

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

[Internal File No. 3000-2]

Office of the Chief Information Officer; Notice of Availability of USDA Information Quality Guidelines

AGENCY: Department of Agriculture.

ACTION: Notice of availability and request for comment.

SUMMARY: In accordance with Section 515 of the *Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2001* (Pub. L. 106-554, H.R. 5618) and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) guidelines issued at 66 FR 49718, 67 FR 8452, and 67 FR 9797, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has developed draft information quality guidelines to ensure and maximize the quality, objectivity, utility and integrity of information it disseminates and administrative mechanisms for affected persons to seek and obtain appropriate correction of that information.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be submitted by July 15, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments to Dr. Bette Fugitt, eGovernment, Office of the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., STOP 7602, Washington, DC 20250-7602. Comments may also be sent to Dr. Fugitt by fax at (202) 205-2831 or by e-mail at Bette.Fugitt@usda.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Bette Fugitt, eGovernment Office of the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., STOP 7602, Washington, DC 20250-7602. Telephone (202) 720-8020.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: OMB has issued government-wide guidelines for ensuring and maximizing the quality, objectivity, utility, and integrity of information disseminated by Federal agencies. Congress directed OMB to issue guidelines in section 515 of the

Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (Public Law 106-554). OMB published its guidelines in the **Federal Register** on September 28, 2001 at 66 FR 49718-49725 and updated the guidelines on February 22, 2002 at 67 FR 8452-8460 and on March 4, 2002 at 67 FR 9797.

OMB's guidelines require Federal agencies subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35) to: (1) Issue information quality guidelines for the information disseminated by the agency; (2) establish administrative mechanisms allowing affected persons to seek and obtain correction of information dissemination by the agency on or after October 1, 2002 that does not comply with OMB or agency guidelines; and (3) annually report to OMB the number and nature of complaints received by the agency regarding agency compliance with OMB and agency guidelines and how such complaints were resolved.

As the initial step in its development of information quality guidelines, each Federal agency must prepare a draft report providing its guidelines and detailing the administrative mechanisms developed by the agency to allow affected persons to seek and obtain correction of information disseminated by the agency, and post the draft report on the agency's website to provide an opportunity for public comment. As provided for in OMB's guidelines implementing Section 515, USDA is publishing this notice of availability of its draft quality guidelines in the **Federal Register**. The Department has posted the draft guidelines on its website at <http://www.egov.usda.gov/> to provide an opportunity for public comment. Members of the public who do not have Internet access may request a paper copy of the draft quality guidelines by contacting the agency as directed above.

We invite comments on all aspects of the guidelines with emphasis on the following general questions:

1. Are USDA's draft guidelines adequate for ensuring the objectivity, utility, and integrity of the information it disseminates as set out in OMB's notices of September 28, 2001 and February 22, 2002?

2. Are USDA's procedures for allowing affected persons to seek and obtain correction of information

appropriate and consistent with OMB requirements?

Dated: June 13, 2002.

Ira L. Hobbs,

Acting Chief Information Officer, Department of Agriculture.

[FR Doc. 02-15505 Filed 6-19-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Docket No. PY-02-004]

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, this notice announces the Agricultural Marketing Service's (AMS) intention to request an extension for a currently approved information collection in support of the shell egg surveillance portion of the Regulations for the Inspection of Eggs—7 CFR part 57.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by August 19, 2002.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Contact Shields Jones, Standardization Branch, Poultry Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., STOP 0259, Washington, DC 20250-0259, (202) 720-3506.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Regulations for the Inspection of Eggs (Egg Products Inspection Act).

OMB Number: 0581-0113.

Expiration Date of Approval: April 30, 2003.

Type of Request: Extension and revision of a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: Congress enacted the Egg Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 1031-1056) (EPIA) to provide, in part, a mandatory inspection program to control the disposition of dirty and checked shell eggs; to control unwholesome, adulterated, and inedible shell eggs that are unfit for human consumption; and to control the movement and disposition of imported shell eggs.

