

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

Agricultural Marketing Service

[FV-04-337]

Request for New Information Collection

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comment.

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's) intention to request approval for the "Qualified Through Verification" Program (QTV) information collection.

DATES: Comments may be submitted on or before June 21, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments to: Branch Chief, Processed Products Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, STOP 0247, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250-0247; fax (202) 690-1527.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Contact Mr. Terry B. Bane at the same address and fax number above, or e-mail terry.bane@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: QTV is a voluntary HACCP-based program serving only the fresh-cut fruit and vegetable processing industry. The regulations in 7 CFR Part 52 provide for voluntary facility assessment programs that are paid for entirely by the user (user-fee) to verify their ability to produce wholesome food. QTV does not relieve participants from enforcement by the FDA or from under other applicable programs.

USDA published in the **Federal Register** on September 4, 1998 (63 FR 47220) a notice regarding the QTV program and asked for public comment. The comment period closed November

3, 1998. AMS received 28 comments from a wide range of sources, including trade associations, academia, members of Congress, state and local government agencies, and manufacturers.

Comments received addressed both implementation of the program as well as technical details of the program's operation. The majority of the recommendations raised by the comments were incorporated into the program.

Title: "Qualified Through Verification" Program (QTV).

OMB Number: 0581-XXXX.

Expiration Date of Approval: 3 years from the date of OMB approval.

Type of Request: New collection.

Abstract: The Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1621-*et seq.*) (AMA) directs and authorizes the Department of Agriculture (USDA) to develop standards of quality, grades, grading programs, and voluntary services under the regulations, *e.g.*, contract and specification acceptance services, facility assessment services and certifications of quantity and quality.

To provide programs and services, section 203(h) of the AMA directs and authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to provide contract and specification acceptance services, facility assessment and other services under such rules and regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, including assessment and collection of fees for the cost of the service.

The QTV program is a voluntary program. Respondents need to request the service in writing, providing their processing information. In accordance with the AMA, the Agency will examine and verify the provided information and based on the information collected, assess and collect a fee from the respondent for the cost of the service. The information is collected to carry out the intent of the AMA, and is used only to provide the respondents the service they have requested, and to administer the program. This information is used only by authorized representatives of the USDA (AMS, Fruit and Vegetable Programs' national staff; regional directors and their staffs; Area Officers-in Charge and their staffs; and resident Federal graders).

The participant's use of appropriate automated, electronic or mechanical information collection methods is based

on established industry standards and the sophistication of the processor's systems.

Affected public may include any partnership, association, business trust, corporation, organized group, and State, County or Municipal government, and any authorized agent that has a financial interest in the commodity involved.

Following the QTV program procedures, the respondent must provide processing information in writing to request service.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 0.68 hours per response.

Respondents: Applicants who are applying to participate in the Qualified Through Verification (QTV) Program.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 20.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 469.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 6,372.

Comments are invited on: (1) Whether the proposed collection of 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 the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to Mr. Terry B. Bane, Processed Products Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, STOP 0247, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Washington, DC 20250-0247; faxed to (202) 690-1087; or e-mailed to terry.bane@usda.gov.

All comments received will be available for public inspection during regular business hours at the same address. All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 1621–1627.

Dated: April 19, 2004.

A.J. Yates,

Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 04–9158 Filed 4–21–04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–02–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Docket Number FV–04–306]

United States Standards for Grades of Watermelons

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), prior to undertaking research and other work associated with revising an official grade standard, is soliciting comments on a petition to revise the United States Standards for Grades of Watermelons. AMS has received a petition from the National Watermelon Association (NWA) requesting a definition for seedless watermelons be added to the standard. Additionally, the petition included a request to add a variance to the size requirements.

DATES: Comments must be received by June 21, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments to the Standardization Section, Fresh Products Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Room 1661 South Building, Stop 0240, Washington, DC 20250–0240; Fax (202) 720–8871, E-mail

FPB.DocketClerk@usda.gov or you may also send your comments by the electronic process available at Federal eRulemaking portal at *http://www.regulations.gov*. Comments should make reference to the dates and page number of this issue of the **Federal Register** and will be made available for public inspection in the above office during regular business hours.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David L. Priester, at the above address or call (202) 720–2185; E-mail *David.Priester@usda.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

AMS received a petition from the NWA requesting a revision to the United States Standards for Grades of Watermelons. These standards were last

revised in 1978. The petitioner is requesting that USDA add the following definition: “Seedless Watermelons” are watermelons which have 16 or less mature seeds, not to include pips/caplets, on the face of the melon which has been cut into four equal sections (one lengthwise cut and one crosswise cut). Additionally, the petitioner is requesting the size requirements be revised. Currently the size requirements states, “When the size of the watermelon is stated in terms of average weight, unless otherwise specified, the melons in any lot averaging less than 30 pounds (13.6 kgs.) shall not vary more than 3 pounds (1.4 kgs.) below the stated average, and the melons in any lot averaging 30 pounds (13.6 kgs.) or more shall not vary more than 5 pounds (2.3 kgs.) below the stated average.” The petitioner is requesting the size requirement be revised to allow for watermelons to vary 3 pounds above or below the average. Therefore, the size requirement would state, “When the size of the watermelons is stated in terms of average weight, unless otherwise specified, the melons in any lot averaging less than 30 pounds (13.6 kgs.) shall not vary more than 3 pounds (1.4 kgs.) above or below the stated average, and the melons in any lot averaging 30 pounds (13.6 kgs.) or more shall not vary more than 5 pounds (2.3 kgs.) below the stated average.”

Agricultural Marketing Service

Prior to undertaking detailed work to develop a proposed revision to the standard, AMS is soliciting comments on the petition submitted to revise the United States Standards for Grades of Watermelons.

This notice provides for a 60-day comment period for interested parties to comment on changes to the standard. Should AMS conclude that there is an interest in the proposal, the Agency will develop a proposed revised standard that will be published in the **Federal Register** with a request for comments in accordance with 7 CFR Part 36.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 1621–1627.

Dated: April 19, 2004.

A. J. Yates,

Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 04–9159 Filed 4–21–04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–02–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Information Collection; Volunteer Application for Natural Resource Agencies

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice; request for comment.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Forest Service is seeking comments from all interested individuals and organizations on the extension without revision of the information collection, Volunteer Application for Natural Resource Agencies, OF–301. The collected information will help the Forest Service and other Natural Resource Agencies match the skills of individuals, who are applying for volunteer positions, with work that can be accomplished by volunteers. Information will be collected from potential volunteers of all ages. Those under the age of 18 years must have written consent from their parents or guardian.

DATES: Comments must be received in writing on or before June 21, 2004 to be assured of consideration. Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

ADDRESSES: All comments concerning this notice should be addressed to USDA Forest Service, Director, Senior, Youth & Volunteer Programs, (Mail Stop 1136), 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250–0003. Comment may also be submitted via facsimile to (703) 605–5115. The public may inspect comments received at USDA–Forest Service, 1621 N. Kent Street, Roslyn Plaza East, Room 1010, Arlington, VA during normal business hours. Visitors are encouraged to call ahead to (703) 605–4851 to facilitate entry to the building.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Donald T. Hansen, Program Manager, Volunteer Programs, Senior Youth and Volunteer Programs, at (703) 605–4851.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Volunteer Application for Natural Resource Agencies.

OMB Number: 0596–0080.

Expiration Date of Approval: 04/30/2004.

Type of Request: Extension with no revisions.

Abstract: This information collection helps agency volunteer coordinators and other personnel to match the volunteer worker with agency volunteer opportunities upon evaluation of the applicant’s skills and physical condition