

Notices

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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

July 28, 2003.

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), Pamela Beverly, 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) 720-6746.

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.

Economic Research Service

Title: Evaluation of Three Models Designed to Increase Participation of Eligible Elderly in the Food Stamp Program.

OMB Control Number: 0536-NEW.

Summary of Collection: Reaching the poor elderly has been a persistent issue in the Food Stamp Program (FSP). Each month, millions of eligible, poor elderly individuals go without food stamp benefits. Fewer than one-third of eligible elderly individuals have participated in the FSP. These low participation rates are troublesome, because the elderly have unique nutritional needs. To help improve their health and nutritional status, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) wants to identify ways to increase participation rates among eligible elderly. In response to concerns over the low participation rates, USDA has funded the Elderly Nutrition Demonstrations. These demonstrations to increase elderly participation in the FSP are based on three models: Alternative food stamps commodity benefit, Simplified eligibility and benefit determination, and Application assistance for eligible elderly. The Economic Research Service (ERS) will collect information using surveys and focus groups.

Need and Use of the Information: ERS will collect information to reduce the barriers to FSP participation that the elderly face, by providing food stamp benefits as commodities rather than as traditional payment on an electronic benefit transfer (EBT) card, simplifying the application process, increasing eligible elderly individuals' understanding of the program, and assisting elderly individuals with the application process. ERS will also collect information to determine the appeal of commodity demonstrations to elderly individuals and the aspects of the demonstration they like or dislike. Comparisons of the characteristics of demonstration participants with those of nonparticipants will show whether the demonstration is appealing to certain types of elderly individuals.

Description of Respondents: Individuals or households.

Number of Respondents: 748.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 352.

Farm Service Agency

Title: County Committee Election.

OMB Control Number: 0560-NEW.

Summary of Collection: The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 requires that the Secretary prepare a report of election that includes, among other things, "the race, ethnicity and gender of each nominee, as provided through the voluntary self-identification of each nominee". The information will be collected using form FSA-669-A, "Nomination Form for County FSA Committee Election". Completion of the form is voluntary; however, if the form is not completed, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) will make note of the nominee's race/ethnicity and gender on the basis of visual observation or surname.

Need and Use of the Information: FSA will collect information on race, ethnicity and gender of each nominee as provided through the voluntary self-identification of each nominee agreeing to run for a position. The information will be sent to Kansas City for preparation of the upcoming election. The Secretary will review the information annually. If the information is not collected in any given year, the Secretary would not be able to prepare the report that the Department has been charged with preparing.

Description of Respondents:

Individuals or households; farms.

Number of Respondents: 10,000.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Annually.

Total Burden Hours: 6,700.

Animal Plant and Health Inspection Service

Title: Select Agent Registration.

OMB Control Number: 0579-0213.

Summary of Collection: The Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002 were signed into law June 12, 2002. This law is designed to prevent, prepare for and respond to bioterrorism and other public health emergencies. The law requires persons possessing agents or toxins deemed a severe threat to animal or plant health, or to animal or plant products, to be registered with the Secretary of Agriculture unless they have been specifically exempted. The registration process entail the use of a