

information related to tree-marking paint. This trip is open to any member of the public participating in the public meeting on May 25–26. However, transportation is provided only for committee members.

The main session of the meeting, which is open to public attendance, will be held on May 25–26.

Closed Sessions

While certain segments of this meeting are open to the public, there will be two closed sessions during the meeting. The first closed session is planned for approximately 9 to 11 a.m. on May 25. This session is reserved for individual paint manufacturers to present products and information about tree-marking paint for consideration in future testing and use by the agency. Paint manufacturers also may provide comments on tree-marking paint specifications or other requirements. This portion of the meeting is open only to paint manufacturers, the Committee, and committee staff to ensure that trade secrets will not be disclosed to other paint manufacturers or to the public. Paint manufacturers wishing to make presentations to the Tree-Marking Paint Committee during the closed session should contact the Acting Chairman at the telephone number listed at **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** in this notice. The second closed session is planned for approximately 2 to 4 p.m. on May 26, 2005. This session is reserved for Federal Government employees only.

Any person with special access needs should contact the Acting Chairman to make those accommodations. Space for individuals who are not members of the National Tree-Marking Paint Committee is limited and will be available to the public on a first-come, first-served basis.

Dated: March 11, 2005.

Frederick L. Norbury,

Associate Deputy For National Forest System.

[FR Doc. 05–5459 Filed 3–18–05; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

United States Standards for Beans

AGENCY: Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) is removing the special grade designation “off-color” from the United

States Standards for Beans. GIPSA will continue to offer assessments for color uniformity on a request basis. This action will facilitate the marketing of beans from many different regions.

EFFECTIVE DATE: April 20, 2005.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Giler, Deputy Director, Field Management Division, USDA, GIPSA, Room 2429–S, Stop 3632, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250–3632, telephone (202) 720–0252; or e-mail to: John.C.Giler@usda.gov.

The final United States Standards for Beans will be available through the address cited above or by accessing the GIPSA Home Page on the Internet at <http://www.usda.gov/gipsa/reference-library/standards/standards.htm>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 203(c) of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, as amended, directs and authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture “to develop and improve standards of quality, condition, quantity, grade, and packaging and recommend and demonstrate such standards in order to encourage uniformity and consistency in commercial practices”. GIPSA is committed to carrying out this authority in a manner that facilitates the marketing of agricultural commodities.

The United States Standards for Beans do not appear in the Code of Federal Regulations but are maintained by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

On December 17, 2004, GIPSA published a notice in the **Federal Register**, (69 FR 75504) requesting comments on removing “off-color” from the United States Standards for Beans. GIPSA proposed to change the United States Standards for Beans using the procedures that appear at 7 CFR Section 868.102. GIPSA representatives worked closely with the National Dry Bean Council (NDBC) and others in the bean industry to examine the effectiveness of the U.S. Standards for Beans in today’s marketing environment. Through discussions, it appeared that the current standards continue to meet consumer/processor needs. However, the bean industry has indicated the special grade “off-color” in dry beans is not needed to market dry beans.

GIPSA received one comment from a bean industry association supporting the removal of “off-color” from the standards. Accordingly, GIPSA is removing the special grade designation “off-color” from the United States Standards for Beans. GIPSA will continue to offer assessments for color uniformity on a request only basis. This action will facilitate the marketing of beans from many different regions.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 1621 *et seq.*

David R. Shipman,

Acting Administrator, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration.

[FR Doc. 05–5502 Filed 3–18–05; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

National Agricultural Statistics Service

Notice of Intent to Seek Approval to Extend an Information Collection

AGENCY: National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Public Law 104–13) and Office of Management and Budget regulations at 5 CFR part 1320 (60 FR 44978, August 29, 1995), this notice announces the intention of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) to request approval to reinstate an information collection, the Conservation Effects Assessment Project Survey.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by May 25, 2005, to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be mailed to Ginny McBride, NASS Clearance Officer, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 5336 South Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250 or to gmcbride@nass.usda.gov or faxed to (202)–720–6396.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rich Allen, Deputy Administrator Programs and Products, National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, (202) 690–8141.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Conservation Effects Assessment Project Survey.

OMB Control Number: 0535–0245.

Type of Request: Intent to Seek Approval to Reinstate an Information Collection.

Abstract: The primary objective of the National Agricultural Statistics Service is to prepare and issue State and national estimates of crop and livestock production, prices, and disposition. The goal of this NASS project is to collect land management information that will assist the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in assessing environmental benefits associated with implementation of various conservation programs and installation of associated conservation practices. The 2002 Farm Bill

substantially increased funding for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) as well as other conservation programs; a portion of the technical assistance funds for conservation programs has been allocated for use in assessing the environmental benefits of these conservation practices. The assessment will be used to report progress annually on Farm Bill implementation to Congress and the general public.

