

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

[Doc. No. AMS-ST-22-0060]

Information Collection for National Science Laboratories

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Agricultural Marketing Service's (AMS) intention to request approval, from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), for a new information collection "National Science Laboratories."

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by December 12, 2022 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments concerning this notice by using the electronic process available at <https://www.regulations.gov>. All comments should reference the document number and the date and page number of this issue of the **Federal Register**. All comments submitted in response to this notice will be posted without change, including any personal information provided, at <https://www.regulations.gov> and will be included in the record and made available to the public.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Roger Simonds, National Science Laboratories, Laboratory Approval and Testing Division, Science & Technology Program, 801 Summit Crossing Place, Suite B, Gastonia, NC 28054; Phone: (704) 867-3873; or Email: NationalScienceLaboratories@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Agency: USDA, AMS.

Title: National Science Laboratories.

OMB Number: 0581-NEW.

Type of Request: New Information Collection.

Abstract: This information collection is necessary to conduct voluntary analytical testing on a fee-for-service basis. The Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1621-1627), authorizes the Agricultural Marketing Service, AMS' National Science Laboratories (NSL) to provide chemical, microbiological, and bio-molecular lab analytical testing services to facilitate domestic and international marketing of food and agricultural commodities. NSL is a fee-for-service lab network utilized by both industry and government and provides testing services for AMS commodity programs, other USDA agencies, Federal and State agencies, U.S. Military, research institutions, and private sector food and agricultural industries. Applicants voluntarily submit samples for analytical testing and pay testing fees. Regulations implementing the NSL program appear at 7 CFR part 91.

The information collected is information needed to perform analytical testing, issue a certificate/report of analytical results, and collect payment for services requested by the applicant. This includes information about applicant's business, sample(s) submitted, and the required test(s). AMS will collect business information on form ST-1, Application for Service. The information requested will be used by the Administrative Officer to identify the applicant in the billing system, to set up an account in the billing system and contact the party responsible for payment of testing fee.

Applicants, when submitting samples, provide sample information documentation needed to conduct analytical laboratory testing. This information can be submitted using documentation provided by the applicant or on form FRM-12, provided by NSL. Such information includes: Applicant contact information; Product description; Number of containers; Lot number or production date; Analyses requested; Any other information required by the applicant to be on the analytical certificate/report of analytical results. Information collection requirements in this request are essential to provide applicants with the service requested and administer the program.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 0.254 hours per response.

Respondents: Food and Agricultural Businesses.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 10,279.

Estimated Total Annual Responses: 10,279.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.0.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 2613.25 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 completion of analyses related documentation; (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.

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.

Melissa Bailey,

Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 2022-22137 Filed 10-11-22; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Doc. No. AMS-FGIS-22-0066]

United States Standards for Beans: Chickpea/Garbanzo Beans

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is proposing revision to the U.S. Standards for Beans, pertaining to the grade determining

factors Moisture and Contrasting Chickpeas in the class Chickpea/Garbanzo Beans, under the United States Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, as amended, (AMA). Stakeholders in the bean processing/handling industry requested AMS to amend the grading requirements for Moisture and Contrasting Chickpeas in Chickpea/Garbanzo Beans in the U.S. Bean Standards. To ensure that the bean standards remain relevant, AMS invites interested parties to comment on whether revising the Chickpea/Garbanzo standard will facilitate the marketing of Chickpea/Garbanzo Beans. This action may revise or amend the table of Grades and Grade Requirements for Chickpea/Garbanzo Beans in the U.S. Standard for Beans.

DATES: Comments must be received by December 12, 2022.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments concerning this notice. All comments must be submitted through the Federal e-rulemaking portal at <https://www.regulations.gov> and should reference the document number and the date and page number of this issue of the **Federal Register**. Instructions for submitting and reading comments are detailed on the site. All comments submitted in response to this notice will be included in the record and will be made available to the public. Please be advised that the identity of the individuals or entities submitting comments will be made public on the internet at the address provided above.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Loren Almond, USDA AMS; Telephone: (816) 702-3925; Email: Loren.L.Almond@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the authority of the AMA (7 U.S.C. 1621–1627), as amended, AMS establishes and maintains a variety of quality and grade standards for agricultural commodities that serve as a fundamental starting point to define commodity quality in the domestic and global marketplace.

