

# 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

[Doc. No. AMS-LP-24-0011]

#### Request for Extension and Revision of a Currently Approved Information Collection

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

**ACTION:** Notice; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Agricultural Marketing Service's (AMS) intent to request approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), for an extension of and revision to the currently approved information collection used in support of the voluntary grading and certification of meat, meat products, shell eggs, poultry products, rabbit products, and Audit Verification and Accreditation Programs (OMB 0581-0128).

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received by July 29, 2024 to be assured of consideration.

**ADDRESSES:** Interested persons are invited to submit comments concerning this notice online using the electronic process available at <https://www.regulations.gov>. Written comments may be submitted to: Quality Assessment Division; Livestock and Poultry Program; Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA; 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Stop 0258; Washington, DC 20250-0258. All comments should reference the docket number: AMS-LP-24-0011, the date of submission, and the page number of this issue of the **Federal Register**. All comments submitted in response to this notice will be posted without change, including any personal information provided, at <https://www.regulations.gov/>, and become a matter of public record.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Michelle Degenhart, Quality Assessment Division; Telephone (202) 322-9826, or Email [michelle.degenhart@usda.gov](mailto:michelle.degenhart@usda.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Title:* Regulations for Voluntary Grading, Certification, and Standards—7 CFR 54, 56, 62, and 70.

*OMB Number:* 0581-0128.

*Expiration Date of Approval:* August 31, 2024.

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

*Abstract:* The Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1621-1627), hereinafter referred to as the "Act," directs and authorizes the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to develop and improve standards of quality, grades, grading programs, and certification services which facilitate the marketing of agricultural products. To provide programs and services, section 203(h) of the Act (7 U.S.C. 1622(h)) directs and authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to inspect, certify, and identify the class, quality, quantity, and condition of agricultural products under such rules and regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, including assessment and collection of fees for the cost of service. The regulations in 7 CFR parts 54, 56, and 70 provide a voluntary program for grading, certification and standards of meats, prepared meats, meat products, shell eggs, poultry products, and rabbit products. The regulation in 7 CFR part 62—AMS Audit Verification and Accreditation Programs (AVAAP) provides for a collection of voluntary, audit-based, user-fee funded programs that allow applicants to have program documentation and program processes assessed by AMS auditor(s) and other USDA officials.

AMS is committed to improving services through collaborative efforts with respondents. In this renewal, AMS is including estimates relating to key enhancements to ensure USDA grading is delivered with consistency, accuracy and improve data sharing. AMS also plans to combine forms LP-109 and LP-109A to eliminate duplicate information from respondents.

AMS also provides other types of voluntary services under these regulations, including contract and specification acceptance services and verification of product, processing,

further processing, temperature, and quantity. Because this is a voluntary program, respondents request or apply for the specific service they wish, and in doing so, they provide information. The information collected is used only by authorized representatives of USDA (AMS, Livestock and Poultry Program's national and field staff, which includes state agencies) and is used to conduct services requested by respondents. Information collected includes but is not limited to: total received volume in pounds or cases, volume in pounds of graded, daily total of grades assigned (e.g., by carcass), grading camera images and associated data, processed and reprocessed products, case volume of graded product, applicant's name, billing and facility address, scheduled hours, and requests for approval of commodity specifications, camera approvals, and chemical compounds. AMS is the primary user of the information with some information collected to be returned to respective respondents.

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 program.

*Estimate of Burden:* Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 0.147 hours per response.

*Respondents:* Livestock, meat, poultry, shell egg industries, or other agricultural enterprises; state or local governments; or other businesses or organizations.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 1,483.

*Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* 55.71.

*Estimated Total Annual Responses:* 82,615.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 12,167.95 hours.

*Comments:* Comments are invited on: (1) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of AMS, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of AMS' estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information 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 the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All responses will become a matter of public record, including any personal information provided.

**Melissa Bailey,**

*Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.*

[FR Doc. 2024-11601 Filed 5-24-24; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Rural Utilities Service

[Docket #: RUS-24-TELECOM-0011]

#### Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) Program: Virtual Public Listening Session

**AGENCY:** Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Rural Utilities Service (RUS), an Agency of the Rural Development (RD) mission area within the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), is hosting a virtual public listening session to obtain stakeholder feedback about the Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) program. This competitive program helps rural communities use advanced telecommunications technology to connect to each other—and the world—overcoming the effects of remoteness and low population density. The sessions are open to the public and provide an opportunity for stakeholders and other interested parties to offer their comments and input on the DLT program.

