

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

Office of the Under Secretary, Marketing and Regulatory Programs, USDA Public Forum on Captive Supplies in the Livestock Industry

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

Name: USDA Public Forum on Captive Supplies in the Livestock Industry.

Date: September 21, 2000.

Place: Holiday Inn Denver International Airport, 15550 East 40th Avenue, Denver, Colorado.

Time: 8 a.m.—5:30 p.m.

Purpose: To solicit information and evidence on issues pertaining to captive supplies in the livestock industries, including packer use of forward contracting and packer feeding.

The forum will provide the opportunity for the public to submit written comments on key issues related to captive supplies, for farm groups to offer evidence on the problems or benefits of captive supplies, and for two invited groups of panelists to debate and discuss questions related to captive supplies issues.

One panel will discuss concerns about packer ownership and control of livestock. A second panel will debate whether and how captive supplies affect competition. In addition, the second panel will synthesize the economic literature available on captive supplies.

The meeting will be open to the public. Public participation will be comprised of attendance at the meeting and participation in open question and answer sessions for panelists, as well as the submission of written statements addressing captive supply issues.

Written statements may be submitted at the forum or sent to: Shannon Hamm, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, STOP 3601, Washington, D.C. 20250-3601, telephone (202) 720-5759 or FAX (202) 205-9237, e-mail

pspwashingtondc.gipsa@usda.gov (Note: the e-mail subject line must read "Captive Supply forum"). All mailed comments must be postmarked on or before September 28, 2000. All statements received will be made part of the public record.

The meeting will be physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Terri Henry, USDA, 202-720-0219, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: August 29, 2000.

Enrique E. Figueroa,

Deputy Under Secretary, Marketing and Regulatory Programs.

[FR Doc. 00-22715 Filed 9-6-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-FN-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Economic Research Service

Notice of Intent To Seek Approval To Collect Information

AGENCY: Economic Research Service, USDA.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13) and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations at 5 CFR Part 1320 (60 FR 44987, August, 29, 1995), this notice announces the Economic Research Service's (ERS) intention to request approval for a new information collection from people that receive food assistance from emergency kitchens and food pantries.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by November 13, 2000 to be assured of consideration.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS: Contact Linda Kantor, Food and Rural Economics Division, Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1800 M Street, NW, Room N-3069, Washington, DC 20036-5831, 202-694-5456.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Application for ERS collection of information from people who receive food assistance from emergency kitchens and food pantries.

Type of Request: Approval to collect information from people who receive food assistance from emergency kitchens and food pantries.

Abstract: USDA's Economic Research Service (ERS) has the responsibility to provide social and economic intelligence on consumer, food marketing, and rural issues, including food security status of the poor; domestic food assistance programs; low-income assistance programs; economic food consumption determinations and trends; consumer demand for food quality, safety, and nutrition; food market competition and coordination; and food safety regulation. In carrying out this overall mission, ERS seeks approval of information gathering activities that will provide key information about the use of the Emergency Food Assistance System (EFAS) by low-income households and individuals.

USDA, through the Food and Nutrition Service, administers several food assistance programs that help low-income households obtain adequate and nutritious diets. The largest USDA food assistance program, the Food Stamp Program, is designed to provide food assistance through normal channels of trade by providing low-income consumers with purchasing power to buy food at market prices from food retailers authorized to participate in the program. Other programs such as the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), the School Breakfast Program (SBP), and the Temporary Emergency Feeding Assistance Program (TEFAP) provide food assistance outside regular marketing channels. The NSLP and SBP provide cash subsidies and commodity assistance to schools to help provide low-cost or free lunches and breakfasts to schoolchildren. The TEFAP distributes commodity foods to State and local agencies for distribution to low-income households for home consumption, or to charitable organizations that provide meals for needy people.

The EFAS interacts closely with USDA food assistance programs by serving as a distribution outlet for TEFAP commodities and by providing temporary or supplemental food assistance to many of the same needy populations served by USDA programs. Through its Community Food Security Initiative, USDA is coordinating public and private efforts to increase the amount of surplus food channeled through EFAS providers.