Standards developed under the AMA include those for rice, whole dry peas, split peas, feed peas, lentils, and beans. The U.S. standards for whole dry peas, split peas, feed peas, lentils and beans no longer appear in the Code of Federal Regulations but are now maintained by USDA–AMS–Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS). The U.S. standards for beans are voluntary and widely used in private contracts, government procurement, marketing communication, and for some commodities, consumer information.

The bean standards facilitate bean marketing and define U.S. bean quality in the domestic and global marketplace. The standards define commonly used industry terms; contain basic principles governing the application of standards such as the type of sample used for a particular quality analysis; the basis of determination; and specify grades and grade requirements. Official procedures for determining grading factors are provided in the Bean Inspection Handbook. Together, the grading standards and testing procedures allow buyers and sellers to communicate quality requirements, compare bean quality using equivalent forms of measurement, and assist in price discovery.

AMS engages in outreach with stakeholders to ensure commodity standards maintain relevance to the modern market. Stakeholders, including the U.S.A. Dry Pea and Lentil Council (USA DPLC), requested AMS revise the Chickpea/Garbanzo Bean criteria for the grade determining factors Moisture and Contrasting Chickpeas.

Currently, Chickpeas/Garbanzo Beans are assigned the Special Grade, “High Moisture” when the moisture content exceeds 18.0 percent. Contrasting Chickpeas over 5.0 percent cause the Chickpea/Garbanzo Beans to be considered U.S. Substandard Chickpea/Garbanzo Beans. AMS–FGIS proposes to revise the bean inspection criteria in the U.S. Standards for Beans and revise the Bean Inspection Handbook, by amending the criteria requirements for Moisture and Contrasting Chickpea/Garbanzo Beans.

Moisture Determination in Chickpea/Garbanzo Beans

Representatives of bean industry stakeholders contacted AMS–FGIS to discuss the issues of high moisture in Chickpea/Garbanzo Beans. Stakeholders stated that 18.0 percent moisture is too high to properly store and maintain Chickpea/Garbanzo Beans. FGIS pointed out that moisture content is often a contract specification. During meetings and discussions, bean stakeholders recommended revising the Chickpea/Garbanzo Bean moisture content downward from 18.0 percent to 14.0 percent when applying the special grade criteria High Moisture. Therefore, Chickpea/Garbanzo Beans with more than 14.0 percent moisture would be designated as Special Grade, “High Moisture.”

Contrasting Chickpea/Garbanzo Beans

Stakeholders stated that designating Chickpea/Garbanzo Beans with more than 5.0 percent Contrasting Chickpeas

as U.S. Substandard is illogical because the entire sample of beans is still considered Chickpea/Garbanzo Beans, regardless of its U.S. Substandard designation due to contrast. During meetings and discussions, bean stakeholders communicated the need to revise the standard by changing the grade criteria for Contrasting Chickpeas in Chickpea/Garbanzo Beans. Stakeholders suggested changing the 5.0 percent Contrasting Chickpea/Garbanzo Bean maximum limit for U.S. No. 3 to “>2.0 percent.” Therefore, Chickpea/Garbanzo Beans found to contain more than 2.0 percent Contrasting Chickpeas may be designated as U.S. No. 3 but shall grade no higher than U.S. No. 3. Contrasting Chickpea grading criteria for U.S. No. 1 and U.S. No. 2 would remain unchanged.

This revision would assist in moving the U.S. Bean market towards fewer quality complaints and serve to ensure consistent grading results across the nation. These changes were recommended to AMS by the stakeholder organizations identified in the background section of this notice to facilitate the current marketing practices.

AMS grading and inspection services, provided through a network of federal, state, and private laboratories, conduct tests to determine the quality and condition of Beans. These tests are conducted in accordance with applicable standards using approved methodologies and can be applied at any point in the marketing chain. Furthermore, these tests yield rapid, reliable, and consistent results. The U.S. Standards for Beans and the affiliated grading and testing services offered by AMS verify that a seller’s Beans meet specified requirements and ensure that customers receive the quality purchased.

In order for U.S. standards and grading procedures for beans to remain relevant, AMS is issuing this request for information to invite interested parties to submit comments on the proposal to amend U.S. Standards for Beans pertaining to the class Chickpea/Garbanzo Beans, and to revise the Bean Inspection Handbook accordingly.