**DATES:** The virtual listening sessions will be held virtually on the following dates and times:

Tuesday, June 11, 2024, 1:30–3 p.m. EST

Tuesday, June 18, 2024, 1:30–3 p.m. EST

Comments must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. eastern standard time (EST) on June 19th, 2024, on [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov).

**ADDRESSES:** Registration is required for each virtual public listening session. To register, please visit [www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/telecommunications-programs/distance-learning-](http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/telecommunications-programs/distance-learning-)

[telemedicine-grants](#). A confirmation email, including the Zoom link and teleconference information for the meeting will be sent upon receipt of registration.

Comments may be submitted electronically by the Federal eRulemaking Portal, [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov). In the “Search for dockets and documents on agency actions” box, enter the docket number “RUS-24-TELECOM-0011,” and click the “Search” button. From the search results: click on or locate the document title: “Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) program: Virtual Public Listening Session” and select the “Comment” button. Before inputting comments, commenters may review the “Commenter’s Checklist” (optional). To submit a comment: Insert comments under the “Comment” title, click “Browse” to attach files (if available), input email address, select box to opt to receive email confirmation of submission and tracking (optional), select the box “I’m not a robot,” and then select “Submit Comment.” Information on using [Regulations.gov](http://Regulations.gov), including instructions for accessing documents, submitting comments, and viewing the docket after the close of the comment period, is available through the site’s “FAQ” link. All comments will be available for public inspection online at the Federal eRulemaking Portal ([www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov)).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Teresa Hunkapiller, Grants Management Specialist, Office of Loan Origination and Approval, RUS, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Mail Stop 1590, Room 4121-S, Washington, DC 20250-1590, or call (202) 720-0800, or email [dltinfo@usda.gov](mailto:dltinfo@usda.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

The DLT program is authorized under 7 U.S.C. 950aaa and implemented by 7 CFR part 1734. Applicants must adhere to the requirements contained in the program regulation, 7 CFR 1734. Important terms related to the program are identified in 7 CFR 1734.3.

The purpose of the DLT grant program is to encourage and improve telemedicine services and distance learning services in rural areas through the use of telecommunications, computer networks, and related advanced technologies by students, teachers, medical professionals, and rural residents. These grants are intended to increase rural access to education, training, and health care resources that are otherwise unavailable or limited in scope. The DLT program

is currently a grant only program and the grant funds are awarded through a nationally competitive process.

#### Instructions

Response to this notice is voluntary. Each individual or institution is requested to submit only one response as directed in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice. Submission must not exceed 10 pages and fonts must be 12 point or larger, with a page number on each page. Responses should include the name of the person(s) or organization(s) filing the comment. Comments containing references, studies, research, and other empirical data that are not widely published should include copies or electronic links of the referenced materials. Comments containing profanity, vulgarity, threats, or other inappropriate language or content will not be considered. Comments submitted in response to this notice are subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (5 U.S.C. 552). Responses to this notice may also be posted, without change, on a Federal website.

Therefore, we request that no business proprietary information, copyrighted information, or personally identifiable information be submitted in response to this notice. In accordance with FAR 52-215-3(b), responses to this notice are not offers and cannot be accepted by the Government to form a binding contract. Additionally, the U.S. Government will not pay for response preparation or for the use of any information contained in the response.

To inform the Federal Government’s decision-making, RUS now seeks public input on the following questions.

1. RUS outlines DLT Program eligibility requirements in 7 CFR 1734. What DLT Program requirements limit or improve project eligibility?
2. What integral equipment or software technologies are not currently eligible for funding with the DLT program?
3. The authorizing statute allows for funds to be used to purchase or support audio, video, and interactive video equipment, broadband facilities used for distance learning or telemedicine, computer hardware, network components, and software, instructional programming and limited technical assistance. What emerging technological advances in equipment and software have the potential to change how DLT services are delivered in rural areas?
4. What has been your experience with accessing DLT funding?