

Notices

Federal Register

Vol. 74, No. 239

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

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

December 9, 2009.

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) 720-8958.

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.

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Title: Plant Protection and Quarantine; Official Control Program.
OMB Control Number: 0579-NEW.
Summary of Collection: Under the Plant Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 7701-7772), the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to prohibit or restrict the importation, entry, or movement of plants and plant pests to prevent the introduction of plant pests into the United States or their dissemination within the United States. The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) program has established the following procedures for State to petition the Agency to recognize State-level plant pest regulations and associated action taken as meeting the international criteria for Official Control. The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) defines "Official Control" as the active enforcement of mandatory phytosanitary regulations and the application of mandatory phytosanitary procedures with the objective of eradication or containment of quarantine pests or for the management of regulated non-quarantine pests.

Need and Use of the Information: To obtain a program's designation as an Official Control Program, States must petition APHIS-PPA to recognize their established or proposed programs to eradicate or contain a regulated plant pest. The State should provide the following supporting information and documentation for Quarantine Pests of Concern: (1) Evidence the pest does not exist in the State; (2) Evidence that the pest could become established or widespread in the State; (3) Evidence that the pest could cause economic and/or environmental harm in the State; (4) A description of the State actions used to maintain and monitor for pest freedom upon eradication; and (5) A copy of the State or local quarantine regulations that provide enforcement of the appropriate programs. The State should provide the following supporting information and documentation for Regulated Non-Quarantine Pests: (1) Evidence that a particular pest could cause significant harm to plant for planting if the pest was not managed through a certification program; (2)

Evidence the State has regulatory authority and a program established to manage the levels of the pest in plants for planting that are the hosts for the pest; and (3) A description of State actions to manage the level and or producers' management of pests in the plants for planting where the pest is maintained below a level that can affect production, health, or marketability of plants for planting. Without the information, APHIS would be less effective in establishing procedures that are used to contain regulated plant pests within the United States.

Description of Respondents: State, Local or Tribal Government.

Number of Respondents: 53.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 106,000.

Ruth Brown,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. E9-29728 Filed 12-14-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

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December 9, 2009.

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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.

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Rural Business Service

Title: Intermediary Re-lending Program.

OMB Control Number: 0570-0021.

Summary of Collection: The objective of the Intermediary Relending Program (IRP) is to improve community facilities and employment opportunities and increase economic activity in rural areas by financing business facilities and community development. This purpose is achieved through loans made by the Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS) to intermediaries that establish programs for the purpose of providing loans to ultimate recipients for business facilities and community development. The Community Economic Development Act of 1981 (42 U.S.C. 9812(a), section 623(a)) provides for the Secretary the authority to make loans to nonprofit entities who will in turn provide financial assistance to rural businesses to improve business, industry and employment opportunities as well as provide a diversification of the economy in rural areas.

Need and Use of the Information: The information requested is necessary for RBS to process applications in a responsible manner, make prudent credit and program decisions, and effectively monitor the intermediaries' activities to protect the Government's financial interest and ensure that funds obtained from the Government are used appropriately. Various forms are used to include information to identify the intermediary, describe the intermediary's experience and expertise, describe how the intermediary will operate its revolving loan fund, provide for debt instruments, loan agreements, and security, and other material necessary for prudent credit decisions and reasonable program monitoring.

Description of Respondents: Not-for-profit institutions; Business or other for-profit

Number of Respondents: 202.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 17,959.

Charlene Parker,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. E9-29726 Filed 12-14-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-XT-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Doc. No. AMS-LS-09-0078]

Request for an Extension of and Revision to 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 approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), for an extension of and revision to the currently approved information collection for the Seed Service Testing Program.

DATES: Comments received by February 16, 2010 will be considered.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments concerning this currently approved information collection notice. Comments should be submitted through the Web site at <http://www.regulations.gov>. Send written comments to Richard C. Payne, Chief, Seed Regulatory and Testing Branch (SRTB), Livestock and Seed Program, AMS, USDA, 801 Summit Crossing Place, Suite C, Gastonia, North Carolina 28054-2193, or by facsimile to (704) 852-4109. All comments should reference the docket number AMS-LS-09-0078. All comments received will be posted without change, including any personal information provided, on the Web site at <http://www.regulations.gov> and will be made available for public inspection at the above physical address during regular business hours.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Seed Service Testing Program.

OMB Number: 0581-0140.

Expiration Date of Approval: August 31, 2010.

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

Abstract: This information collection is necessary to conduct voluntary seed testing on a fee for service basis. The Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, as amended, 7 U.S.C. 1621 *et seq.* authorizes the Secretary to inspect and certify the quality of agricultural products and collect such fees as reasonable to cover the cost of service rendered. Regulations for inspection and certification of quality of agricultural and vegetable seeds are contained in 7 CFR part 75.

The purpose of the voluntary program is to promote efficient, orderly marketing of seeds, and assist in the development of new and expanding markets. Under the program, samples of agricultural and vegetable seeds submitted to AMS are tested for factors such as purity and germination at the request of the applicant for the service. In addition, grain samples, submitted at the applicant's request, by the Grain Inspection, Packers, and Stockyards Administration are examined for the presence of certain weed and crop seed. A Federal Seed Analysis Certificate is issued giving the test results. Most of the seed tested under this program is scheduled for export. Many importing countries require a Federal Seed Analysis Certificate on U.S. seed.

The only information collected is information needed to provide the service requested by the applicant. This includes information to identify the seed being tested, the seed treatment (if treated with a pesticide), the tests to be performed, and any other appropriate information required by the applicant to be on the Federal Seed Analysis Certificate.

The number of seed companies applying for the seed testing service has increased from 53 to 81 during the past 3 years due to an increase in the number of companies exporting seed. The total number of samples received for testing has decreased slightly. Therefore, the average burden for information collection has decreased for seed companies applying for the service.

The information in this collection is used only by authorized AMS employees to track, test, and report results to the applicant.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .25 hours per response.

Respondents: Applicants for seed testing service.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 81.