

# Notices

Federal Register

Vol. 86, No. 64

Tuesday, April 6, 2021

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-TM-21-0021]

#### Notice of Intent To Request To Conduct a New Information Collection—Generic Clearance

**AGENCY:** Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments; new collection.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces the Agricultural Marketing Service's (AMS) intention to request approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to conduct a new collection for surveys conducted by the Transportation and Marketing Program Marketing Services Division funded through cooperative agreements with various cooperators (other Federal agencies, State governments, land grant universities, and other organizations). AMS works with universities and other entities to research market access issues related to local and regional food systems. Surveys are a vital tool to help determine where to focus our research, as well as where we should encourage or initiate original research to support the sector. This generic clearance will allow AMS to conduct surveys with cooperating institutions in a timely manner.

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received by June 7, 2021 to be assured of consideration.

**ADDRESSES:** Interested persons are invited to submit comments concerning this notice. Comments should be submitted online at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) or mailed to La Tasha Thomas, Marketing Services Division, Transportation and Marketing Program, AMS, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Room 1090 South Building, AG STOP 0269, Washington, DC 20250–

0269. All comments should be identified with the docket number (AMS-TM-21-0021), the date, and the page number of this issue of the **Federal Register**. All comments received will be posted without change, including any personal information provided, online at <http://www.regulations.gov>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** La Tasha Thomas, Marketing Services Division, Transportation and Marketing Program, AMS, USDA, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Room 1090 South Building, AG STOP 0269, Washington, DC 20250–0269; Tel. 202–720–8317. Comments should reference Docket No. AMS-TM-21-0021.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Title:* AMS Research Cooperative Agreements Generic Clearance.

*OMB Number:* 0581–NEW.

*Expiration Date of Approval:* 3 years from approval.

*Type of Request:* Intent to seek approval to conduct new information collections.

*Abstract:* Under the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1621 *et seq.*), AMS is responsible for conducting research to enhance market access for small and medium sized farmers. The role of the Marketing Services Division (MSD) within AMS is to research marketing and distribution of U.S. agricultural products. The division identifies marketing challenges and opportunities, researches and provides analysis to help business enterprises, local communities, governments, and other stakeholders take advantage of those opportunities, and also develops, evaluates, and disseminates strategies including methods to diversify and expand direct-marketing farming and producer operations. MSD works to improve market access for producers and develop new markets through three main roles as a researcher, a convener, and a technical assistance provider. In AMS' vision, local food producers, markets, and communities have access to ideas, innovations, and research in order to grow and sustain productive businesses and support community development. Such information ensures that opportunities for U.S. food producers are readily available and communities are equipped to successfully grow and sell regionally produced foods, while also supporting

increased access to locally produced foods.

This generic clearance seeks approval for AMS alone or through cooperators to conduct a variety of surveys. The surveys will cover topics such as: Feasibility studies, challenges and opportunities facing local and regional food systems, market access, community development, local, regional and State ordinances, development and expansion of marketing opportunities, food safety, and food access, as well as adjustments to market disruptions (such as the current pandemic restrictions) and logistical impediments. This generic clearance will allow AMS to respond quickly to emerging issues and data collection needs.

This generic clearance is subject to the standard OMB clearance process. Each individual survey is then subject to a clearance process with an abbreviated clearance package which justifies the content of the survey, describes the sample design, provides the timeline for the survey activities, and the questionnaire. The review period for each individual survey is approximately 60 days, including a 30-day **Federal Register** notice period.

#### Authority

- In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35),
- The Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1621 *et seq.*),
- 7 U.S.C. 1621 Congressional declaration of purpose; use of existing facilities; cooperation with States,
- 7 U.S.C. 1622(a)–(b) 1622. Duties of Secretary relating to agricultural products,
- 7 U.S.C. 1624 Cooperation with Government and State agencies, private research organizations, etc.; rules and regulations,
- 7 U.S.C. 2279g Marketing services; cooperative agreements,
- Grant Programs,
- 7 U.S.C. 1627c Local Agriculture Market Program (LAMP), and
- 7 U.S.C. 1621 Specialty Crop Block Grant Program.

*Estimate of Burden:* Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 15–30 minutes, based on average of 10 surveys per year.

*Respondents:* Local food stakeholders and researched groups as determined by AMS and cooperators.

