

OMB Control Number: 0578-0013.

Summary of Collection: The Long term Contracting regulations at 7 CFR part 630, and the Conservation program regulations at 7 CFR parts (12, 610, 622, 624, 631, 632, 633, 634, 636, 701, 702, 752, 1410, 1465, 1466, 1467 and 1491) set forth the basic policies, program provisions, and eligibility requirements for owners and operators to enter into and carry out long-term conservation program contracts with technical assistance under the various programs. These programs authorize federal technical and financial cost sharing assistance for conservation treatment with eligible land users. The financial assistance is based on a conservation plan that is made a part of an agreement or contract for a period of no less than one year. Under the terms of the agreement, the participant agrees to apply, or arrange to apply, the conservation treatment specified in the conservation plan. In return for this agreement, federal cost-share payments are made to the land user, or third party, upon successful application of the conservation treatment.

Need and Use of the Information: Natural Resource and Conservation Service (NRCS) will collect information on cost sharing and technical assistance, making land use changes and install measure to conserve, develop and utilize soil, water, and related natural resources on participants land. NRCS uses the information to ensure the proper utilization of program funds, including application for participation, easement acquisition, contract implementation, conservation planning, and application for payment.

Description of Respondents: Individuals or households; Farms; Not-for-profit institutions; State, Local or Tribal Government.

Number of Respondents: 383,312.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting; Annually, Other.

Total Burden Hours: 755,152.

Ruth Brown,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Research Service, Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service

Solicitation of Input From Stakeholders on Research, Education and Extension Programs Related to Food Safety Administered by the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service and the Agricultural Research Service

AGENCIES: Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service and Agricultural Research Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of stakeholders' listening session on food safety research priorities.

SUMMARY: Section 102(b) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (AREERA) (7 U.S.C. 7612) requires the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) and the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) in establishing priorities for agricultural research, extension, and education activities conducted or funded by CSREES and ARS to solicit and consider input and recommendations from persons who conduct or use agricultural research, extension, or education. As part of the Agencies' ongoing stakeholder input processes, CSREES and ARS are soliciting input and comments on the top food safety research priorities of partners and stakeholders. As part of this effort, CSREES and ARS are planning to conduct a "Stakeholders' Listening Session on Food Safety Research Priorities" in Denver, Colorado.

Dates and Addresses: The listening session will be held on Monday, June 30, 2003, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Radisson Hotel Denver Stapleton Plaza; 3333 Quebec Street; Denver, CO 80207. Attendees must make their own hotel arrangements.

To aid participants in scheduling their attendance, the following schedule is anticipated for the listening session: 8:30 a.m.-9 a.m. Introductory Remarks and Background. 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Scheduled 5-Minute Comment Periods. 1 p.m.-5 p.m. Scheduled 5-Minute Comment Periods.

Persons interested in submitting comments but unable to attend should submit written presentations to be received by 5 p.m. e.d.t. July 14, 2003. Send written presentations to Dr. Pat Kendall at the address below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: All those intending to attend and make oral

presentations at this meeting are required to pre-register. A List of Participants, including all those who have pre-registered, will be available at the Listening Session. Participants may pre-register by contacting Dr. Pat Kendall at (970) 491-7334, by fax at (970) 491-7252 or by e-mail to foodnutr@coop.ext.colostate.edu or by registering on line at www.caahs.colostate.edu/fshn/foodsafety/.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Purpose of This Listening Session

The purpose of this Listening Session is to allow CSREES and ARS partners and stakeholders an opportunity to identify up to five food safety research priorities requiring increased attention over the next five years. All oral presentations should follow the following format:

- (1) Provide a clear description of up to five food safety priorities;
- (2) Describe the current state of affairs for each priority; and
- (3) Indicate where the organization/agency would like to be in five years in regard to each priority.

ARS and CSREES are seeking comments on research priorities related to food safety topics in meat and poultry and fresh fruits and vegetables. Comments are solicited on such subjects including, but not limited to, pre- and post-harvest pathogen reduction, mycotoxins, residues, poisonous plants, good manufacturing practices, worker education and antibiotic resistance. The food safety research priorities identified by partners and stakeholders will provide valuable input for USDA food safety agencies. National Program Leaders from CSREES and ARS will conduct a series of follow-up meetings to develop national and agency-wide strategies for working with partners and stakeholders to help them achieve their 5-year food safety research goals.

Making Reservations To Attend This Listening Session

When making a reservation for a 5-minute oral comment period, participants should provide a title for their presentation. More time may be available in the comment session, depending on the number of people wishing to make a presentation. Reservations will be confirmed on a first-come, first-served basis. The final 30 minutes of the Listening Session will be reserved for unscheduled participants wishing to make 5-minute presentations. Participants who require a sign language interpreter or other special accommodations should contact Dr. Pat Kendall as directed above.