

information collected includes planned periods and methods of anticipated major activities, including, road construction, timber harvesting, and completion of other contract requirements.

*Description of Respondents:* Business or other for-profit; Individuals or households.

*Number of Respondents:* 2,500.

*Frequency of Responses:* Reporting: Annually.

*Total Burden Hours:* 1,875.

#### National Agricultural Statistics Service

*Title:* Milk and Milk Products.

*OMB Control Number:* 0535-0020.

*Summary of Collection:* U.S. Code Title 7, Section 2204, specifies that "the Secretary of Agriculture shall procure and preserve all information concerning agriculture which he can obtain \* \* \* by the collection of statistics \* \* \* and shall distribute them among agriculturists." The National Agricultural Statistics Services (NASS) primary function is to prepare and issue current official state and national estimates of crop and livestock production. Estimates of milk production and manufactured dairy products are an integral part of this program. Milk and dairy statistics are used by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to help administer price support programs and by the dairy industry in planning, pricing, and projecting supplies of milk and milk products.

*Need and Use of the Information:* NASS will collect information to develop and implement a biweekly cream/milkfat price survey to benefit all segments of the dairy industry. This data will be collected as a pilot project for a minimum of two months. The date will be analyzed for accuracy, response/cooperation from manufacturers, and other related factors. Continuation of this survey will depend on the results of the analysis. Major users of cream/milkfat, including manufacturers of processed cheese, butter, cream cheese, and ice cream mix, will base biweekly milkfat prices on purchases. The selected firms account for about 85 percent of the U.S. total milkfat used in these products. Only U.S. level data will be published to avoid disclose problems that regional data would present.

*Description of Respondents:* Farms; Business or other for-profit.

*Number of Respondents:* 44,689.

*Frequency of Responses:* Reporting: Quarterly; Weekly; Monthly; Annually.

*Total Burden Hours:* 21,571.

#### Food and Nutrition Service

*Title:* Quality Control Review Schedule.

*OMB Control Number:* 0584-0299.

*Summary of Collection:* State agencies are required to perform Quality Control (QC) reviews for the Food Stamp Program (FSP). The legislative basis for the operation of the QC system is provided by Section 16 of the Food Stamp Act of 1977. The FNS-380-1, Quality Control Review Schedule, is for State use to collect both QC data and case characteristics for the Food Stamp Program and to serve as the comprehensive data entry form for FSP QC reviews.

*Need and Use of the Information:* The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) will collect information to monitor and reduce errors, develop policy strategies, and analyze household characteristic data. In addition, FNS will use the data to determine sanctions and incentive based on error rate performance, and to estimate the impact of some program changes to FSP participation and costs by analyzing the available household characteristic data.

*Description of Respondents:* State, Local, or Tribal Government; Federal Government; Farms; Individuals or households.

*Number of Respondents:* 53.

*Frequency of Responses:* Recordkeeping; Reporting: Weekly; Monthly.

*Total Burden Hours:* 58,686.

#### Rural Utilities Service

*Title:* Environmental Policies and Procedures (7 CFR Part 1794).

*OMB Control Number:* 0572-0117.

*Summary of Collection:* The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) published its revised Environmental Policies and Procedures in December, 1998. The rule promulgated environmental regulations that cover all RUS Federal actions taken by RUS' electric, telecommunications, water and environmental programs. The regulation was necessary to ensure continued RUS compliance with the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and certain related Federal environmental laws, statutes, regulations, and Executive Orders. RUS electric, telecommunications, water and environmental program borrowers provide environmental documentation to assure that policy contained in NEPA is followed.

*Need and Use of the Information:* RUS will collect information to evaluate the cost and feasibility of the proposed project and the environmental impact.

*Description of Respondents:* Non-for-profit institutions; Business or other for-profit.

*Number of Respondents:* 600.

*Frequency of Responses:* Reporting: On occasion.

*Total Burden Hours:* 450,200.

**Nancy B. Sternberg,**

*Departmental Clearance Officer.*

[FR Doc. 00-32298 Filed 12-18-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-01-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Agricultural Marketing Service

[TM-00-201]

#### Notice of Program Continuation

**AGENCY:** Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice inviting applications for fiscal year (FY) 2001 grant funds under the federal-state marketing improvement program.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that the Federal-State Marketing Improvement Program (FSMIP) was allocated \$1,350,000 in the Federal budget for FY 2001. Funds remain available for this program. States interested in obtaining funds under the program are invited to submit Proposals. While only State Departments of Agriculture or other appropriate State Agencies are eligible to apply for funds, State Agencies are encouraged to involve industry groups and community-based organizations in the development of proposals and the conduct of projects.

**DATES:** Funds will be allocated on the basis of two rounds of consideration. Proposals received by February 9, 2001 will be considered during the first round. Proposals which are not selected for funding during the first round and other proposals received by May 11, 2001 will be considered during the second round.

**ADDRESSES:** Proposals may be sent to: FSMIP Staff, Transportation and Marketing Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 4006 South Building, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, DC 20090-6456.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Debra Tropp, (202) 720-2704.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** FSMIP is authorized under Section 204(b) of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1621 *et seq.*). The program is a matching fund program designed to assist State Departments of Agriculture or other appropriate State agencies in

conducting studies or developing innovative approaches related to the marketing of agricultural products. Other organizations interested in participating in this program should contact their State Department of Agriculture's Marketing Division to discuss their proposal.