*Estimated Number of Potential Respondents:* 30,000.

*Estimated Total Potential Annual Responses to All Surveys:* 500.

*Maximum Estimated Total Annual Burden on All Respondents:* 15,000 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 the following addresses:

- *Mail:* La Tasha Thomas, Marketing Services Division, Transportation and Marketing Programs, AMS, USDA, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Room 1090 South Building, AG STOP 0269, Washington, DC 20250-0269.

- *Internet:* [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov).

All written comments should be identified with the docket number AMS-TM-21-0021. It is our intention to have all comments, whether submitted by mail or internet, available for viewing on the *Regulations.gov* ([www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov)) internet site.

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.

**Bruce Summers,**

*Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.*

[FR Doc. 2021-07068 Filed 4-5-21; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-02-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Agricultural Marketing Service

[Doc. No. AMS-LP-20-0073]

#### Request for Approval of a New Information Collection for Accounts Payable Information Request

**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 U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Marketing Service's (AMS) intention to request approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), for a new information collection used in support of the voluntary grading and certification of meat, meat products, shell eggs, poultry products, rabbit products, and Quality Systems Verification Programs. One new form is introduced in this information collection. The new form, LP-109A requests respondents accounts payable contact information used in facilitating billing administration.

**DATES:** Submit comments on or before June 7, 2021.

**ADDRESSES:** Interested persons are invited to submit comments concerning this notice by using the electronic process available at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov). Written comments may also be submitted to Quality Assessment Division; Livestock and Poultry Program; AMS, USDA; 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Stop 0258; Washington, DC 20250-0258. All comments should reference the docket number AMS-LP-20-0073, the date of submission, and the page number of this issue of the **Federal Register**. All comments received will be posted without change, including any personal information provided, at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) and will be included in the record and made available to the public.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Julie Hartley, Branch Chief, Quality Assessment Division (QAD); (202) 720-7316; or email [julie.hartley@usda.gov](mailto:julie.hartley@usda.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Overview of This Information Collection

*Agency:* USDA, AMS.

*Title:* Accounts Payable Information Request.

*OMB Number:* 0581-NEW.

*Type of Request:* New Information Collection.

*Abstract:* The Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (AMA) (7 U.S.C. 1621-1627) directs and authorizes USDA to develop and improve standards of quality, grades, grading programs, and certification services which facilitate the marketing of agricultural products. To provide programs and services, section 203(h) of the AMA (7 U.S.C. 1622(h)) directs and authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture (Secretary) to inspect, certify, and identify the class, quality, quantity, and condition of agricultural products under such rules and regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, including assessment and

collection of fees for the cost of service. The regulations in 7 CFR 54, 56, and 70 provide a voluntary program for grading, certification and standards of meats, prepared meats, meat products, shell eggs, poultry products, and rabbit products. The regulation in 7 CFR 62—Quality Systems Verification Programs provides for voluntary, audit-based, user-fee funded programs that allow applicants to have program documentation and program processes assessed by AMS auditor(s) and other USDA officials.

AMS also provides other types of voluntary services under these regulations, including contract and specification acceptance services and verification of product, processing, further processing, temperature, and quantity. Because this is a voluntary program, respondents request or apply for the specific service they wish, and in doing so, they provide information.

To assist AMS billing administration for providing voluntary services, AMS intends to create a new form to request respondents accounts payable contact information. The new form, LP-109A: Accounts Payable Information Request will increase accuracy and efficiency in billing administration by having the applicable contact responsible for receiving billing statements and submitting payment for services rendered.

The information collected is used only by authorized representatives of USDA AMS, Livestock and Poultry Program's QAD national and field staff and is used to administer services requested by respondents.

The information collection requirements in this request are essential to carry out the intent of AMA, to provide the respondents the type of service they request, and to administer the program.

Upon OMB approval of the new Form LP-109A and the information collection package, AMS will request OMB approval to merge the new form and this information collection into the currently approved information collection OMB control number 0581-0128 approved on March 31, 2017.

*Estimate of Burden:* Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 5 minutes per response.

*Respondents:* Livestock, meat, poultry, shell egg industries, or other agricultural enterprises; state or local governments; or other businesses or organizations.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 164.

*Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* 1.