

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 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 are requested regarding: 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; the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and 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 and other forms of information technology.

Comments regarding this information collection received by March 25, 2024 will be considered. 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. 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.

Forest Service

Title: National Woodland Owner Survey.

OMB Control Number: 0596–0078.

Summary of Collection: The main authority for this collection is the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974. The Act states that the Forest Service is tasked with "assessing the Nation's renewable resources" and this "must be based on a comprehensive assessment of present and anticipated uses, demand for, and supply of renewable resources from the Nation's public and private forests." A "comprehensive assessment" and a statement that "the majority of the Nation's forests and rangeland is under private, State, and local governmental management and the Nation's major capacity to produce goods and services is based on these nonfederally managed renewable resources, the Federal Government should be a catalyst to encourage and assist these owners in the efficient long-term use and improvement of these lands and their renewable resources consistent with the principles of sustained yield multiple use". The USDA Forest Service interprets the above provisions to call for studies aimed at understanding land ownership patterns and the attitudes and behaviors of owners and manager. A survey of owners and managers was deemed appropriate for meeting this mandate. This was reaffirmed in the 2014 Farm Bill which included a statement directing the Forest Inventory and Analysis program, which implements the National Woodland Owner Survey, to provide an "increased understanding . . . of the over 10,000,000 family forest owners, their demographics, and the barriers to forest stewardship."

Need and Use of the Information: Data from the National Woodland Owner Survey will be used by federal and state forestry agencies, academics, private consultants, landowners, non-governmental organizations, and other groups interested in understanding the owners and managers of forestland in the United States. This information will be used to describe ownership patterns in national reports, such as Forest Resources of the United States, 2017, and it will be included in many state-level forest resource reports. Federal

and state agencies use this information to design, implement, and monitor forestry assistance programs, such as the USDA Forest Service's Forest Stewardship Program. Forestry consultants, non-governmental organizations, and the forest industry use this information to make strategic planning decisions, such as where to site new biomass processing facilities, what services to offer, or where to concentrate conservation efforts. Extension agents and other educators use the information to design educational materials and programs. University and other researchers use the data for a myriad of reasons, ranging from assessments of minority landowners to factors influencing participation rates.

Description of Respondents: Individuals or households; Business or other for-profit; State, Local or Tribal Government.

Number of Respondents: 5,630.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Annual.

Total Burden Hours: 4,270.

Levi S. Harrell,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2024–03748 Filed 2–22–24; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

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Food and Nutrition Service

Title: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Forms: Applications, Periodic Reporting and Notices.

OMB Control Number: 0584–0064.

Summary of Collection: The Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (the Act), requires verification of household eligibility for SNAP benefits, confirm household eligibility throughout participation in the program, and ensure that households receive the correct benefit amount. State agencies are responsible for determining the eligibility of applicant households and issuing benefits to those households entitled to benefits under the Act.

The Federal regulations for implementing these procedures are contained in Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) in 7 CFR part 271, 7 CFR part 272, and 7 CFR part 273. Part 271 contains general information and definitions, Part 272 contains requirements for participating State agencies, and Part 273 contains procedures for the certification of eligible households.

SNAP Applications, Periodic Reporting and Notices: The information collected by State agencies and electively provided by households upon initial application and then recertification (an application to continue participation in the program after an initial period of eligibility) includes (PII), as well as information about various household circumstances, such as household size and income. Applications are available in electronic and paper format. Once electively provided by households, State agencies

must verify application information provided to determine their SNAP eligibility and benefit amounts, and then conduct an interview with the applicant household. Interviews are conducted in person or over the telephone. The information requirements for recertification are similar. Households with regular earned income are generally required to recertify every 12 months, although the recertification period can be as little as one month, or as long as two years, based on their circumstances.

As part of the initial application and recertification process, State agencies are required to issue certain notices to households. This includes notices when an application is denied, if an application is missing information, if a household misses their interview, if household benefits will soon expire, if household benefits will change, and when household benefits officially change. Notices provided by State agencies can be issued electronically or by paper.

Following initial certification or recertification, households are required to notify (FNS) of any changes to their household status on a quarterly basis, monthly basis, or whenever a change occurs based on the reporting options chosen by their State agency, in order to maintain SNAP benefits and eligibility. Most State agencies also use simplified or periodic reporting, which requires households to report only certain changes to their status during the certification period. All reporting requirements can be completed electronically or by paper.

Retention and Custody of Records. Under recordkeeping requirements, State agencies must maintain records to ascertain whether the program is administered in compliance with Federal statutes and regulations. State agencies must maintain case records of households participating in SNAP for a period of three years from the date of origin. In addition, State agencies must also maintain the ability to search household case records in order to prevent individuals from receiving benefits in more than one household, and to prevent households from receiving benefits in more than one jurisdiction (commonly referred to as “duplicate participation”). Records can be maintained using automated retrieval systems rather than paper records.

SNAP regulations (7 CFR 273.21) provide for a one month or two-month reporting option to determine SNAP eligibility and benefits of the affected households. This requires households and State agencies to conduct reporting more frequently than a quarterly basis.

This monthly collection is necessary to ensure the integrity of the program and to meet regulatory requirements. FNS notes that while all State agencies have the option to use monthly reporting, only one State uses this reporting system, and the number of households subject to this reporting system within the State is small.

Need and Use of the Information: To determine initial and continued eligibility for SNAP, applicants must provide, and State agencies must verify, various information on household members, such as age, income, resources, allowable deductions, and Social Security Numbers (SSNs). This information must be collected to ensure households are eligible for SNAP, receive the correct benefit, and maintain eligibility for the program. This information collection is mandatory for State agencies that administer SNAP, as they are responsible for accepting applications from, and determining eligibility for, individuals and households that apply for SNAP. While a response is voluntary for households that apply for SNAP, it is required in order for them to obtain or maintain SNAP benefits from their State agency.

Description of Respondents: State, Local, Tribal Government, Individuals, Households.

Number of Respondents: 21,623,495.

Frequency of Responses:

Recordkeeping: Reporting: Occasionally; Annually.

Total Burden Hours: 142,800,634.27.

Rachelle Ragland-Greene,

Acting Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2024–03749 Filed 2–22–24; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request; Correction

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