

Notices

Federal Register

Vol. 70, No. 40

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

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

February 25, 2005.

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, Pub. L. 104-13. Comments regarding (a) 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; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) 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 should be addressed to: Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), *Pamela_Beverly_OIRA_Submission@omb.eop.gov* or fax (202) 395-5806 and to Departmental Clearance Office, USDA, OCIO, Mail Stop 7602, Washington, DC 20250-7602. Comments regarding these information collections are best assured of having their full effect if received within 30 days of this notification. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling (202) 720-8681.

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.

Food and Nutrition Service

Title: Food Stamp Program Repayment Demand and Program Disqualification.

OMB Control Number: 0584-0492.

Summary of Collection: Section 13(b) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 require State agencies to initiate collection action against households that have been overissued benefits. To initiate collection action, State agencies must provide an affected household with written notification informing the overissued household of the claim and demanding repayment.

Need and Use of the Information: State agency personnel will collect the information from individuals collecting food stamp benefits. The State agencies must maintain all records associated with this collection for a period of three years so that FNS can review documentation during compliance reviews and other audits. Without approval of this information collection, FNS would not be able to correct accidental or fraudulent overpayment errors in the Food Stamp Program.

Description of Respondents: State, local, and tribal government; Individuals or households.

Number of Respondents: 53.

Frequency of Responses:

Recordkeeping; Reporting: Annually.

Total Burden Hours: 166,329.

Ruth Brown,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 05-4009 Filed 3-1-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-30-M

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Foreign Agricultural Service

Title: Specialty Sugar Certificates Application.

OMB Control Number: 0551-0025.

Summary of Collection: The Secretary of Agriculture each year announces the U.S. sugar import quantity that will be subject to the tariff-rate quotas, including specialty sugars for each fiscal year (October 1-September 30) under the authority of 19 U.S.C. 3601, Presidential Proclamation 6763, Additional Note 5 to chapter 17 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States. In order to grant licenses, ensure that imported specialty sugar does not disrupt the current domestic support program, and maintain administrative control over the program, an application with certain specific information must be collected from those who wish to participate in the program established by the regulation. Importers are required to supply specific information to the Secretary

and the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS), in order to be granted a certificate to import specialty sugar. The information is supplied to U.S. Customs officials in order to certify that the sugar being imported is "specialty sugar."

Need and Use of the Information: The collected information will be used to: (1) Determine whether applicants for the program meet the regulation's eligibility criteria; (2) ensure that sugar to be imported is specialty sugar and meets the requirements of the regulation; (3) audit participants' compliance with the regulation; and (4) prevent entry of world-priced program sugar from entering the domestic commercial market instead of domestic specialty sugar market. Without the collection of this information the Certifying Authority would not have any basis on which to make a decision on whether a certificate should be granted, and would not have the ability to monitor sugar imports under this program.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit; Individuals or households.

Number of Respondents: 20.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Annually.

Total Burden Hours: 10.

Ruth Brown,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 05-4010 Filed 3-1-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-10-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Foreign Agriculture Service

Agricultural Policy Advisory Committee for Trade and the Agricultural Technical Advisory Committees for Trade; Reestablishment and Nominations

AGENCY: Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, notice is hereby given that the Secretary of Agriculture (Secretary), in coordination with the United States Trade Representative (USTR), intends to reestablish the Agricultural Policy Advisory Committee (APAC) for Trade and the six existing Agricultural Technical Advisory Committees (ATAC) for Trade. The Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) is requesting nominations for persons to serve on these seven committees.

DATES: Written nominations must be received by FAS before the close of business on March 31, 2005.

ADDRESSES: Nominations must be hand-delivered (including FedEx, DHL, UPS, etc.) to the Legislative Affairs Office, Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA, Room 5929-S, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Mail Stop 1001, Washington, DC 20250-1001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Inquiries or comments regarding the reestablishment of these committee also may be sent by electronic mail to LegAffairs@fas.usda.gov, or by fax to (202) 720-5936. The Legislative Affairs Office may be reached by telephone at (202) 720-7645, with inquiries directed to Joan Hurst.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Introduction

The APAC and the ATACs are authorized by sections 135(c)(1) and (2) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (Pub. L. 93-618, 19 U.S.C. 2155). The purpose of these committees is to advise the Secretary and the USTR concerning agricultural trade policy. The committees are intended to ensure that representative elements of the private sector have an opportunity to express their views to the U.S. government.

Rechartering of Existing Committees

Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act 5 U.S.C. App. II), FAS gives notice that the Secretary and the USTR intend to reestablish the APAC and the following six ATACs:

- Animals and Animal Products;
- Fruits and Vegetables;
- Grains, Feed, and Oilseeds;
- Processed Foods;
- Sweeteners and Sweetener Products;
- Tobacco, Cotton, Peanuts, and Planting Seeds.

In 1974, Congress established a private sector advisory committee system to ensure that U.S. trade policy and negotiation objectives adequately reflect U.S. commercial and economic interests. The private sector advisory committee system currently consists of three tiers:

- The President's Advisory Committee on Trade and Policy Negotiations;
- Five general policy advisory committees, including the APAC; and,
- Twenty-eight technical advisory committees, including the ATACs.

The establishment and renewal of such committees is in the public interest in connection with the duties of the USDA imposed by the Trade Act of 1974, as amended.

Committee Membership Information

- All committee members are appointed by the Secretary and the USTR, and serve at the discretion of the Secretary and the USTR.
- Committee size will be limited up to approximately 35 members each.
- All committee appointments will expire in two years, but the Secretary and the USTR may renew an appointment for one or more additional terms.
- All committee members must be U.S. citizens.
- To attend certain meetings, committee members must have a current security clearance or have submitted an application for a security clearance.
- Committee members serve without compensation; they are not reimbursed for their travel expenses.
- No person may serve on more than one USDA advisory committee at the same time.

General Committee Information

- Each committee has a chairperson, who is elected from the membership of that committee.
- Committees meet approximately four times per year, and all committee meetings are held in Washington, DC.
- Committee meetings will be open to the public, unless the USTR determines that a committee will be discussing issues that justify closing a meeting or portions of a meeting, in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552(c).
- Throughout the year, members are requested to review sensitive trade policy information via a secure Web site, and provide comments regarding trade negotiations.
- In addition to their other advisory responsibilities, at the conclusion of negotiations of any trade agreement, all committees are required to provide a report on each agreement to the President, Congress, and the USTR.

Agricultural Policy Advisory Committee for Trade

The APAC is composed of a broad spectrum of agricultural interests. The APAC provides advice concerning the following:

- Negotiating objectives and bargaining positions before the United States enters into a trade agreement;
- The operation of various U.S. trade agreements; and
- Other matters arising from the administration of U.S. trade policy.

Agricultural Technical Advisory Committees for Trade

The ATACs provide advice and information regarding trade issues that affect both domestic and foreign