

Notices

Federal Register

Vol. 68, No. 49

Thursday, March 13, 2003

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. FV03-932-2 NC]

Notice of Request for Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), this notice announces the Agricultural Marketing Service's (AMS) intention to request an extension for a currently approved information collection for Olives Grown in California, Marketing Order 932.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by May 12, 2003, to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments concerning this notice. Comments must be sent to the Docket Clerk, Marketing Order Administration Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, AMS, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Stop 0237, Washington, DC 20250-0237; Fax: (202) 720-8938, or E-mail: moab.docketclerk@usda.gov. All comments should reference the docket number and the date and page number of this issue of the **Federal Register** and will be made available for public inspection in the Office of the Docket Clerk during regular business hours, or can be viewed at: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/fv/moab.html>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Caroline Thorpe, Marketing Specialist, Marketing Order Administration Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, AMS, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Stop 0237, Washington, DC 20250-0237; Telephone: (202) 720-2491; Fax: (202) 720-8938.

Small businesses may request information on this notice by contacting Jay Guerber, Regulatory Fairness Representative, Marketing Order Administration Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, AMS, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Stop 0237, Washington, DC 20250-0237; telephone (202) 720-2491, Fax: (202) 720-8938, or E-mail: Jay.Guerber@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Olives Grown in California, Marketing Order 932.

OMB Number: 0581-0142.

Expiration Date of Approval: September 30, 2003.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: Marketing order programs provide an opportunity for producers of fresh fruits, vegetables, and specialty crops, in a specified production area, to work together to solve marketing problems that cannot be solved individually. Order regulations help ensure adequate supplies of good quality product and adequate returns to producers. Under the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937 (Act), as amended (7 U.S.C. 601-674), marketing order programs are established if favored by producers in referendum. The handling of the commodity is regulated. The Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to oversee order operations and issue regulations recommended by a committee of representatives from each commodity industry.

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 California olive marketing order program, which has been operating since 1965.

The California olive marketing order authorizes the issuance of quality, size, and inspection requirements. The order also has authority for research and development projects, including paid advertising. Pursuant to section 8e of the Act, import grade and size requirements are implemented on olives imported into the United States.

The order and its rules and regulations authorize the California Olive Committee (committee), the agency responsible for local administration of the order, to require

handlers and producers to submit certain information. Much of this information is compiled in aggregate and provided to the industry to assist in marketing decisions.

The committee has developed forms as a means for persons to file required information with the committee relating to olive supplies, shipments, dispositions, and other information necessary to effectively carry out the purpose of the Act and the order. California olives are shipped year-round and these forms are used accordingly. A USDA form is used to allow growers to vote on amendments to or continuance of the order.

Formal rulemaking amendments to the order must be approved in referendum conducted by the Secretary. Also, the Secretary may conduct a continuance referendum to determine industry support for continuance of the order. Handlers are asked to sign an agreement to indicate their willingness to abide by the provisions of the order whenever the order is amended. These forms are included in this request.

All the forms under this program require the minimum information necessary to effectively carry out the requirements of the order, and their use is necessary to fulfill the intent of the Act as expressed in the order.

The information collected would be used only by authorized representatives of the USDA, including AMS, Fruit and Vegetable Programs' regional and headquarter's staff, and authorized employees of the committee. Authorized committee employees and the industry are the primary users of the information and AMS is the secondary user.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .28 hour per response.

Respondents: California olive handlers and growers.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 691.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 15.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 2947 hours.

The information collection burden would affect both California olive growers and handlers. The majority of the collection burden consists of Weight and Grade Reports totaling an estimated 2,250 burden hours. These reports are filed by handlers, who like growers,

benefit from improved returns due to more orderly market conditions. The rest of this information collection consists of twenty-four forms that add a total of 697 estimated burden hours.

Comments are invited on: (1) Whether the proposed collection of the 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 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 through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments should reference OMB No. 0581-0142 and California Olive Marketing Order No. 932, and be sent to Docket Clerk, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, AMS, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Stop 0237, Washington, DC 20250-0237; Fax: (202) 720-8938; or E-mail:

moab.docketclerk@usda.gov. All comments received will be available for public inspection during regular business hours at the same address and will become a matter of public record.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: March 7, 2003.

A. J. Yates,

Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 03-5970 Filed 3-12-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

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 44978, August 29, 1995), this notice announces the Economic Research Service's (ERS) intention to request approval for a new information collection from the U.S. population. The study will collect

information from Food Stamp Program (FSP) participants that reside in one of six demonstration sites.

DATES: Written comments must be received by May 19, 2003 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Requests for additional information regarding this notice should be directed to Elizabeth Dagata, Rural Economy Branch, Food and Rural Economics Division, Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1800 M St. NW., Washington, DC 20036-5831. Submit electronic comments to *edagata@ers.usda.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Evaluation of Three Models Designed to Increase Participation of Eligible Elderly in the Food Stamp Program.

OMB Number: Not yet assigned.

Expiration Date: Two years from date of issuance.

Type of Request: Approval to collect information from elderly individuals who receive food stamps and who reside in one of the Elderly Nutrition Demonstration pilot sites.

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 impact of the Food Stamp Program's (FSP) Elderly Nutrition Demonstration pilots.

Six states (Arizona, Connecticut, Florida, Maine, Michigan, and North Carolina) are implementing separate Elderly Nutrition Demonstration pilots, with each State's pilot based on one of three demonstration models: (1) A commodities alternative benefit model, in which elderly FSP participants can elect to receive a package of commodities each month in lieu of traditional FSP benefits; (2) a simplified eligibility model, in which the FSP eligibility rules for elderly applicants are streamlined; or (3) an application assistance model, in which demonstration staff assist elderly FSP applicants with completing the food stamp application. Two states (Connecticut and North Carolina) are implementing a commodities alternative benefit model; one state (Florida) is

implementing a simplified eligibility model; and three states (Arizona, Maine and Michigan) are implementing an application assistance model. USDA is operating these pilot projects to explore which demonstration models lead to increased participation among elderly individuals in the Food Stamp Program and why.

Working with ERS, a contractor will be evaluating the six demonstration models. Participation data obtained through administrative case records will be used to estimate the impact of the demonstrations on the number of elderly participants in the Food Stamp Program. To identify reasons why elderly individuals may be more likely to participate under the demonstrations, the contractor will contact elderly Food Stamp Program participants directly.

In the two states that are implementing the commodities alternative benefit demonstration model (Connecticut and North Carolina), a sample of elderly food stamp participants will be surveyed. The survey will query respondents as to whether or not they chose to participate in the commodity alternative benefit demonstration, the reason for that choice, and, if they are receiving the commodity alternative benefit, what they like and dislike about it. A different sample of respondents will be identified every quarter, and interviews will occur between three and seven quarters. A small sub-sample of respondents will be contacted a second time to acquire more detailed information about their experience with the demonstration.

In addition to the survey conducted in the two commodities demonstration sites, focus groups will be conducted in the one state implementing the simplified eligibility demonstration model (Florida) and in the three states implementing the application assistance demonstration model (Arizona, Maine and Michigan). There will be two focus groups per state, with each focus group including 10 elderly FSP participants. These focus groups will be used to determine what aspects of each demonstration were beneficial to the clients.

Affected Public: Elderly FSP participants residing in the demonstration sites.

Estimated Number of Respondents: A combined total of 167 individuals in the two commodities alternative benefit demonstration sites will be interviewed per quarter, and interviews will be conducted for three to seven quarters. The maximum number of interviews conducted is 1,169 (= 167 respondents × 7 quarters). In the remaining four