The Act authorizes the Department to issue regulations, which provide requirements and guidelines, for both the USDA and industry to use as the basis for common understanding to assure that only eggs fit for human food are used for such purpose.

Under the shell egg surveillance program, shell egg handlers are required to register with USDA. Quarterly, a State or Federal surveillance inspector visits each registered handler to verify that shell eggs packed for consumer use are in compliance, that restricted eggs are being disposed of properly, and that adequate records are being maintained.

The information collection and record keeping requirements in this request are essential to carry out the intent of Congress, to administer the mandatory inspection program, and to take regulatory action, in accordance with the regulations and the Act. The forms covered under this collection require the minimum information necessary to effectively carry out the requirements of the regulations, and their use is necessary to fulfill the intent of the Act.

The information collected is used only by authorized representatives: AMS, Poultry Programs' national staff; regional directors and their staffs; Federal-State supervisors and their staffs; and resident Federal-State graders, which includes State agencies. The information is used to assure compliance with the Act and the regulations and to take regulatory action. The Agency is the primary user of the information, with the secondary user each authorized State agency which has a cooperative agreement with AMS.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 0.30 hours per response.

Respondents: State or local governments, businesses or other for-profit, Federal agencies or employees, small businesses or organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1,004.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 6.00.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 1,749 hours.

Comments are invited on: (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; or (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 technical collection techniques or other forms of information. Comments may be sent to: David Bowden, Standardization Branch, Poultry Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., STOP 0259, Washington, DC 20250-0259.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: June 14, 2002.

A.J. Yates,

Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 02-15508 Filed 6-19-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 02-022-1]

Notice of Request for Approval of an Information Collection

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: New information collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's intention to initiate a new information collection activity to support cooperative agreements in the study of bovine tuberculosis.

DATES: We will consider all comments that we receive on or before August 19, 2002.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by postal mail/commercial delivery or by e-mail. If you use postal mail/commercial delivery, please send four copies of your comment (an original and three copies) to: Docket No. 02-022-1, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238. Please state that your comment refers to Docket No. 02-022-1. If you use e-mail, address your comment to regulations@aphis.usda.gov. Your comment must be contained in the body of your message; do not send attached files. Please include your name and address in your message and "Docket No. 02-022-1" on the subject line.

You may read any comments that we receive on this docket in our reading room. The reading room is located in room 1141 of the USDA South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC. Normal reading room hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. To be sure someone is there to help you, please call (202) 690-2817 before coming.

APHIS documents published in the **Federal Register**, and related information, including the names of organizations and individuals who have commented on APHIS dockets, are available on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppd/rad/webrepor.html>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information on the National Cooperative State-Federal Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication Program, contact Dr. Joseph Van Tiem, Senior Staff Veterinarian, National Animal Health Programs, VS, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 43, Riverdale, MD 20737-1231; (301) 734-7716. For copies of more detailed information on the information collection, contact Mrs. Celeste Sickles, APHIS' Information Collection Coordinator, at (301) 734-7477.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Cooperative Agreements in the Study of Bovine Tuberculosis.

OMB Number: 0579-XXXX.

Type of Request: Approval of a new information collection.

Abstract: The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of the United States Department of Agriculture is responsible for, among other things, preventing the spread of serious communicable animal diseases (such as bovine tuberculosis) from one State to another, and for eradicating such diseases from the United States when feasible. Bovine tuberculosis is a contagious, infectious, and communicable disease that affects cattle, bison, deer, elk, goats, and other species, including humans. Tuberculosis in infected animals and humans manifests itself in lesions of the lung, bone, and other body parts, causes weight loss and general debilitation, and can be fatal.

Through the National Cooperative State-Federal Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication Program, APHIS works with the national livestock industry and State animal health agencies to eradicate tuberculosis from domestic livestock in the United States and to prevent its recurrence. APHIS sponsors cooperative agreements for research on such issues as testing, vaccinations, pathobiology, and molecular biology relating to bovine