

inspectors. Currently, there are 79 certifying agents accredited under NOP.

Administrative costs for reporting, disclosure of information, and recordkeeping vary among certifying agents. Factors affecting costs include the number and size of clients, the categories of certification provided, and the type of systems maintained.

When an entity applies for accreditation as a certifying agent, it must provide a copy of its procedures for complying with recordkeeping requirements (§ 205.504(b)(3)). Once accredited, agents have to make their records available for inspection and copying by authorized representatives of the Secretary (§ 205.501(a)(9)). USDA charges certifying agents for the time required to do these document reviews. Audits require less time when the documents are well organized and centrally located.

Recordkeeping requirements for certifying agents are divided into three categories of records with varying retention periods: (1) Records created by certifying agents regarding applicants for certification and certified operations, maintain 10-years, consistent with OFPA's requirement for maintaining all records concerning activities of certifying agents; (2) records obtained from applicants for certification and certified operations, maintain 5-years, the same as OFPA's requirement for the retention of records by certified operations; and (3) records created or received by certifying agents regarding accreditation, maintain 5-years, consistent with OFPA's requirement for renewal of agent's accreditation (§ 205.510(b)).

*Organic inspectors.* Inspectors, on behalf of certifying agents, conduct on-site inspections of certified operations and operations applying for certification. They report the findings from their inspection to the certifying agent. Inspectors are the agents themselves, employees of the agents, or individual contractors. We estimate that about half are certifying agents or their employees and half are individual contractors. Individuals who apply for positions as inspectors submit to the agents information documenting their qualifications to conduct such inspections. According to International Organic Inspectors Association (IOIA), there are at least 250 inspectors currently providing services.<sup>1</sup>

*Producers and handlers.* Producers and handlers, domestic and foreign, apply to certifying agents for organic certification, submit detailed information documenting their specific

practices, provide annual updates to continue their certification, and report changes in their practices. Producers include farmers, livestock and poultry producers, and wild crop harvesters. Handlers include those who transport or transform food and include millers, bulk distributors, food manufacturers, processors, or packers. Some handlers are part of a retail operation that processes organic products in a location other than the premises of the retail outlet. Based upon AMS NOP's 2015 List of certified organic operations, there are approximately 31,000 certified operations globally.<sup>2</sup> Based on past growth of the industry, AMS estimates the addition of 1,900 new certified organic operations a year. In addition, AMS estimates that there are 7,650 producers exempt from certification, but who must still maintain records pursuant to section 205.101(c).

Administrative costs for reporting and recordkeeping vary among certified operators. Factors affecting costs include the type and size of operation, and the type of systems maintained.

AMS believes that operations using product labels containing the term "organic" handle an average of 20 labels annually. Based upon AMS NOP's 2015 List of certified organic operations, there are over 13,100 certified organic handlers. For each certified handler, AMS estimates that the average annual burden to develop product labels with organic claims is one hour per product label times 20 product labels per handler. The annual burden will be lower for smaller operations and higher for large operations that produce a significant volume of organic processed product.

*Interested parties.* Any interested party may petition the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) for the purpose of having a substance evaluated for recommendation to the Secretary for inclusion on or deletion from the National List. Based on the number of petitions received in the past, AMS estimates 25 parties petitioning the NOSB to amend the National List in a given year. The annual burden for each interested party to prepare a complete petition is an average of 30 hours.

*Estimate of Burden.* Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 4.79 hours per response.

*Respondents:* Producers, handlers, certifying agents, inspectors and State, Local or Tribal governments and interested parties.

<sup>2</sup> AMS NOP 2012 List of certified organic operations. Available at: <http://apps.ams.usda.gov/nop/>.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 31,329.

*Estimated Number of Responses:* 1,007,189.

*Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* 32.15.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 4,826,189.

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 validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance the 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.

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.

**Authority:** 7 U.S.C. 6501–6522.

Dated: March 22, 2016.