NRCS is leading a multi-agency effort to estimate the environmental benefits of conservation practices. Benefit measures will include soil quality enhancement, erosion reduction, reduction in nutrient and sediment losses from farm fields, soil carbon sequestration, water use efficiency, and reductions in in-stream nutrient and sediment concentrations. Investments are being made in additional model development to address benefits associated with reductions in pesticide losses, air quality, and wildlife habitat.

The assessment is designed to be national and regional in scope. A sampling and modeling approach has been adopted to avoid the high costs associated with expanded reporting by NRCS field staff.

Benefits will be estimated by applying transport models and other physical process models at sample sites associated with the National Resources Inventory (NRI) sampling frame. The NRI is a scientifically-based, longitudinal panel survey designed to assess conditions and trends of soil, water, and related resources of the Nation's non-federal lands. The NRI is conducted for the U.S. Department of Agriculture by NRCS in cooperation with the Iowa State University Center for Survey and Statistical Methods and provides critical information to address agri-environmental issues at national, regional, and State levels.

Data gathered in the NRI are linked to NRCS soil survey and climate databases. These linked data, along with NRI's historical data for 1982–2002, form the basis for unique modeling applications and analytical capabilities. The NRI sampling frame will be used for this project because it captures the diversity of the Nation's agricultural resource base (soils, topography, and climate), which is a critical factor in estimating benefits of conservation practices. Also critical are the historical and linked data that already exist for each NRI sample site. The assessment of benefits is not possible, however, without augmenting these existing data with additional information on land management and conservation practice adoption.

NASS will collaborate with NRCS in the acquisition of this additional information by conducting a survey for a sub-sample of NRI sample units in the contiguous 48 States. The survey will utilize personal interviews to administer a questionnaire that is designed to obtain from farm operators field-specific data associated with the selected sample units. Specific questions are asked about physical characteristics of the field, pesticide and fertilizer applications, and technical aspects of conservation practices associated with the field. Several other questions deal with production activities before and after implementation of specific conservation practices and with the operator's participation in conservation programs.

The survey design calls for conducting 7,500–12,000 interviews annually. The number of samples for a given year reflects changes in the budget. Approximately 30,000 completed responses will be “pooled” using statistical time series procedures. Interviews have already been conducted in the fall of 2003 and 2004 using this survey process. The 2005 survey represents the third year of this data collection effort. Each year's data collection will be for a different set of agricultural land units. If analysis indicates that more samples are needed to adequately estimate the benefits of conservation practices nationally, then data collection will be extended to include 2007.

These data will be collected under the authority of 7 U.S.C. 2204(a). Individually identifiable data collected under this authority are governed by Section 1770 of the Food Security Act of 1985, 7 U.S.C. 2276, which requires USDA to afford strict confidentiality to non-aggregated data provided by respondents.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 70 minutes per response.

Respondents: Farm operators.

Estimated Number of Annual

Respondents: 12,000 maximum potential respondents.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 14,000 hours maximum.

Copies of this information collection and related instructions can be obtained without charge from Ginny McBride, NASS Clearance Officer, at (202) 720–5778.

Comments: 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 the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

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

Signed at Washington, DC, February 22, 2005.

Rich Allen,

Deputy Administrator Program and Products.
[FR Doc. 05–5505 Filed 3–18–05; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Notice of Proposed Change to Section IV of the Virginia State Technical Guide

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), U.S. Department of Agriculture.

ACTION: Notice of Availability of proposed changes in the Virginia NRCS State Technical Guide for review and comment.

SUMMARY: It has been determined by the NRCS State Conservationist for Virginia that changes must be made in the NRCS State Technical Guide specifically in practice standards: #386, Field Border; #393, Riparian Herbaceous Cover; and #393, Filter Strip Facility. These practices will be used to plan and install conservation practices on cropland, pastureland, woodland, and wildlife land.

DATES: Comments will be received for a 30-day period commencing with the date of this publication.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Inquire in writing to M. Denise Doetzer, State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), 1606 Santa Rosa Road, Suite 209, Richmond, Virginia 23229–5014; Telephone number (804) 287–1665; Fax number (804) 287–1736. Copies of the practice standards will be made available upon written request to the address shown above or on the Virginia NRCS Web site <http://www.va.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/draftstandards.html>.