

Notices

Federal Register

Vol. 64, No. 119

Tuesday, June 22, 1999

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 Marketing Service

[DA-99-03]

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 Dairy Inspection and Grading Program.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by August 23, 1999 to be assured consideration.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be sent to: Office of the Deputy Administrator, USDA/AMS/Dairy Programs, Room 2968-S, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, DC 20090-6456. Comments received will be available for public inspection at this location during regular business hours.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: F. Tracy Schonrock, USDA/AMS/Dairy Programs, Dairy Grading Branch, Room 2750-South Building, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, DC 20090-6456; Tel: (202) 720-3171, Fax (202) 720-2643.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Regulations Governing the Inspection and Grading of Manufactured or Processed Dairy Products—Record Keeping.

OMB Number: 0581-0110.

Expiration Date of Approval: February 28, 2000.

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

Abstract: The Agricultural Marketing Act (AMA) of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1621-1627) directs the Department to develop programs which will provide for and facilitate the marketing of agricultural products. One of these programs is the USDA voluntary inspection and grading program for dairy products where these dairy products are graded according to U.S. grade standards by a USDA grader. The dairy products graded under the dairy program may be identified with the USDA grade mark. Dairy processors, buyers, retailers, institutional users, and consumers have requested that such a program be developed to assure the uniform quality of dairy products purchased. In order for any service program to perform satisfactorily, there are regulations for the provider and user. For these reasons, the dairy inspection and grading program regulations were developed and issued under the authority of the Act. These regulations are essential to administer the program to meet the needs of the user and to carry out the purposes of the Act.

The information collection requirements in this request are essential to carry out the intent of the AMA to insure that dairy products are produced under sanitary conditions and that buyers are purchasing a quality product. In order for the Regulations Governing the Inspection and Grading of Manufactured or Processed Dairy Products to serve the government, industry, and the consumer, laboratory test results must be recorded.

Respondents are not required to submit information to the agency. The records are to be evaluated by a USDA inspector at the time of an inspection. These records include quality tests of each producer, plant records of required tests and analysis, and starter and cheese make records. As an off-setting benefit, the records required by USDA are also records which are routinely used by the inspected facility for their own supervisory and quality control purposes.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this record keeping is estimated to average 3.002 hours per year per individual record keeper.

Record Keepers: Dairy products manufacturing facilities.

Estimated Number of Record Keepers: 508.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Record Keepers: 1525 hours.

Comments are invited on: (1) Whether the proposed collection of the information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency; (2) the accuracy of the collection burden estimate and the validity of the methodology and assumptions used in estimating the burden on record keepers; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information requested; and (4) ways to minimize the burden, including use of automated or electronic technologies.

Comments should reference OMB No. 0581-0110 and the Dairy Inspection and Grading Program and be sent to USDA in care of the Office of the Deputy Administrator, USDA/AMS/Dairy Programs, Room 2968-S, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, DC 20090-6456. Comments received will be available for public inspection at this location during regular business hours.

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

Dated: June 16, 1999.

Richard M. McKee,

Deputy Administrator, Dairy Programs.

[FR Doc. 99-15771 Filed 6-21-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

[TM-99-00-3]

Nominations for Members of the National Organic Standards Board

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Organic Foods Production Act (OFPA) of 1990, as amended, requires the establishment of a National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) to assist in the development of standards for substances to be used in organic production and to advise the Secretary of Agriculture on any other aspects of the implementation of the Act. The NOSB was originally established on January 24, 1992, with individual members appointed for staggered appointments of 3, 4, and 5 years. Appointments for four members will be up in January 2000, and the