaching the Working Poor and Poor Elderly Study data collection.

**DATES:** Written comments on this notice must be received by August 1, 1997.

**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 through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to: Michael E. Fishman, Acting Director, Office of Analysis and Evaluation, Food and Consumer Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, VA 22302.

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

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or copies of the proposed information collection forms should be directed to Michael E. Fishman, (703) 305-2017.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title:* Reaching the Working Poor and Poor Elderly.

*OMB Number:* Not yet assigned.

*Expiration Date:* Not applicable.

*Type of Request:* New collection of information.

*Abstract:* The Food Stamp Program (FSP) is designed to provide assistance to all financially needy persons. However, a substantial number of those eligible for food stamps do not receive them. Most households that are eligible for food stamps but do not participate in the program fall into one of two groups: households with earnings, and households with elderly members. Only about one-half of eligible working households and one-third of eligible households with elderly participate in the FSP. The Food and Consumer Service is conducting a study of the reasons for nonparticipation by the working poor and poor elderly.

The study involves the development and testing of questionnaires about FSP

nonparticipation to be administered to both FSP participants and FSP-eligible nonparticipants who are working poor or poor elderly. Eight questionnaire versions and a screening interview will be pre-tested through this study; the refined instruments may be fielded under a separate, later effort.

*Affected Public:* Working poor and elderly poor food stamp participants and nonparticipants.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* Two hundred sixty-eight (268) FSP-eligible nonparticipants who are either working poor or elderly poor will be identified through telephone screening of a random-digit-dialing sample of households with phones, and half will be administered a short version of the eligible nonparticipant questionnaire and half will be administered a long version. To identify these 268 eligible nonparticipants, a screening interview will be administered to an estimated 8,375 people. A sample of 132 current program participants who are either working poor or poor elderly will be identified from program administrative records or random-digit-dialing screening, and half will be administered a short version of the participant questionnaire and half will be administered a long version. Brief screening interviews will be administered to an estimated 155 people to identify the sample of 132 participants. The total number of respondents to screening interviews will be 8,530 and the total number of respondents to questionnaires will be 400.

*Estimated Time per Response:* The screening interview for eligible nonparticipants averages 5 minutes each, and the screening interview for participants averages 1.5 minutes each. Long questionnaires average 30 minutes each, and short questionnaires average 15 minutes each.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 853 hours.

Dated: May 21, 1997.

**William E. Ludwig,**

*Administrator, Food and Consumer Service.*

[FR Doc. 97-14290 Filed 5-30-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-30-U

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. 97-039N]

#### Exemption for Retail Stores; Adjustment of Dollar Limitations

**AGENCY:** Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** FSIS has increased the limitation on annual sales of meat and poultry products by retail stores exempt from Federal inspection. The dollar limitation for poultry products has been increased from \$35,700 to \$37,900 for calendar year 1997; the dollar limitation for meat products has been increased from \$38,900 to \$40,300 for calendar year 1997. These increases conform with price changes for meat and poultry products indicated by the Consumer Price Index.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** June 2, 1997.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Patricia Stolfa, Assistant Deputy Administrator, Regulations and Inspection, Food Safety and Inspection Service, (202) 205-0699.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

Under the regulations in 9 CFR 303.1(d) and 381.10(d), FSIS exempts certain retail stores from routine Federal inspection of meat and poultry products. Whether a retail store qualifies for an exemption depends, in part, upon the percentage and volume of trade in meat and poultry products it conducts with non-household consumers (hotels, restaurants, or similar institutions). The regulations state in dollars the maximum amount of meat and poultry products a retail store may sell to non-household consumers if that store is to remain exempt from inspection.

FSIS adjusts the dollar limitation during the first quarter of each calendar year if the Consumer Price Index, published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, indicates at least a \$500 increase or decrease in the price of the same volume of product during the previous year. FSIS publishes a notice of the adjusted dollar limitation in the **Federal Register**.

The Consumer Price Index for 1996 indicates an average annual price increase in meat products of 3.5 percent and an average annual price increase in poultry products of 6.2 percent. When rounded off to the nearest \$100, the price increase for meat products amounts to \$1,400 and the price increase for poultry products amounts to \$2,200. Prices of meat and poultry, therefore, have changed in excess of \$500. Accordingly, in accordance with §§ 303.1(d)(2)(iii)(b) and 381.10(d)(2)(iii)(b) of the regulations, FSIS has increased the dollar limitation of permitted sales of meat products from \$38,900 to \$40,300 and raised the dollar

limitation of permitted sales for poultry products from \$35,700 to \$37,900.

Done in Washington, DC, May 28, 1997.

**Thomas J. Billy,**

*Administrator, Food Safety Inspection Service.*

[FR Doc. 97-14320 Filed 5-30-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-DM-P

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. 97-040N]

#### Codex Alimentarius: Sessions of the Executive Committee and the Codex Alimentarius Commission

**AGENCY:** Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice, public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) of the Department of Agriculture (USDA); the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS); and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are sponsoring a public meeting on June 4, 1997. The purpose of this meeting is to provide information and receive public comments on agenda items to be discussed at the Forty-fourth Session of the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, and the Twenty-second Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission which will be held in Geneva, Switzerland, from June 19-20, 1997, and June 23-28, 1997, respectively.

**DATES:** The public meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 4, 1997, from 9:30 am to 12:00 pm.

**ADDRESSES:** The public meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn in Franklin Square, 1155 14th Street, NW (at Massachusetts Avenue) Washington, DC 20005; telephone (202) 737-1200.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Patrick J. Clerkin, Director, U.S. Codex Office, FSIS, Room 311 West End Court, 1255 22nd Street, NW, Washington, DC 20250-3700; telephone (202) 418-8852; Fax: (202) 418-8865.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

Codex was established in 1962 by two United Nations organizations, the Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Health Organization. Codex is the major international organization for encouraging fair international trade in food and protecting the health and economic interests of consumers. Through adoption of food standards,