

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

December 1, 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) 720-8681.

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

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Farm Service Agency

Title: 7 CFR 1941, Operating Loan Policies, Procedures and Authorizations.

OMB Control Number: 0560-0162.

Summary of Collection: The Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1922) (CONACT) authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture and the Farm Service Agency (FSA) to make and insure loans to farmers and ranchers and to administer the provisions of the CONACT applicable to the Farm Loan Program. The information is required to ensure that the agency provides assistance to applicants who have reasonable prospects of repaying the government and meet statutory eligibility requirements. This assistance enables family farm operators to use their land, labor, and other resources to improve their living and financial conditions so that they can eventually obtain credit elsewhere.

Need and Use of the Information: The information is needed for FSA loan approval officials to evaluate an applicant's eligibility, and to determine if the operation is economically feasible and the security offered in support of the loan is adequate. FSA relies on current information to carry out the business of the program as intended and to protect the government's interest. A variety of forms will be used to collect the information. If the information were not collected, or collected less frequently, the Agency would be: (1) Unable to make an accurate eligibility and financial feasibility determination on respondents' request for new loans as required by the CONACT; and (2) unable to meet the congressionally mandated mission of loan programs.

Description of Respondents: Farms; Business or other for-profit; Federal government; Individuals or households.

Number of Respondents: 26,146.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Other.

Total Burden Hours: 7,019.

Food and Nutrition Service

Title: National School Lunch Program Sample Frame Development.

OMB Control Number: 0584-NEW.

Summary of Collection: The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), U.S.

Department of Agriculture (USDA) conducts periodic evaluation of the school meal programs to provide updated information on program operations, meal characteristic, and students' diets as well as costs and revenues of school meals. The Economic Research Service has contracted with the team of Abt Associates Inc. and Mathematica Policy Research Inc., to design an integrated study of USDA school meal program and to assess the cost and feasibility of such a study. The integrated study will collect data on five domains: (1) Policies and practices of schools and School Food Authorities (SFAs) that affect school meal programs; (2) characteristics of meals as offered and served; (3) costs and revenues of providing schools meals; (4) student participation, satisfaction, and related attitudes toward the school lunch and breakfast programs; and (5) students' dietary intakes and other student/family characteristics that may influenced program participation. The integrated study would have a multi-level design featuring cross-sectional data and nationally representative samples of SFAs, schools, and students.

Need and Use of the Information: The National School Lunch Program Sample Frame Development is designed to provide a nationally representative sample frame of Public SFAs that are participating in the National School Lunch Program and/or School Breakfast Program. The information collected from the sample frame will include: current enrollment by school level, number of students approved for free and reduced-price meals, poverty rates, the type of school meal programs offered, type of menu-planning system in use, type of food production system used, whether the school district uses a food service management company to manage the food service operation, and the start and ending date of the school year. The information will be used to provide federal, state, and local policy makers as well as program administrators with much needed information on how the school meal programs have changed, since the implementation of the School Meal Initiative.

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

Number of Respondents: 2,079.