

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

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

October 2, 2007.

The Department of Agriculture has submitted the following information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. Comments regarding (a) 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; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; (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 should be addressed to: Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), OIRA_Submission@OMB.EOP.GOV or fax (202) 395-5806 and to Departmental Clearance Office, USDA, OCIO, Mail Stop 7602, Washington, DC 20250-7602. Comments regarding these information collections are best assured of having their full effect if received within 30 days of this notification. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling (202) 720-8681.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number and the agency informs potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information that such persons are not required to respond to

the collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Rural Utilities Service

Title: 7 CFR 1777, Section 306C Water & Waste Disposal (WWD) Loans & Grants.

OMB Control Number: 0572-0109.

Summary of Collection: Rural Utilities Service is authorized to make loans and grants under section 306C of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7.U.S.C. 1926c).

This program funds facilities and projects in low income rural communities whose residents face significant health risks. These communities do not have access to or are not served by adequate affordable water supply systems or waste disposal facilities. The loans and grants will be available to provide water and waste disposal facilities and services to these communities.

Need and Use of the Information: Eligible applicants submit an application package and other information to Rural Development field offices to develop or improve community water and waste disposal systems. In one percent of the cases an applicant will use the funds to enable individuals to connect to the applicant's system or improve residences to use the water or waste disposal system. In this situation, an applicant will make loans and grants to individuals and the applicant will submit an implementation plan, memorandum of agreement and use of funds report.

Description of Respondents: Not-for-profit institutions; Individuals or households.

Number of Respondents: 1.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Annually.

Total Burden Hours: 9.

Charlene Parker,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

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Food Safety and Inspection Service

Title: Specified Risk Materials.

OMB Control Number: 0583-0129.

Summary of Collection: The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) has been delegated the authority to exercise the functions of the Secretary as provided in the Federal Meat Inspection Act (FMIA) (21 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*) This statute mandates that FSIS protect the public by ensuring that meat products are safe, wholesome, unadulterated, and properly labeled and packaged. FSIS requires that official establishments that slaughter cattle and/or process carcasses

or parts of cattle develop written procedures for the removal, segregation, and disposition of specified risk materials (SRMs). Establishments are also required by FSIS to maintain daily records sufficient to document the implementation and monitoring of their procedures for the removal, segregation, and disposition of SRMs, and any corrective actions taken to ensure that such procedures are effective.

Need and Use of the Information: FSIS will collect information from establishments to ensure that cattle slaughtered for meat product are free from Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit.

Number of Respondents: 3,512.

Frequency of Responses: Recordkeeping; Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 123,216.

Food Safety and Inspection Service

Title: Advanced Meat Recovery Systems.

OMB Control Number: 0583-0130.

Summary of Collection: The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) has been delegated the authority to exercise the functions of the Secretary as provided in the Federal Meat Inspection Act (FMIA) (21 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*). This statute mandates that FSIS protect the public by ensuring that meat and poultry products are safe, wholesome, unadulterated, and properly labeled and packaged. FSIS requires that official establishments that produce meat from Advanced Meat Recovery (AMR) systems ensure that bones used for AMR systems do not contain brain, trigeminal ganglia, or spinal cord, to test for calcium, iron, spinal cord, and dorsal root ganglia, to document their testing protocols, to assess the age of cattle product used in the AMR system, and to document their procedures for handling product in a manner that does not cause product to be misbranded or adulterated, and to maintain records of their documentation and test results.

Need and Use of the Information: FSIS will collect information from establishments to ensure that the meat product produced by the use of AMR systems is free from Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit.

Number of Respondents: 56.

Frequency of Responses: Recordkeeping; Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 25,209.

Ruth Brown,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. E7-19758 Filed 10-5-07; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. FSIS-2007-0041]

Non-Escherichia coli O157:H7 Shiga Toxin-Producing E. coli

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice is announcing that the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), the Food and Drug Administration's Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (FDA CFSAN), and the National Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will co-sponsor a public meeting on October 17, 2007. The purpose of the meeting is to consider the public health significance of non-*Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) O157:H7 Shiga toxin-producing *E. coli*.

DATES: The public meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 17, 2007, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Arlington campus of George Mason University, 3401 N. Fairfax Drive, Room 244, Arlington, VA 22201.

Registration

Pre-registration for this meeting is encouraged. To pre-register to attend in person or via teleconference, access the FSIS Web site, <http://www.fsis.usda.gov>. Contact Sheila Johnson for more information on logistics at 202-690-6498 or via e-mail at Sheila.johnson@fsis.usda.gov.

All documents related to the meeting will be available for public inspection in the FSIS Docket Room, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Room 2534 South Building, Washington, DC 20250, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, as soon as they become available.

FSIS will finalize an agenda on or before the meeting date and post it on the FSIS Web page at: http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News/Meetings_&_Events/. Also, when it becomes available, the official transcript of the meeting will be kept in the FSIS Docket Room at the above address and will also be posted on the Agency Web site, <http://www.fsis.usda.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Denise Eblen, phone (202) 690-6238, fax (202) 690-6334, e-mail:

Denise.eblen@fsis.usda.gov or at the mail address: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Office of Public Health Science, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., 357 Aerospace Center, Washington, DC 20250-3766.

Persons requiring a sign language interpreter or other special accommodations should notify Dr. Eblen by October 10, 2007.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Shiga toxin-producing *E. coli* (STEC) was first identified in the early 1980s in North America as the cause of outbreaks of bloody diarrhea, often leading to severe and fatal illness. These outbreaks were associated with ground beef consumption, and *E. coli* O157:H7 was the STEC identified as causing the illnesses. In 1994, FSIS notified the public that raw ground beef contaminated with *E. coli* O157:H7 is adulterated under the FMIA unless the ground beef is processed to destroy this pathogen. Also in 1994, FSIS began sampling and testing ground beef for *E. coli* O157:H7.

On January 19, 1999, FSIS published a policy statement in the **Federal Register** that explained that if non-intact raw beef products or intact raw beef products that are to be processed into non-intact product prior to distribution for consumption are found to be contaminated with *E. coli* O157:H7, they will be deemed to be adulterated if not processed to destroy the pathogen (64 FR 2803).

Shiga toxins are produced by other *E. coli* serotypes in addition to *E. coli* O157:H7. While many STEC strains have been found in ruminant feces, not all of these STECs are pathogenic. The scientific community believes that the STECs that are pathogenic not only contain the Shiga toxin but also additional virulence determinants that, together with the toxin, cause illnesses similar to those caused by *E. coli* O157:H7. The subset of STECs that contain both the toxin and these additional virulence determinants, including *E. coli* O157:H7, is known as enterohemorrhagic *E. coli* (EHEC).

In the United States, there is growing awareness that STECs other than *E. coli* O157:H7 (non-O157:H7 STECs) cause sporadic and outbreak-associated illnesses. This awareness is attributable in part to the increasing availability of laboratory reagents that can be used to diagnose illnesses and to detect strains of STECs in food and other