

Notices

Federal Register

Vol. 64, No. 119

Tuesday, June 22, 1999

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

[DA-99-03]

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 Services'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 on this notice must be received by August 23, 1999 to be assured consideration.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be sent to: Office of the Deputy Administrator, USDA/AMS/Dairy Programs, Room 2968-S, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, DC 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 Programs, Dairy Grading Branch, Room 2750-South Building, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, DC 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: February 28, 2000.

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

Abstract: The Agricultural Marketing Act (AMA) of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1621-1627) directs the Department to develop programs which will provide for and facilitate the 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 graded under the dairy program 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 are regulations for the provider and user. For these reasons, the dairy inspection and grading program 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. These records include quality tests of each producer, plant records of required tests and analysis, and starter and cheese make records. 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 Deputy Administrator, USDA/AMS/Dairy Programs, Room 2968-S, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, DC 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: June 16, 1999.

Richard M. McKee,

Deputy Administrator, Dairy Programs.

[FR Doc. 99-15771 Filed 6-21-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

[TM-99-00-3]

Nominations for Members of the National Organic Standards Board

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Organic Foods Production Act (OFPA) of 1990, as amended, requires the establishment of a National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) to assist in the development of standards for substances to be used in organic production and to advise the Secretary of Agriculture on any other aspects of the implementation of the Act. The NOSB was originally established on January 24, 1992, with individual members appointed for staggered appointments of 3, 4, and 5 years. Appointments for four members will be up in January 2000, and the

Secretary seeks nominations of individuals to be considered for selection as NOSB members.

DATES: Written nominations, with resumes, must be postmarked on or before September 20, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Nominations should be sent to Keith Jones, Program Manager, Room 2510 South Building, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), AMS, Transportation and Marketing, National Organic Program, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, DC 20090-6456.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Keith Jones, (202) 720-3252.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The OFPA of 1990 requires the Secretary to establish an organic certification program for producers and handlers of agricultural products that have been produced using organic methods. In developing this program, the Secretary is required to establish a NOSB. The purpose of the NOSB is to assist in the development of standards for substances to be used in organic production and to advise the Secretary on any other aspects of the implementation of the program.

The current NOSB made recommendations to the Secretary regarding various matters, including recommendations regarding substances that it believed should be permitted to be used in organic production. It is expected that the NOSB will continue to work and make additional recommendations to the Secretary on various matters, including substances that should be permitted or prohibited for use in organic production and processing.

The NOSB was originally established in January 1992. A member of the NOSB is to serve for a term of 5 years, except that the original members were to serve staggered terms. The terms of four members of the current NOSB, who were appointed for 5-year terms, will be completed on January 24, 2000. A board member may serve consecutive terms if such member served an original term that was less than 5 years.

The NOSB is required to be composed of various individuals, including individuals who own or operate an organic farming operation, an organic handling operation, and a retail store with significant trade in organic products, as well as individuals who have expertise in the areas of environmental protection and resource conservation.

Nominations are sought for the positions of farmer/grower (1), environmentalist (1), retailer (1), and handler/processor (1). An individual desiring to be appointed to the NOSB at

this time must be one of the following: An owner or operator of an organic farming operation, an owner or operator of a handling operation, an owner or operator of a retail store with significant trade in organic products, or an expert in the area of environmental or resource conservation.

Selection criteria will include such factors as: Demonstrated experience and interest in organics; commodity and geographic representation; endorsed support of consumer and public interest organizations; demonstrated experience with environmental concerns; and other factors as may be appropriate for specific positions.

After applications have been reviewed, individuals receiving nominations will be contacted and supplied with biographical information forms. The biographical information must be completed and returned to USDA within 10 working days of the receipt of the forms, to expedite the security clearance process that is required by USDA.

Equal opportunity practices will be followed in all appointments to the Board in accordance with USDA policies. To ensure that the recommendations for the Board have taken into account the needs of the diverse groups served by the Department, membership shall include, to the extent practicable, individuals with demonstrated ability to represent minorities, women, and persons with disabilities.

The information collection requirements concerning the nomination process have been previously cleared by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under OMB Control No. 0505-0001.

Authority: 7.U.S.C. 6501-6522.

Dated: June 16, 1999.

Eileen S. Stommes,

Deputy Administrator, Transportation and Marketing.

[FR Doc. 99-15770 Filed 6-22-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

ARMED FORCES RETIREMENT HOME

Privacy Act of 1974; Computer Matching Program Between the Armed Forces Retirement Home and the Social Security Administration

AGENCY: Armed Forces Retirement Home.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 552a(e)(12) of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, and the Office of

Management and Budget (OMB) Guidelines on the Conduct of Matching Programs, notice is hereby made of the computer matching between the Armed Forces Retirement Home (AFRH) and the Social Security Administration (SSA). The purpose of this match is for SSA to provide and verify benefit payment information on the AFRH's residents.

DATES: This proposed action will become effective July 22, 1999. The computer matching will proceed accordingly without further notice, unless comments are received which would result in a contrary determination or if the Office of Management and Budget, or Congress, objects thereto. Any public comment must be received before the effective date.

ADDRESSES: Any interested party may submit written comments to the U.S. Soldiers' and Airmen's Home, Resource Management Directorate, 3700 N Capitol Street NW, Washington, DC 20317-0002.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Donna H. Dietz, at (202) 722-3163.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: AFRH and SSA have concluded an agreement to conduct a computer matching program. The purpose of this agreement is to establish the conditions under which the SSA agrees to the disclosure of benefit payment information for the residents of the AFRH, which includes the United States Soldiers' and Airmen's Home (USSAH) and United States Naval Home (USNH). The AFRH Resident Fee Maintenance System will be used in a matching program with the SSA Master Beneficiary Records and Supplemental Security Income Records. Residents of the AFRH are required by 24 U.S.C. 414 to pay a monthly fee, which is a percentage of their monthly income and monthly payments, (including federal payments); thus, the AFRH will use the SSA data to verify the benefit earnings information currently provided by the residents, and identify any unreported recipients of benefit payments. A computer matching is the most efficient and effective manner to accomplish this task with the least amount of intrusion of personal privacy of the individuals concerned. It was therefore concluded and agreed upon that computer matching would be the best and least obtrusive manner and choice of accomplishing this requirement.

The matching agreement and an advance copy of this notice were submitted on June 9, 1999, to the Committee on Governmental Reform and Oversight of the United States