

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

Notice of Request for Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, USDA.

ACTION: Proposed collection; comments requested.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Office of Community Development's intention to request an extension for a currently approved information collection in support of the program for 7 CFR part 25 Rural Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities (EZ/EC).

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by March 7, 2006 to be assured of consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Yvette Butler, Program Specialist, Office of Community Development, U.S. Department of Agriculture, STOP 3203, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-3203, or by e-mail: Yvette.Butler@wdc.usda.gov. Telephone: 202-690-4743.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Rural Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities (EZ/EC).

OMB Number: 0570-0027.

Expiration Date of Approval: May 31, 2006.

Type of Request: Extension for a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: USDA Rural Development's Office of Community Development administers the rural Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities (EZ/EC) program, an initiative designed to provide economically depressed rural areas and communities with real opportunities for growth and revitalization. Its mission: To create self-sustaining, long-term economic development in areas of pervasive

poverty, unemployment, and general distress, and to demonstrate how distressed communities can achieve self-sufficiency through innovative and comprehensive strategic plans developed and implemented by alliances among private, public, and nonprofit entities.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 11 hours per response.

Respondents: Rural Empowerment Zones, Rural Enterprise Communities and Champion Communities.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 110.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 2.

Estimated Number of Responses: 220.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 2,402 hours.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Cheryl Thompson, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, Support Services Division at (202) 692-0043.

Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Office of the Secretary, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Office of the Secretary'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 the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments may be sent to Cheryl Thompson, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, Support Services Division, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, STOP 0742, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250-0742. 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: December 27, 2005.

Allan Johnson,

Acting Under Secretary, Rural Development.

[FR Doc. E6-35 Filed 1-5-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 05-049-1]

Notice of Request for Extension of Approval of an Information Collection; National Veterinary Accreditation Program

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Extension of approval of an 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 request an extension of approval of an information collection associated with the National Veterinary Accreditation Program.

DATES: We will consider all comments that we receive on or before March 7, 2006.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by either of the following methods:

- Federal eRulemaking Portal: Go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and, in the "Search for Open Regulations" box, select "Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service" from the agency drop-down menu, then click on "Submit." In the Docket ID column, select APHIS-2005-0114 to submit or view public comments and to view supporting and related materials available electronically. After the close of the comment period, the docket can be viewed using the "Advanced Search" function in Regulations.gov.

- Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery: Please send four copies of your comment (an original and three copies) to Docket No. 05-049-1, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3A-03.8, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238. Please state that your comment refers to Docket No. 05-049-1.

Reading Room: 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.

Other Information: Additional information about APHIS and its programs is available on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information regarding the National Veterinary Accreditation Program, contact Ms. Lynn Thomas, Management Analyst, Surveillance and Identification Programs, National Center for Animal Health Programs, VS, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 200, Riverdale, MD 20737-1231; (301) 734-5777. 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: National Veterinary Accreditation Program.

OMB Number: 0579-0032.

Type of Request: Extension of approval of an information collection.

Abstract: The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture is responsible for, among other things, protecting the health of our Nation's livestock and poultry populations by preventing the introduction and spread of serious diseases and pests of livestock and poultry and for eradicating such diseases and pests from the United States when feasible.

To help us accomplish our mission, APHIS' Veterinary Services administers the National Veterinary Accreditation Program. This program certifies private veterinary practitioners to work cooperatively with Federal veterinarians, as well as with State animal health officials, to conduct certain activities for us. Accredited veterinarians are instrumental in increasing our capacity to perform health certifications and conduct extensive disease surveillance and monitoring.

Operating this program requires a number of information gathering activities, including:

- Conducting veterinary accreditation orientation and training.
- Completing animal health certificates.
- Applying and removing official seals.

- Completing test reports.
- Reviewing applications for veterinary accreditation and reaccreditation.
- Recordkeeping.
- Updating information on accredited veterinarians.

We are asking the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve our use of these information collection activities for an additional 3 years.

The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public (as well as affected agencies) concerning our information collection. These comments will help us:

(1) Evaluate 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;

(2) Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the burden of the information collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(3) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(4) Minimize the burden of the information collection on those who are to respond, through use, as appropriate, of automated, electronic, mechanical, and other collection technologies, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

Estimate of burden: The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 0.477348 hours per response.

Respondents: Accredited veterinarians, candidates for the National Veterinary Accreditation Program, and State animal health officials who review applications for veterinary accreditation and reaccreditation.

Estimated annual number of respondents: 63,000.

Estimated annual number of responses per respondent: 2.095936.

Estimated annual number of responses: 132,044.

Estimated total annual burden on respondents: 63,031 hours. (Due to averaging, the total annual burden hours may not equal the product of the annual number of responses multiplied by the reporting burden per response.)

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.

Done in Washington, DC, this 29th day of December 2005.

Kevin Shea,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 06-87 Filed 1-5-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 05-085-1]

Notice of Request for Extension of Approval of an Information Collection; Requirements for Recognizing the Animal Health Status of Foreign Regions

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Extension of approval of an 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 request an extension of approval of an information collection associated with requirements for recognizing the animal health status of foreign regions.

DATES: We will consider all comments that we receive on or before March 7, 2006.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by either of the following methods:

- Federal eRulemaking Portal: Go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and, in the "Search for Open Regulations" box, select "Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service" from the agency drop-down menu, then click on "Submit." In the Docket ID column, select APHIS-2005-0115 to submit or view public comments and to view supporting and related materials available electronically. After the close of the comment period, the docket can be viewed using the "Advanced Search" function in Regulations.gov.

- Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery: Please send four copies of your comment (an original and three copies) to Docket No. 05-085-1, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3A-03.8, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238. Please state that your comment refers to Docket No. 05-085-1.

Reading Room: 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