

below, would be minimal. It is anticipated that much of the required information would be able to be submitted electronically and would not be a significant burden. Accordingly, AMS has determined that this proposed rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small business entities.

Paperwork Reduction Act

In accordance with the OMB regulation (5 CFR part 1320) that implements the PRA (44 U.S.C. chapter 35), the information collection requirements are being submitted to OMB for approval.

Title: Pork Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Program: Submission of Information.

OMB Number: 0581-new collection.

Expiration Date of Approval: 3 years from date of approval.

Type of Request: Approval of new information collection.

Abstract: The purpose of this proposed rule is to add a section to the regulations that implement the Order that would require remitters of pork checkoff assessments, upon request by USDA, to submit to AMS the names, addresses, and any other information deemed necessary to identify persons from whom assessments were collected. There is no form to fill out. The necessary information to be submitted either electronically, e-mail, facsimile, or by mail may be done so in any format or style.

Based on estimates provided by the Board, there are approximately 3,173 entities that remitted pork checkoff assessments in calendar year 2001.

It is anticipated that many of these entities maintain their records electronically and have a person on staff to operate and manage their computer system. The only costs that would be incurred by these entities in complying with this request would be the labor hours required to retrieve the pertinent information from the computer system and transmit it electronically to AMS. AMS estimates the time required to complete this task to be 1 hour per respondent at a cost of \$20 per hour.

For those entities that rely on an outside contractor to manage their computer system, there may be a one-time fee incurred for having the contractor retrieve the necessary information from the system and transmit it electronically to AMS. AMS estimates the time required to complete this task to be 2 hours per respondent at a cost of \$50 per hour.

For those entities that do not maintain their records electronically, it is anticipated that such entities would

review their paper records, compile the necessary information, and submit it to AMS via facsimile or mail. AMS estimates the time required to complete this task to be 4 hours per respondent at a cost of \$20 per hour. AMS estimates the total cost in complying with this request would be \$241,320.

In this proposed rule, information collection requirements include the following:

(1) Electronic submission of information by entities that have personnel on staff to operate and manage their computer system.

Estimate of Burden: The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response.

Respondents: Packers, auction markets, county fairs, and individual producer entities.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 271.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 271 hours.

Total Cost: \$5,420.

(2) Electronic submission of information by entities that rely on an outside contractor to manage their computer system.

Estimate of Burden: The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 2 hours per response.

Respondents: Packers, auction markets, county fairs, and individual producer entities.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 187.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 374 hours.

Total Cost: \$18,700.

(3) Submission of information by those entities that do not maintain their records electronically.

Estimate of Burden: The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 4 hours per response.

Respondents: Packers, auction markets, county fairs, and individual producer entities.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 2,715.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 10,860 hours.

Total Cost: \$217,200.

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 would 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 through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

OMB is required to make a decision concerning the collection of information contained in this rule between 30 days and 60 days after publication. Therefore, a comment to OMB is best assured of being considered if OMB receives it within 30 days after publication.

Background

The Act (7 U.S.C. 4801–4819) approved December 23, 1985, authorized the establishment of a national pork promotion, research, and consumer information program. The final Order establishing a pork promotion, research, and consumer information program was published in the September 5, 1986, issue of the **Federal Register** (51 FR 31898; as corrected, at 51 FR 36383 and amended at 53 FR 1909, 53 FR 30243, 56 FR 4, 56 FR 51635, 60 FR 29963, 61 FR 29002, 62 FR 26205, 63 FR 45936, 64 FR 44643, 66 FR 67071, 67 FR 47474, and 67 FR 58320) and assessments began on November 1, 1986. The program was funded by an initial assessment rate of 0.25 percent of the market value of all porcine animals marketed in the United States and on imported porcine animals with an equivalent assessment on pork and pork products. However, that rate was increased to 0.35 percent effective December 1, 1991 (56 FR 51635), to 0.45 percent effective September 3, 1995 (60 FR 29963), and was decreased to 0.40 percent effective September 30, 2002 (67 FR 58320).

Section 1230.80 of the Order requires each person that is responsible for collecting or remitting any assessment under § 1230.71(b) to report the quantity and market value of the animal subject to assessment, the amount of assessment collected, the month the assessment was collected, the State where the animal was produced, and "Such other information as may be required by regulations * * *". Accordingly, to assist AMS in its administration and oversight of the Pork Checkoff Program, particularly in conducting activities such as surveys and referendums, a new section would be added to the