

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 Research Service

Notice of Intent To Request an Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Agricultural Research Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13) and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations at 5 CFR part 1320 (60 FR 44978, August 29, 1995), this notice announces the Agricultural Research Service's (ARS) intention to request an extension for a currently approved information collection in support of USDA's Biological Control Documentation Program dealing with documenting the importation and release of foreign biological control agents.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by June 3, 2002, to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Address all comments concerning this notice to Jack R. Coulson, director, ARS Biological Control Documentation Center, National Program Staff, National Agricultural Library, ARS, USDA, 10301 Baltimore Avenue, Beltsville, MD 20705-2330.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jack R. Coulson, Director, ARS Biological Control Documentation Center, (301) 504-6350.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: USDA Biological Shipment Record—Beneficial Organisms: Foreign/Overseas Source (AD-941); Quarantine Facility (AD-942); and Non-Quarantine (AD-943).

OMB Number: 0518-0013.

Expiration Date of Approval: August 31, 2002.

Type of Request: To extend a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: The purpose of the Biological Control Documentation Program is to record the importation (AD-941), release from quarantine (AD-942), and shipment and/or field release/recolonization (AD-942 and AD-943) of foreign/introduced beneficial organisms (pollinators and biological control agents for invasive species). The information collected is entered into the USDA "Releases of Beneficial Organisms in the United States and Territories" (ROBO) database, established in 1984. It is a cooperative program among USDA and other federal agencies, state governmental agencies, and U.S. universities. The use of the forms and the information provided is voluntary. The program is for the benefit of biological control research and action agency personnel, taxonomists, federal and state regulatory agencies, agricultural administrators, and the general public. The AD-941 has been computerized and efforts are underway to replace the other paper forms with computerized information collection, and when completed, only those units for which computerized input is not possible would use the forms.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1/12 hour per response.

Non-Federal Respondents: Universities, and state and local governments.

Estimated Number of Non-Federal Respondents: 40.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: An average of 3 (range 1-30).

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 10 hours.

Copies of the 3 forms used in this information collection, and information on the computerized form can be obtained from Jack R. Coulson, ARS Biological Control Documentation Center, at (301) 504-6350.

Comments are invited on: (a) 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; (b) 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; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to: Jack R. Coulson, Director, ARS Biological Control Documentation Center, National Program Staff, ARS, USDA, National Agricultural Library, 10301 Baltimore Avenue, Beltsville, MD 20705-2350.

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: March 7, 2002.

Judy St John,

Associate Deputy Administrator, Plant Sciences, National Program Staff, Agricultural Research Service, Department of Agriculture.

[FR Doc. 02-7632 Filed 3-28-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-03-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Commodity Credit Corporation

Farm Service Agency; Request for Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Commodity Credit Corporation and Farm Service Agency, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the intent of the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) and the Farm Service Agency (FSA) to request extension of the information collection currently approved for Form CCC-10, used in support of the CCC and FSA Farm Loan Programs (FLP). Form CCC-10 was approved for use by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) on November 16, 2001, for a period of six months.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received on or before May 28, 2002, to be assured consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Chris Kyer, USDA, Farm Service Agency, Price Support Division, 1400

Independence Avenue, SW., STOP 0512, Washington, DC 20250-0512; Telephone (202) 720-7935; Electronic mail: chris-kyer@wdc.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Representations for Commodity Credit Corporation or Farm Service Agency Loans and Authorization to File a Financing Statement and Related Documents.

OMB Control Number: 0560-0215.

Expiration Date of Approval: March 31, 2002.

Type of Request: Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection.

Abstract: CCC-10 is necessary to: (a) gather or verify basic data regarding the CCC or FSA loan applicant required on a financing statement that is filed to perfect a security interest in collateral used to secure a loan; and (b) obtain their permission to file a financing statement prior to the execution of a security agreement.

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

Respondents: Individual farmers, farm or other business entities.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 207,500.

Estimated Number of Responses Per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden On Respondents: 120,350 hours.

Comments are invited on the following: (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 technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. These comments should be sent to the Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503 and to Chris Kyer, Program Specialist, USDA, Farm Service Agency, Price Support Division, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., STOP 0512, Washington, DC 20250-0512.

Comments will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval of the information collection.

All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Signed in Washington, DC, on March 8, 2002.

James R. Little,

Executive Vice President, CCC and Administrator, Farm Service Agency.

[FR Doc. 02-7630 Filed 3-28-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-05-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Economic Research Service

Notice of Intent To Seek Approval To Collect Information

AGENCY: Economic Research Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13) and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations at 5 CFR part 1320 (60 FR 44978, August 29, 1995), this notice announces the Economic Research Service's (ERS) intention to request approval for a new information collection from the U.S. population. The study will collect data from two panels of consumers on their willingness to pay for reductions in the risk of foodborne illness using alternative risk reduction technologies.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by June 3, 2002, to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Address all comments concerning this notice to Katherine Ralston, Diet, Safety, and Health Economics Branch, Food and Rural Economics Division, Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1800 M St. NW., Washington, DC 20036-5831. Submit electronic comments to kralston@ers.usda.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Katherine Ralston, 202-694-5463.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Estimating Consumer Benefits of Improving Food Safety.

OMB Number: Not yet assigned.

Expiration Date: N/A.

Type of Request: Approval for the collection of survey data from two panels of food product consumers.

Abstract: The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has responsibility to ensure that meat and poultry products are safe for human consumption. The Economic Research Service (ERS), as the lead economic research arm of the Department, has responsibility to conduct economic research on the social benefits of

policies and programs designed to reduce and prevent illnesses caused by microbial pathogens.

ERS has estimated the costs of medical treatment and lost productivity, and premature death from diseases caused by five microbial pathogens at \$6.9 billion annually. These costs almost certainly understate the true social costs of these illnesses since they do not measure the consumer's willingness to pay to prevent foodborne disease. Research is needed to (1) determine the extent to which a willingness to pay approach would boost assessments of the economic value of reductions in foodborne illnesses, and (2) to identify factors that influence consumers' valuation of these reductions, including personal and household characteristics, and information the consumer receives about foodborne illness.

To date, most food-related risk valuation studies indicated that consumers would pay modest amounts in excess of the products' purchase price to decrease low-level food risks. These food safety studies observed that, contrary to theoretical expectation, the average value of risk reduction did not vary with the magnitude of risk reduction, regardless of elicitation method and type of risk. Several reasons could have caused this phenomenon. People have difficulties handling risk decisions, and some do not or cannot tell one magnitude of risk reduction from another. People also may hold a subjective threshold level of the baseline risk below which the different magnitudes of risk reduction are irrelevant. People also tend to focus their generic concern for safer food on safety levels rather than differences in the level of risk, and therefore any improvement toward complete safety is acceptable and the level of improvement does not matter. Some subjects place more weight on their risk perception than on the risk information provided during the experiment, and others simply do not pay close attention to the evaluation task when asked to reveal their willingness to pay for risk reduction.

There are two reasons why the current studies offer limited information. First, the range of alternative risk reduction strategies has been rather restrictive, limited either to a private action or a collective investment, not both. Second, with the exception of Fox et al. (JA Fox, JF Shogren, DJ Hayes, JB Kliebenstein 1998. "CVM-X: Calibrating Contingent Values with Experimental Auction Markets," *American Journal of Agricultural Economics* 80(3):455-465) there has not been a direct comparison