

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

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

January 21, 2010.

The Department of Agriculture has submitted the following information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. Comments regarding (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; (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 should be addressed to: Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), OIRA_Submission@OMB.EOP.GOV or fax (202) 395-5806 and to Departmental Clearance Office, USDA, OCIO, Mail Stop 7602, Washington, DC 20250-7602. Comments regarding these information collections are best assured of having their full effect if received within 30 days of this notification. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling (202) 720-8681.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number and the agency informs potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information that such persons are not required to respond to

the collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

National Agricultural Statistics Service

Title: Fruits, Nut, and Specialty Crops.

OMB Control Number: 0535-0039.

Summary of Collection: The primary function of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is to prepare and issue current official state and national estimates of crop and livestock production. Estimates of fruit, tree nuts, and specialty crops are an integral part of this program. These estimates support the NASS strategic plan to cover all agricultural cash receipts. The authority to collect these data activities is granted under U.S. Code title 7, Section 2204. Information is collected on a voluntary basis from growers, processors, and handlers through surveys.

Need and Use of the Information: Data reported on fruit, nut, specialty crops and Hawaii tropical crops are used by NASS to estimate acreage, yield, production, utilization, and crop value in States with significant commercial production. These estimates are essential to farmers, processors, and handlers in making production and marketing decisions. Estimates from these inquiries are used by market order administrators in their determination of expected supplies of crop under federal and state market orders as well as competitive fruits and nuts.

Description of Respondents: Farms; Business or other for-profit.

Number of Respondents: 63,305.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion; Annually; Quarterly; Semi-annually; Monthly.

Total Burden Hours: 16,489.

Charlene Parker,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2011-32731 Filed 12-21-11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-20-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food And Nutrition Service

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comments Request—Nutrition Assistance in Farmers' Markets: Understanding the Shopping Patterns of SNAP Participants

AGENCY: Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice invites the public and other public agencies to comment on this proposed information collection. This is a revision to a previous data collection regarding Farmers' Market Operations. The purpose of this collection is for the Food and Nutrition Service to examine the reasons behind the shopping decision at farmers' markets among recipients of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before February 21, 2012.

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 shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden on the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions that were used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments may be sent to: Steven Carlson, Office of Research and Analysis, Food and Nutrition Service/USDA, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 1014, Alexandria, VA 22302. Comments may also be submitted via fax to the attention of Steven Carlson at (703) 305-2017 or via email to Steve.Carlson@fns.usda.gov. Comments will also be accepted through the Federal eRulemaking Portal. Go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and follow

the online instructions for submitting comments electronically.

All written comments will be open for public inspection at the Office of the Food and Nutrition Service during regular business hours (8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday) at 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 1014, Alexandria, Virginia 22302.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for additional information or copies of this information collected should be directed to Steven Carlson at (703) 305-2017.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Nutrition Assistance in Farmers' Markets: Understanding the Shopping Patterns of SNAP Participants.

OMB Number: 0564-Revision.

Expiration Date of Approval: 11/30/2014.

Abstract: The USDA, Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), is pursuing initiatives to improve access to healthy foods among nutrition assistance program clients. Among these are steps to support access to fresh fruits and vegetables through farmers' markets. The overall objective of this collection is to promote opportunities for nutrition assistance program clients to take advantage of farmers' markets. In order to meet this objective, FNS needs to examine the reasons behind the shopping decision at farmers' markets

among recipients of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. To this end, FNS is conducting a survey with SNAP participants who purchase food in a catchment area around a nationally representative sample of farmers' markets that redeemed at least \$1,000 in SNAP benefits from July 2010 through June 2011. This survey will be implemented with a sample of SNAP participants from two groups that are of particular interest to FNS:

1. SNAP participants who used their EBT card at a farmers' market in the past year; and

2. SNAP participants who have not used their EBT card at a farmers' market in the past year.

The data collection activities to be undertaken subject to this notice include:

- The questionnaire will be administered to SNAP participants represented in the two categories of participants above. First, a hard-copy survey will be mailed to SNAP participants, and they will be asked to return it in a postage-paid envelope. Those with bad addresses and those who do not respond to the mailing will be contacted by telephone and will be given an option to complete a telephone interview.

- To supplement the survey data, twelve focus groups will be conducted with SNAP participants. Three groups will be held with English-language users of EBT cards at farmers' markets, three groups will be held with Spanish-

language users of EBT cards at farmers' markets, three groups will be held with English-language non-users of their EBT card at a farmers' market, and three groups will be held with Spanish-language non-users of their EBT card at a farmers' market.

Affected Public: Respondent groups identified include: Individuals/ Households (SNAP clients).

Estimated Number of Respondents: The total number of respondents is 4,806. This includes 3,750 SNAP participants (80% who will complete interviews) and 1,056 SNAP participants (96 will participate in the focus group discussions).

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: SNAP participants will complete the survey one time. SNAP participants will attend the focus group once.

Estimated time per Response: SNAP participants who have used their EBT card at a farmers' market in the past year will take approximately 20 minutes (.3333 hours) to complete the survey. SNAP participants who have not used their EBT card at a farmers' market in the past year will take approximately 25 minutes (.4166 hours) to complete the survey. Each SNAP participant will participate in the focus group discussion for approximately 1.5 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 1,374 hours. See the table below for estimated total annual burden for each type of respondent.

