

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

[Docket No. DA-00-06]

Notice of Request for Extension and Revision 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 and revision to a currently approved information collection for the Dairy Forward Pricing Pilot Program.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be submitted on or before November 7, 2000 to be assured of consideration.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS: Contact Nicholas Memoli, Marketing Specialist, Order Formulation Branch, Rm. 2971-S, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, DC 20090-6456, (202) 690-1932, e-mail address Nicholas.Memoli@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Pricing Pilot Program.

OMB Number: 0581-0190.

Expiration Date of Approval: 09-30-00.

Type of Request: Extension and revision of an emergency approved information collection.

Abstract: In accordance with Public Law 106-113 (113 Stat. 1536, Section 1001(a)(8)), amending the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937 (7 U.S.C. 601-674), the Dairy Forward Pricing Pilot Program became effective on July 19, 2000. The pilot program permits a handler to pay producers or cooperative associations a negotiated price, rather than the minimum Federal order price, for milk that is under

forward contract, provided that such milk does not exceed the handler's nonfluid use of milk for the month. Under the pilot program, a one-page disclosure statement must be submitted each time a dairy farmer enters into a forward contract. The disclosure statement explains to the dairy farmer that the program is voluntary and that by entering into the program with a handler, the dairy farmer will forfeit his or her right to the minimum prices provided under the order.

The information collection requirements in this request are essential to carry out the intent of the Acts. The information collected is the minimum required. The information collected is used only by authorized employees of the USDA, AMS. The AMS is the primary user of the compiled information.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .25 hours per response.

Respondents: Dairy farmers.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 8,000.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 2,000 burden hours.

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 Nicholas Memoli, Marketing Specialist, Order Formulation Branch, Rm. 2971-S, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, DC 20090-6456, (202) 690-1932, e-mail address Nicholas.Memoli@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.

Dated: September 1, 2000.

Richard M. McKee,

Deputy Administrator, Dairy Programs.

[FR Doc. 00-23025 Filed 9-7-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Docket No. DA-00-09]

United States Standards for Grades of Nonfat Dry Milk (Spray Process), United States Standards for Instant Nonfat Dry Milk and United States Standards for Grades of Dry Buttermilk and Dry Buttermilk Product

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is soliciting comments on proposals to revise the United States Standards for Grades of Nonfat Dry Milk (Spray Process), the United States Standards for Instant Nonfat Dry Milk, and the United States Standards for Grades of Dry Buttermilk and Dry Buttermilk Product. Proposed revisions would reduce the Standard Plate Count (bacterial estimates) for U.S. Extra Grade nonfat dry milk (spray process) and instant nonfat dry milk to a maximum of 10,000 per gram, for U.S. Extra Grade dry buttermilk and dry buttermilk product to a maximum of 20,000 per gram, and for U.S. Standard Grade dry buttermilk and dry buttermilk product to a maximum of 75,000 per gram.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before November 7, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Written comments may be submitted to Duane R. Spomer, Chief, Dairy Standardization Branch, Dairy Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 2746 South Building, Stop 0230, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, DC 20090-6456; faxed to (202) 720-2643; or e-mailed to Duane.Spomer@usda.gov. Comments should reference the date and page number of this issue of the **Federal Register**. All comments received will be made available for