

# 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 Marketing Service

[Docket No. LS-98-010]

#### Notice of Request for Extension 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 of a currently approved information collection used to compile and generate the Federally Inspected Estimated Daily Slaughter Report for the Livestock and Grain Market News Program.

**DATES:** Comments must be submitted on or before April 26, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Jimmy A. Beard; Assistant to the Chief; Livestock and Grain Market News Branch, Livestock and Seed Program, AMS-USDA, Room 2619 South Building, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jimmy A. Beard, (202) 720-1050.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title:* Plan for Estimating Daily Livestock Slaughter Under Federal Inspection.

*OMB Number:* 0581-0050.

*Expiration Date of Approval:* 05-31-99.

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

*Abstract:* The Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1621, *et seq*) directs and authorizes the collection and dissemination of marketing information including adequate outlook information, on a market area basis, for

the purpose of anticipating and meeting consumer requirements aiding in the maintenance of farm income and to bring about a balance between production and utilization.

Under this market news program, USDA issues a market news report estimating daily livestock slaughter under federal inspection. This report is compiled on a voluntary basis, in cooperation with the livestock and meat industry. The information provided by respondents initiates market news reporting, which must be timely, accurate, unbiased, and continuous if it is to be useful to the industry. The daily livestock slaughter estimates are provided at the request of industry and are used to make production and marketing decisions.

The Daily Estimated Livestock Slaughter Under Federal Inspection Report is used by a wide range of industry contacts, including packers, processors, producers, brokers, and retailers of meat and meat products. The livestock and meat industry requested that USDA issue slaughter estimates (daily and weekly), by species, for cattle, calves, hogs, and sheep in order to assist them in making immediate production and marketing decisions and as a guide to the volume of meat in the marketing channel. The information requested from respondents includes their estimation of the current day's slaughter at their plant(s) and the actual slaughter for the previous day.

The industry uses the slaughter information for assistance in making marketing and production decisions. Also, since the Government is a large purchaser of meat, the reporting and use of this data is helpful.

*Estimate of Burden:* Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated at .011 hours per response.

*Respondents:* Business or other for-profit, individuals or households, farms, Federal Government.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 82.

*Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* 820.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 740 hours.

Comments are invited on: (1) 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; (2) the accuracy of the

agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the methodology and assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments may be sent to: Jimmy A. Beard, Assistant to the Chief, Livestock and Grain Market News Branch, Livestock and Seed Program, AMS-USDA, Room 2619 South Building, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456.

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, and will be made available at the address above, during regular business hours.

Dated: February 17, 1999.

**John E. Van Dyke,**

*Acting Deputy Administrator, Livestock and Seed Program.*

[FR Doc. 99-4542 Filed 2-23-99; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Agricultural Marketing Service

[Docket No. LS-98-011]

#### Notice of Request for Extension 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 of a currently approved information collection used to compile and generate grain related reports for the livestock and grain market news program.

**DATES:** Comments must be submitted on or before April 26, 1999.