

Economics Advisory Board will meet on July 8, 2003.

The public may file written comments before or up to two weeks after the meeting with the contact person.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will take place at Tanimura & Antle, 1 Harris Road, Salinas, CA 93901. Written comments from the public may be sent to the Contact Person identified in this notice at: The National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board; Research, Education, and Economics Advisory Board Office, Room 344-A, Jamie L. Whitten Building, United States Department of Agriculture, STOP 2255, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-2255.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Deborah Hanfman, Executive Director, National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board; telephone: (202) 720-3684; fax: (202) 720-6199; or e-mail: ghanfman@reeusda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On Tuesday, July 8, 2003, the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board will hold a Stakeholders meeting at Tanimura & Antle, 1 Harris Road, Salinas, CA, for the purpose of obtaining regional input on research and education issues of high priority in the Western Region. Findings of this regional meeting will be sculptured as advice by the Advisory Board to the Secretary of Agriculture.

The Advisory Board Meeting will convene on Tuesday, July 8, 2003, at 8 a.m. and adjourn by 4 p.m. Opportunities for public comment will be available prior to adjournment. Also, written comments for the public record will be welcomed before and up to two weeks following the Board meeting (by close of business Wednesday, July 22, 2003). All statements will become a part of the official record of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board and will be kept on file for public review in the Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board Office.

Done at Washington, DC this 19th day of June 2003.

Joseph J. Jen,

Under Secretary, Research, Education, and Economics.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Docket No. FV03-985-4NC]

Notice of Request for Extension and Revision of 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 an extension for a currently approved information collection for the Marketing Order Regulating the Handling of Spearmint Oil Produced in the Far West, M.O. No. 985.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by August 29, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Caroline C. Thorpe, Marketing Specialist, Marketing Order Administration Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, AMS, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Stop 0237, Washington, DC 20250-0237; Tel: (202) 720-8139, Fax: (202) 720-8938, or E-mail: moab.docketclerk@usda.gov. All comments should reference the docket number and the date and page number of this issue of the **Federal Register** and will be made available for public inspection in the Office of the Docket Clerk during regular business hours, or can be viewed at: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/fv/moab.html>.

Small businesses may request information on this notice by contacting Jay Guerber, Regulatory Fairness Representative, Marketing Order Administration Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, AMS, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Stop 0237, Washington, DC, 20250-0237; telephone (202) 720-2491, Fax: (202) 720-8938, or e-mail: Jay.Guerber@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Title: Marketing Order Regulating the Handling of Spearmint Oil Produced in the Far West, M.O. No. 985.

OMB Number: 0581-0065.

Expiration Date of Approval: February 29, 2004.

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

Abstract: Marketing order programs provide an opportunity for producers of fresh fruits, vegetables and specialty crops, in a specified production area, to work together to solve marketing

problems that cannot be solved individually. Order regulations help ensure adequate supplies of high quality product and adequate returns to producers. Under the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937 (Act), as amended (7 U.S.C. 601-674), industries enter into marketing order programs. The Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to oversee the order operations and issue regulations recommended by a committee of representatives from each commodity industry.

The information collection requirements in this request are essential to carry out the intent of the Act and to administer the program, which has operated since 1980.

The Far West spearmint marketing order regulates the handling of spearmint oil produced in the Far West (Washington, Idaho, Oregon, and designated parts of Nevada and Utah), hereinafter referred to as the "order." The order authorizes the issuance of allotment provisions for producers and regulates the quantities of spearmint oil handled. The order also has research and development authority.

The order, and rules and regulations issued thereunder, authorize the Spearmint Oil Administrative Committee (Committee), the agency responsible for local administration of the order, to require handlers and producers to submit certain information regarding spearmint production. Much of this information is compiled in aggregate and provided to the industry to assist in marketing decisions. Forms are utilized throughout the year. The marketing year for the order is June 1 through May 31, with production occurring in the months of June through September.

The Committee has developed forms which must be filed by handlers to provide information to the Committee relating to spearmint production volume, shipments, dispositions, and other information as may be needed to effectively carry out the purpose of the Act and order. Producers also provide certain production information to the Committee. Another form must be submitted to the Secretary by each nominee who wishes to serve on the Committee. The nominee would provide information showing why he or she is qualified to serve on the Committee. Two ballot forms may be used in referenda conducted by the Secretary. One would ascertain whether producers support continuation of the order. Another ballot may be used to determine whether producers support amendments to the order. If the order is amended, handlers would be asked to