Mutually acceptable proposals are submitted by the State Agency and must be accompanied by a completed Standard Form (SF)-424 with SF-424A and SF-424B attached. FSMIP funds may not be used for advertising or, with limited exceptions, for the purchase of equipment or facilities. Guidelines may be obtained from your State Department of Agriculture or the above AMS contact.

Funds can be requested for a wide range of marketing research and marketing service activities, including projects aimed at:

(1) Developing and testing new or more efficient methods of processing, packaging, handling, storing, transporting, and distributing food and other agricultural products;

(2) Assessing customer response to new or alternative agricultural products or marketing services and evaluating potential opportunities for U.S. producers, processors and other agribusinesses, in both domestic and international markets; and

(3) Identifying problems and impediments in existing channels of trade between producers and consumers of agricultural products and devising improved marketing practices, facilities, or systems to address such problems.

While all proposals which fall within the FSMIP guidelines will be considered, States are encouraged to submit proposals in the following areas, which correspond with ongoing national initiatives in support of:

(1) Small farms—to increase the base of marketing research and marketing services of particular importance to small-scale, limited-resource farmers and rural agribusinesses, with emphasis on projects aimed at identifying and improving producers' abilities to participate in alternative domestic and export markets;

(2) Direct marketing—to identify and evaluate opportunities for producers to respond directly to new or expanding consumer demands for products and value-adding services, with emphasis on projects which concurrently address the needs of presently underserved consumers; and

(3) Sustainable agriculture—to encourage the development of marketing channels and methods consistent with maintaining or improving the environment, with

emphasis on projects aimed at expanding consumers' choices with regard to the environmental impact of alternative production and marketing technologies.

Copies of the FSMIP guidelines may be obtained by contacting the person listed as the contact for further information. FSMIP is listed in the "Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance" under number 10.156 and subject agencies must adhere to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which bars discrimination in all Federally assisted programs.

**Authority:** 7 U.S.C. 1621-1627.

Dated: December 12, 2000.

**Aggie Thompson,**

*Acting Deputy Administrator, Transportation and Marketing Programs.*

[FR Doc. 00-32295 Filed 12-18-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-02-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Food and Nutrition Service

#### The Emergency Food Assistance Program Availability of Commodities for Fiscal Year 2001

**AGENCY:** Food and Nutrition Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces the surplus and purchased commodities that the Department expects to make available for donation to States for use in providing food assistance to the needy under the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) in Fiscal Year (FY) 2001. The commodities made available under this notice shall, at the discretion of the State, be distributed to organizations for use in preparing meals, and/or for distribution to households for home consumption.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** October 1, 2000.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Lillie Ragan, Assistant Branch Chief, Household Programs Branch, Food Distribution Division, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, Virginia 22302-1594 or telephone (703) 305-2662.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### Background and Need for Action

##### Surplus Commodities

Surplus commodities donated for distribution under TEFAP are Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) commodities determined to be available for donation by the Secretary of Agriculture under the authority of

section 416 of the Agricultural Act of 1949, 7 U.S.C. 1431 (section 416) and commodities purchased under the surplus removal authority of section 32 of the Act of August 24, 1935, 7 U.S.C. 612c (section 32). The types of commodities typically made available under section 416 include dairy, grains, oils, and peanut products. The types of commodities purchased under section 32 include meat, poultry, fish, vegetables, dry beans, juices and fruits. Donations of surplus commodities were initiated in 1981 as part of the Department's efforts to reduce stockpiles of government-owned commodities, such as cheese, flour, butter, and cornmeal, which had been acquired under section 416. These donations responded to concern over the costs to taxpayers of storing large quantities of foods, while at the same time there were persons in need of food assistance. Because of changes in the agricultural commodity loan programs which have brought supply and demand into better balance, and accelerated donations and sales, the supply of surplus commodities has been reduced from the early 1980s. However, this trend reversed itself beginning in FY 1997. In FY 2000, the Department purchased over \$159.5 million worth of surplus commodities. Most of these were purchased with Section 32 funds. The authority to donate surplus commodities for distribution through TEFAP is currently codified in Section 202 of the Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983, 7 U.S.C. 7502 (EFAA).

In FY 2001, the Department anticipates that there will be sufficient quantities of nonfat dry milk available for donation under section 416, and raisins and frozen lamb under section 32, to support the distribution of these commodities through TEFAP in FY 2001. The Department would like to point out that commodity acquisitions are based on changing agricultural market conditions; therefore, the availability of commodities is subject to change. Approximately half of the surplus commodities purchased in FY 2000 will be delivered in FY 2001. These commodities include frozen lamb roasts, frozen sausage, trail mix, dried cranberries, dried and frozen cherries, frozen strawberries, frozen and canned peaches, fresh and canned pears, figs, almonds, and the following canned items: cranberry sauce, applesauce, apricots, grape juice, cranapple juice, apple juice, and tomato products.

In addition to the surplus commodities the Department expects to make available under sections 416 and 32, the Agricultural Risk Protection Act of 2000, Public Law 106-224, makes