**Elanor Starmer,**  
*Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Food and Nutrition Service

#### Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

March 22, 2016.

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 are requested regarding (1) 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; (2) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance the 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 through the use of appropriate automated,

<sup>1</sup> Not all inspectors are members of IOIA.

electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments regarding this information collection received by April 27, 2016 will be considered. Written comments 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. 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.

#### Food and Nutrition Service

*Title:* Federal Collection Methods for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Recipient Claims.

*OMB Control Number:* 0584-0446.

*Summary of Collection:* Section 13(b) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (The Act) and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) regulations at 7 CFR 273.18 require State agencies to refer delinquent debtors for SNAP benefit over-issuance to the U.S. Department of Treasury for collection. The Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996 (DCIA), 31 U.S.C. 3701, *et seq.*, requires these debts to be referred to Treasury for collection when they are 180 days or more delinquent. Through the Treasury Offset Program (TOP), 31 CFR part 285, payments such as Federal income tax refunds, Federal salaries and other Federal payments payable to these delinquent debtors will be offset and the amount applied to the delinquent debt.

*Need and Use of the Information:* The information collected is used by individuals or households to obtain due process before debts are referred to TOP for offset. State agencies will use the collected information to provide due process to individuals/households; to add and maintain debts in TOP; to request addresses; and to certify to Treasury the accuracy and legality of debts that are submitted to TOP. Without the information, compliance with the DCIA would not be possible and departmental participation in TOP would be jeopardized.

*Description of Respondents:* State, Local, or Tribal Government; Individual or households.

*Number of Respondents:* 523,272.

*Frequency of Responses:* Recordkeeping; Reporting: On occasion; Annually.

*Total Burden Hours:* 47,051.

**Ruth Brown,**

*Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

March 22, 2016.

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 are requested regarding (1) 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; (2) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance the 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 through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques and other forms of information technology.

Comments regarding this information collection received by April 27, 2016 will be considered. Written comments should be addressed to: Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), New Executive Office Building, 725 17th Street NW., Washington, DC, 20503. Commentors are encouraged to submit their comments to OMB via email to: *OIRA\_Submission@omb.eop.gov* or fax (202) 395-5806 and to Departmental Clearance Office, USDA, OCIO, Mail Stop 7602, Washington, DC 20250-7602. 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.

### Forest Service

*Title:* Health Screening Questionnaire.

*OMB Control Number:* 0596-0164.

*Summary of Collection:* The Protection Act of 1922 (16 U.S.C. 594) authorizes the Forest Service (FS) to fight fires on National Forest System lands. Title 5 CFR, part 339, authorizes the FS to establish medical qualification standards and require pre-appointment medical examinations, regular recurring periodic examinations after appointment, and whenever there is a direct question about a firefighter's continued ability to meet the medical qualification standards. The information collected pertains to an individual's health status and health history. The collection of this information and use thereof are consistent with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552a (Privacy Act of 1974).

*Need and Use of the Information:* Individuals seeking recertification or employment as a new firefighter with the FS or Department of Interior (DOI) must complete the Health Screening Questionnaire (HSQ). FS and DOI will collect information from potential applicants using forms FS-5100-30, Work Capacity Test Informed Consent and FS-5100-31, Health Screening Questionnaire. Applicants will also need to complete the Wildland Firefighter Medical Qualifications Program Medical Exam and a Self-Certification Statement and Blood Pressure Check. Wildland firefighters perform long hours of arduous labor in adverse conditions. The information collected is used to determine whether an individual being considered for a position can carry out those duties in a manner that will not place the candidate or coworkers unduly at risk due to inadequate physical fitness and health. If the information is not collected, the Government's liability risk is high, special needs of an individual may not be known, or the screening of an applicant's physical suitability would be greatly inhibited.

*Description of Respondents:* Individuals or households.

*Number of Respondents:* 20,271.

*Frequency of Responses:* Reporting: Annually.