

# 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

The Department of Agriculture will submit the following information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104–13 on or after the date of publication of this notice. Comments are requested regarding: (1) 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; (2) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden including the validity of the 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 are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments regarding these information collections are best assured of having their full effect if received by June 3, 2024. Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be submitted within 30 days of the publication of this notice on the following website [www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain](http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain). Find this particular information collection by selecting “Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments” or by using the search function.

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 (NASS)

*Title:* Field Crops Production—Substantive Change.

*OMB Control Number:* 0535–0002.

*Summary of Collection:* General authority for these data collection activities is granted under U.S. Code title 7, section 2204 which specifies that “The Secretary of Agriculture shall procure and preserve all information concerning agriculture which he can obtain . . . by the collection of statistics . . .”. The primary objective of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is to provide data users with timely and reliable agricultural production and economic statistics, as well as environmental and specialty agricultural related statistics. To accomplish this objective, NASS relies on the use of diverse surveys that show changes within the farming industry over time.

The primary functions of the National Agricultural Statistics Services’ (NASS) are to prepare and issue State and national estimates of crop and livestock production, disposition, and prices and to collect information on related environmental and economic factors. The Field Crops Production Program consists of probability field crops surveys and supplemental panel surveys. NASS will use surveys to collect information through a combination of the internet, mail, telephone, and personnel interviews. The general authority for these data collection activities is granted under U.S. Code title 7, section 2204.

The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is requesting a substantive change to the Field Crops Production information collection request (OMB No. 0535–0002) for program changes. Every five years NASS conducts a program review following the completion of the Census of Agriculture. The program changes in this change request balance resources across all of the programs included in the annual estimating program ensuring NASS’ annual statistical program aligns with its appropriation. This substantive change is to accommodate the field crop program changes that affect this ICR. The changes in this request decreases burden hours.

*Need and Use of the Information:* NASS collects information on field crops to monitor agricultural developments across the country that may impact on the nation’s food supply. The Secretary of Agriculture uses estimates of crop production to administer farm program legislation and import and export programs. Collecting this information less frequently would eliminate the data needed to keep the Department abreast of changes at the State and national level.

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

*Number of Respondents:* 348,675.

*Frequency of Responses:* Reporting: Weekly, Monthly, Quarterly, Annually.

*Total Burden Hours:* 111,621.

### National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)

*Title:* Fruit, Nuts, And Specialty Crops—Substantive Change.

*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(a). Information is collected on a voluntary basis from growers, processors, and handlers through surveys. Individually identifiable data collected under this authority are governed by section 1770 of the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended, 7 U.S.C., 2276, and title III of Public Law 115–435 (CIPSEA) which requires USDA to afford strict confidentiality to non-aggregated data provided by respondents.

The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is requesting a substantive change to the Fruit, Nuts, And Specialty Crops information collection request (OMB No. 0535–0039) for mushroom program changes. Every five years NASS conducts a program review following the completion of the Census of Agriculture. The program changes balance resources across all of the programs included in the annual estimating program, which represents over 400 individual reports across multiple Information Collection Requests (ICRs). This substantive

change is to accommodate the mushroom program changes that affect this ICR. The methodology, publication dates, burden and data collection plan do not change as result of these program changes. The changes to these surveys will not affect burden hours.

**Need and Use of the Information:** Data reported on fruit, nut, and specialty crops are used by NASS to estimate crop acreage, yield, production, utilization, price, and value in States with significant commercial production. These estimates are essential to farmers, processors, importers and exporters, shipping companies, cold storage facilities and handlers in making production and marketing decisions. Estimates from these inquiries are used by market order administrators in their determination of expected crop supplies under federal and State market orders.

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

**Number of Respondents:** 55,435.

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

**Total Burden Hours:** 28,114.

**Levi S. Harrell,**

*Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.*

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**BILLING CODE 3410-20-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Food and Nutrition Service

#### Agency Information Collection

#### Activities: School Meals Operations Study: Evaluation of the School-Based Child Nutrition Programs

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces FNS' plans to submit an Information Collection Request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and invites the general public and other public agencies to comment on the proposed ICR before FNS submits it to OMB. The proposed information collection is a revision of an approved information collection. The approved information collection (OMB Control Number 0584-0607) permitted the School Meals Operations (SMO) study to collect survey and administrative data about school year (SY) 2019-2020 through SY 2022-2023 from a census of State agencies, and survey data about SY 2020-2021 and SY 2022-2023 from

a nationally representative sample of school food authorities. With the revision, FNS will seek approval for the SMO study to collect survey and administrative data about SY 2023-2024 from a census of State agencies. The SMO study will not collect survey data about SY 2023-2024 from school food authorities.

**DATES:** Written comments must be received on or before July 2, 2024.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments may be sent to: Darcy Güngör at [darcy.gungor@usda.gov](mailto:darcy.gungor@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 responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB 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 Darcy Güngör at [darcy.gungor@usda.gov](mailto:darcy.gungor@usda.gov), 703-305-4345.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** 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.

**Title:** School Meals Operations Study.

**Form Number:** N/A.

**OMB Number:** 0584-0607.

**Expiration Date:** 08/31/2026.

**Type of Request:** Revision of a currently approved collection.

**Abstract:** Section 28(a) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act authorizes the USDA Secretary to conduct annual national performance assessments of the school meal programs, which include the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP). The School Meals Operations (SMO) study was originally planned to conduct this annual assessment. When the COVID-19 pandemic closed schools and disrupted NSLP and SBP operation, the

SMO study collected data about the Child Nutrition (CN) Programs used to feed children during the pandemic, which included the NSLP Seamless Summer Option (SSO), Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), and Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) in addition to NSLP and SBP. SMO study data correspond to school year (SY) 2019-2020 through SY 2022-2023, and help FNS answer annual research questions about (1) CN Program participation, (3) meal counting, (4) financial management, and (5) CN Program integrity.

The proposed information collection is a minor revision. It will collect data about SY 2023-2024. As in previous study years, the respondents will be the State agencies that administer NSLP, SBP, SSO, SFSP, and CACFP in the 50 states, 3 territories, and District of Columbia. It will use the same administrative data request as previous years and an updated survey. The updated survey will collect timely data on policy, administrative, and operational issues for the CN Programs. This information collection will help FNS obtain:

1. General descriptive data on the characteristics of CN Programs to inform the budget process and answer questions about topics of current policy interest;

2. Data on CN Program operations to identify potential topics for training and technical assistance for States agencies and school food authorities responsible for administering the Programs; and

3. Administrative data to identify CN Program trends and predictors.

The activities that will be conducted subject to this notice include:

1. Collecting disaggregated administrative data from an estimated 68 State CN Directors (these data are reported in aggregate on forms FNS-10, Report of School Program Operations, FNS-418, Report of the Summer Food Service Program for Children, and FNS-44, Report of the Child and Adult Care Food Program, under OMB Control Number 0584-0594, expiration date 09/30/2026).

2. Conducting a web survey of an estimated 54 of the 68 State CN Directors above.

All 68 respondents will receive one email with an attached study brochure from their FNS Regional Office expressing their support of the study, and will receive one advance email from the study team to summarize the upcoming data collection activities. The subset of 54 respondents who will take the survey will receive one invitation email. They will complete the web survey one time. They may receive