Proposed AMS Action

Based on input from stakeholder organizations in the bean industry, AMS proposes to amend the U.S. Standards for Beans by revising the criteria for Special Grade High Moisture and the grade determining factor “Contrasting Chickpeas” in Chickpea/Garbanzo Beans. As a result, Chickpeas/Garbanzo Beans with more than 14.0 percent moisture would be considered Special

Grade, "High Moisture." Contrasting Chickpeas over 2.0 percent will no longer be considered U.S. Substandard Chickpea/Garbanzo Beans, but instead would grade no higher than U.S. No. 3 Chickpea/Garbanzo Beans. AMS would revise the Bean Inspection Handbook to reflect these changes.

AMS is accepting comments on this proposed action for 60 days. All comments received within the comment period will be made part of the public record maintained by AMS, will be available to the public for review, and will be considered by AMS before a final action is taken on this proposal.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 1621–1627.

Melissa Bailey,

Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 2022–22109 Filed 10–11–22; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Doc. No. AMS–FGIS–21–0017]

United States Standards for Wheat

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is making no changes regarding the U.S. Standards for Wheat under the U.S. Grain Standards Act, as amended (USGSA).

DATES: Applicable: October 12, 2022.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Barry Gomoll, USDA AMS; Telephone: (202) 720–8286; Email: Barry.L.Gomoll@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 4 of the USGSA (7 U.S.C. 76(a)) grants the Secretary of Agriculture the authority to establish standards for grain regarding kind, class, quality, and condition. AMS published a request for information on April 20, 2021, in the *Federal Register* (86 FR 20480), inviting interested parties to comment on whether the current wheat standards and grading practices need to be changed. Current U.S. Standards for Wheat can be found at 7 CFR 810.2201–5.

AMS received a total of five comments on the U.S. Standards for Wheat during the comment period.

Four commenters, representing grain merchandisers, exporters, and traders, responded that they are satisfied with the standards as currently written, stating that changes may create confusion and uncertainty for the

market and should only be made if they significantly improve the marketing of U.S. wheat. Three of these commenters further stated a desire for further research into the marketing of Hard White Wheat (HDWH), either by differentiating between winter and spring varieties, merging HDWH with the class Hard Red Winter Wheat (HRW) to create a Hard Winter Wheat class, or increasing the allowable amount of HDWH in HRW.

One commenter, representing a wheat growing group, suggested changing the standards, either by merging HDWH and HRW to create a Hard Winter Wheat class or by increasing the allowable Wheat of Other Classes in HRW to 25%. The commenter mentioned that such a standards change could help remove barriers to growers hoping to market HDWH for export markets.

Based on the balance of comments received in response to the request, AMS has decided to make no changes to the wheat standards at this time. However, AMS will collaborate with the wheat industry to consider any data and research from interested stakeholders regarding the possibilities, impacts, and potential market acceptance of either merging HDWH and HRW to create a Hard Winter Wheat class, or increasing the allowable Wheat of Other Classes in HRW to 25%.

Final Action

Based on the comments received, AMS–FGIS is making no changes to the U.S. Standards for Wheat at this time.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 71–87k.

Melissa Bailey,

Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 2022–22113 Filed 10–11–22; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food and Nutrition Service

Agency Information Collection

Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Understanding the Relationship Between Poverty, Well-Being and Food Security

AGENCY: Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice invites the general public and other public agencies to comment on this proposed information collection. This new collection will provide the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food

and Nutrition Service with new information about food security and individual and family circumstances and environmental factors related to poverty in six persistently poor counties.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before December 12, 2022.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be mailed to Michael Burke, Senior Social Science Research Analyst, Food and Nutrition Service, Braddock Metro Center II, 1320 Braddock Place, Alexandria, VA 22314. Comments may also be submitted via email to michael.burke@usda.gov. Comments will also be accepted through the Federal eRulemaking Portal. Go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and follow the online instructions for submitting comments electronically.

All written comments will be open for public inspection at the office of the Food and Nutrition Service during regular business hours (8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.), Monday through Friday at Braddock Metro Center II, 1320 Braddock Place, Alexandria, VA 22314.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval. All comments will be a matter of public record.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for additional information or copies of this information collected should be directed to Michael Burke by email at michael.burke@usda.gov or by phone at (703) 305–4369.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Comments are invited on the following topics: (1) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden on the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions that were used; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Title: Understanding the Relationship Between Poverty, Well-Being, and Food Security.

Form Number: Not applicable.

OMB Number: 0584–NEW.

Expiration Date: Not yet determined.

Type of Request: New collection.