

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

May 22, 2008.

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 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), 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.

Agricultural Marketing Service

Title: Laboratory Approval Programs.

OMB Control Number: 0581-NEW.

Summary of Collection: The Agricultural Marketing Act (AMA) of 1946, as amended, provides analytical testing services that facilitate marketing and allow products to obtain grade designations or meet marketing or quality standards. Pursuant to this authority, AMS develops and maintains laboratory certification and approval programs as needed by the agricultural industry, to support domestic and international marketing of U.S. products. To ensure that a laboratory is capable of accurately performing the specified analyses, it must adhere to certain good laboratory practice and show technical proficiency in the required areas.

Need and Use of the Information: Checklist and form have been developed that ask the laboratory for information concerning procedures, the physical facility, employees, and their training. The laboratory must also provide Standard Operating Procedures for the analyses and quality assurance. The laboratory certification and approval programs are voluntary, fee for service, and for admission into one of these programs a laboratory must have a client who requires the specific testing. It is necessary to collect and require a laboratory to attest to the performance elements necessary to determine the credibility of the laboratory. To do less would be a disservice to the agricultural community.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit.

Number of Respondents: 82.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 5,695.

Charlene Parker,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

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Rural Housing Service

Title: 7 CFR 1951-E, "Servicing of Community and Direct Business Programs Loans and Grants".

OMB Control Number: 0575-0066.

Summary of Collection: Rural Development (Agency) is the credit