

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

Office of the Secretary

[Docket No. CN-00-004]

Proposal to Reestablish the Advisory Committee on Universal Cotton Standards

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Intent to Reestablish the Advisory Committee on Universal Cotton Standards.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is proposing to reestablish an advisory committee to review official Universal Standards for American Upland cotton prepared by USDA and make recommendations regarding the establishment or revision of the standards.

DATES: Comments must be received by June 21, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to: Norma McDill, Cotton Program, AMS, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue, Rm 2641-S, Washington, DC 20250-0224. Comments will be available for public inspection during regular business hours at the above office in Rm 2641-South Building, 14th & Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Norma McDill, 202-720-2145.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.), notice is hereby given that the Secretary of Agriculture intends to reestablish the Advisory Committee on Universal Standards composed of foreign and domestic representatives of the cotton industry. The purpose of the committee is to review official Universal Standards for U.S. Upland cotton prepared by USDA and make recommendations regarding the establishment or revision of the standards established under the United States Cotton Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 51 *et seq.*). The last Advisory Committee on

Universal Standards was established in 1997. This Advisory Committee's term ended in 1999.

The Secretary has determined that the work of the committee is in the public interest and is in connection with the duties of the Department of Agriculture. No other advisory committee in existence is capable of advising and assisting the Department on the task assigned, nor does the Department have an alternative means to obtain the technical and practical expertise needed from private industry.

Equal opportunity practices, in line with USDA policies, will be followed in all appointments to the committee. To ensure that the recommendations of the committee have taken into account the needs of diverse groups served by the Department, membership shall include, to the extent practicable, individuals with demonstrated ability to represent minorities, women, and persons with disabilities.

Balanced committee membership would be attained domestically and internationally through the following committee composition.

Representation by Domestic Industry

The U.S. cotton industry's committee membership will be comprised of 12 producers and ginner, 6 representatives of merchandising firms, and 6 representatives of textile manufacturers. These representatives will be appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture.

Each member will have one vote. Accordingly, voting privileges will be divided as follows: (1) U.S. cotton producers and ginner—12 votes; (2) U.S. merchandising firms—6 votes; (3) U.S. textile manufacturers—6 votes.

Representation by Foreign Signatory Associations

There will be 2 committee members from each of the foreign signatory associations. These committee members will be designated by the respective associations. Voting privileges will be divided as follows: (1) Foreign signatory merchant associations—6 votes; (2) Foreign signatory spinner associations—6 votes.

A thirty-day comment period is provided for interested persons to comment on this action.

Dated: May 17, 2000.

Norma McDill,

Acting Deputy Administrator, Cotton Program.

[FR Doc. 00-12798 Filed 5-19-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Docket No. FV00-928-1NC]

Notice of Request for Extension 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 a currently approved information collection for Papayas Grown in Hawaii, Marketing Order No. 928.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by July 21, 2000.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS:

Contact Valerie L. Emmer-Scott, Marketing Specialist, Marketing Order Administration Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, AMS, USDA, room 2525-S, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, DC 20090-6456; Tel: (202) 205-2829, Fax: (202) 720-5698, or E-mail: moabdoctet_clerk@usda.gov.

Small businesses may request information on this notice by contacting Jay Guerber, Regulatory Fairness Representative, Marketing Order Administration Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, AMS, USDA, room 2525-S, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C., 20090-6456; telephone (202) 720-2491, Fax: (202) 720-5698, or E-mail: Jay.Guerber@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Papayas Grown in Hawaii, Marketing Order No. 928.

OMB Number: 0581-0102.

Expiration Date of Approval: November 30, 2000.

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

Abstract: Marketing order programs provide an opportunity for producers of fresh fruits, vegetables and specialty crops, in a specified production area, to work together to solve marketing problems that cannot be solved individually. Order regulations help ensure adequate supplies of high quality product and adequate returns to producers. Under the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937 (Act), as amended (7 U.S.C. 601–674), industries enter into marketing order programs. The Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to oversee the order operations and issue regulations recommended by a committee of representatives from each commodity industry.

The information collection requirements in this request are essential to carry out the intent of the Act, to provide the respondents the type of service they request, and to administer the program, which has operated since 1971.

The papaya marketing order regulates the handling of papayas grown in Hawaii, hereinafter referred to as the “order.” The order authorizes production and marketing research and development projects, including paid advertising. The research and promotion activities are paid for by assessments on handlers of papaya.

The order, and rules and regulations issued thereunder, authorize the Papaya Administrative Committee (committee), the agency responsible for local administration of the order, to require handlers and growers to submit certain information. Much of this information is compiled in aggregate and provided to the industry to assist in marketing decisions.

The committee has developed forms as a means for persons to file required information with the Committee relating to papaya supplies, shipments, dispositions, and other information needed to effectively carry out the purpose of the Act and order. Papayas may be shipped year-round and these forms are utilized accordingly. A USDA form is used to allow growers to vote on amendments to or continuance of the marketing order. In addition, papaya growers and grower/handlers who are nominated by their peers to serve as representatives on the committee must file nomination forms with the Secretary.

Formal rulemaking amendments to the order must be approved in referendum conducted by the Secretary. Also, the Secretary may conduct a continuance referendum to determine industry support for continuation of the order. Handlers are asked to sign an agreement

to indicate their willingness to abide by the provisions of the order whenever the order is amended. These forms are included in this request. The forms covered under this information collection require the minimum information necessary to effectively carry out the requirements of the order, and their use is necessary to fulfill the intent of the Act as expressed in the order, and the rules and regulations issued under the order.

The information collected is used only by authorized representatives of the USDA, including AMS, Fruit and Vegetable Programs’ regional and headquarter’s staff, and authorized employees of the committee. Authorized committee employees and the industry are the primary users of the information, and AMS is the secondary user.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .76 hours per response.

Respondents: Hawaiian papaya growers and handlers and two public members in the production area of Hawaii.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 75.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 18.42

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 1050 hours.

Comments: Comments are invited on:

(1) Whether the proposed collection of the 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 through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments should reference OMB No. 0581–0102 and the Papaya Marketing Order No. 928, and be mailed to Docket Clerk, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, AMS, USDA, P.O. Box 96456, Room 2525–S, Washington, D.C. 20090–6456; Fax (202) 720–5698; or E-mail: moabdoctet_clerk@usda.gov. Comments should reference the docket number and the date and page number of this issue of the **Federal Register**. All comments received will be available for public inspection in the Office of the Docket Clerk during regular USDA business

hours at 14th and Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C., room 2525–S.

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: May 16, 2000.

Robert C. Keeney,

Deputy Administrator, Fruit and Vegetable Programs.

[FR Doc. 00–12802 Filed 5–19–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–02–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Docket No. CN–00–005]

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 National Research, Promotion, and Consumer Information Programs.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received on or before July 21, 2000 to be assured of consideration.

Additional Information or Comments: Contact A. Lee Cliburn, Program Appraisal Staff, Cotton Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 96456, Rm. 2633–South Building, Washington, DC 20090, Telephone (202–720–2145) and Fax (202–690–1718).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: National Research, Promotion, and Consumer Information Programs.

OMB Number: 0581–0093.

Expiration Date of Approval: Current expiration date is 11/30/00.

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

Abstract: National research and promotion programs are designed to strengthen the position of a commodity in the marketplace, maintain and expand existing domestic and foreign markets, and develop new uses and markets for specified agricultural commodities. The U.S. Department of Agriculture the responsibility for implementing and overseeing programs