ESTIMATED ANNUALIZED BURDEN HOURS

| Respondent | Number of respondents | Number of responses per respondent | Estimated total annual responses | Average burden per response (in hours) | Total burden (in hours) |
|---|-----------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|-------------------------|
| SNAP Client Survey | | | | | |
| SNAP clients who used EBT card at farmers' market: | | | | | |
| Completed | 1,000 | 1 | 1,000 | .3333 | 333.30 |
| Attempted | 250 | 1 | 250 | .0333 | 8.33 |
| SNAP clients who did not use EBT card at farmers' market: | | | | | |
| Completed | 2,000 | 1 | 2,000 | .4166 | 833.20 |
| Attempted | 500 | 1 | 500 | .0333 | 16.65 |
| <i>Survey Total</i> | 3,750 | | 3,750 | | 1,191.48 |
| Focus Group with SNAP Clients | | | | | |
| Recruitment Screener: | | | | | |
| Completed | 120 | 1 | 120 | .0835 | 10.02 |
| Attempted | 840 | 1 | 840 | .0334 | 28.06 |
| Focus Group Discussion: | | | | | |
| Completed | 96 | 1 | 96 | 1.50 | 144.00 |
| Attempted | 0 | 1 | 0 | | |
| <i>Focus Group Total</i> | 1,056 | | 1,056 | | 182.08 |
| | | | | | |

ESTIMATED ANNUALIZED BURDEN HOURS—Continued

| Respondent | Number of respondents | Number of responses per respondent | Estimated total annual responses | Average burden per response (in hours) | Total burden (in hours) |
|-------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|-------------------------|
| Total | 4,806 | | 4,806 | | 1,373.56 |

Dated: December 15, 2011.
Audrey Rowe,
Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service.
 [FR Doc. 2011-32798 Filed 12-21-11; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3410-30-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food and Nutrition Service

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request—Understanding the Rates, Causes, and Costs of Churning in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

AGENCY: Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice invites the general public and other public agencies to comment on this proposed information collection. This collection is a new collection for research on the rates, causes, and costs of churning in SNAP.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before February 21, 2012.

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 shall 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 that were 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 use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments may be sent to: Steven Carlson, Office of Research and Analysis, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 1014, Alexandria, VA 22302. Comments may also be submitted via fax to the attention of Steven Carlson at (703) 305-2576 or

via email to Steve.Carlson@fns.usda.gov. Comments will also be accepted through the Federal eRulemaking Portal. Go to <http://www.regulations.gov>, and follow the online instructions for submitting comments electronically.

All written comments will be open for public inspection at the office of the Food and Nutrition Service during regular business hours (8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday) at 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 1014, Alexandria, Virginia 22302.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of this information collection should be directed to Steven Carlson at (703) 305-2017. Information requests submitted through email should refer to the title of this proposed collection and/or the OMB approval number in the subject line.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Understanding the Rates, Causes, and Costs of Churning in SNAP.

Form Number: [If applicable, insert number].

OMB Number: 0584-NEW.

Expiration Date: [Insert date or Not Yet Determined].

Type of Request: New collection.

Abstract: The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as the Food Stamp Program) is the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) largest nutrition program, enabling millions of low-income Americans to purchase groceries. It served an average of 40.3 million people per month in Fiscal Year 2010, growing from 17.1 million in Fiscal Year 2000.

The program is designed to respond to broad economic and individual circumstances as they change over time. For this reason, households move on and off the program as they become benefit-eligible and then lose eligibility because of changing income and household circumstances. A new job, a reduction in work hours, the addition of a household member, someone moving out, or other changes in household income or composition can affect

eligibility and lead naturally to program entry and exit.

There are also times, however, when households leave the program despite remaining eligible. Eligible households not receiving SNAP benefits are of concern to the program because of their reduced access to nutritious foods.

The Office of Research and Analysis (ORA) in USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) has undertaken a study on the causes and costs of churning in SNAP. Churning occurs when a SNAP participant leaves the program and returns within a short period of time, defined here as four months or less. Churning is a policy concern because of its presumed adverse effects on participants and on the administering agencies. When churn occurs, agency staff must re-collect paperwork and re-complete the application process for households whose eligibility may not have changed since they left the program and who thus may have incurred a loss of benefits. The study seeks to better understand (1) the rates and patterns of churning; (2) why participants churn; (3) what happens administratively when a participant returns to SNAP after a brief spell of non-receipt, and (4) the costs of churn to both programs and participants.

The study includes a quantitative research component involving the use of administrative data in six states and a qualitative research component involving on-site staff interviews and participant focus groups in six study sites. At each of the six sites, hour-long semi-structured interviews will be conducted with state and local SNAP administrators, SNAP caseworkers, and directors of community-based organizations involved with SNAP outreach. Also at each site, two focus groups will be conducted with SNAP participants who have experienced churn. Each group will consist of five individuals and will last one hour. Recruitment for each focus group will require three-minute telephone calls to ten individuals.

Affected Public: (State, Local, Tribal Government, Business (Not-for-Profit), Individual/Households).

Respondent groups identified include: (1) SNAP administrators; (2) SNAP caseworkers; (3) directors of