

Notices

Federal Register

Vol. 71, No. 233

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

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

November 30, 2006.

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), 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

the collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Forest Service

Title: Homeowner Risk Reduction Behaviors Concerning Wildfire Risks.

OMB Control Number: 0596-NEW.

Summary of Collection: The threat of wildfire to residents located in areas next to forested public lands has increased significantly during the last decade. As homeowners migrate to areas that are at increasing risk from wildfire they face important decisions regarding how much risk to accept from various sources. An important component of making decisions regarding risk is to understand the behaviors that are effective at reducing the risk and the information sources that are considered reliable for risk reduction information. To gain a better insight into homeowners' perceptions of wildfire risk, behaviors that reduce wildfire, it is important to collect information directly from the homeowners that are at risk. The information will be collected using a survey instrument that is administered via the U.S. Postal Service. The type of information collected will include: (1) Risk perceptions regarding wildfire, (2) risk reduction behaviors associated with wildfire, (3) desired treatment options for forest management, and (4) socio-demographic information.

Need and Use of the Information: The data collected from the survey will benefit Forest Service (FS) and the communities that are surveyed. The data will be used to generate reports that are targeted toward FS personnel that are responsible for working with communities and homeowners in order to reduce the risks associated with wildfires. Without the information FS land managers and the public will continue to interact on the issues of wildfire risk without a broad-based understanding of the factors that lessen wildfire risk, factors that are important to homeowners.

Description of Respondents: Individuals or households.

Number of Respondents: 1,571.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 538.

Charlene Parker,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. E6-20533 Filed 12-4-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service

Notice of Intent To Extend a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations at 5 CFR part 1320, this notice announces the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service's (CSREES) intention to revise and extend the currently approved information collection for the CSREES Current Research Information System (CRIS).

DATES: Written comments on this notice must be received by February 5, 2007, to be assured of consideration. Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by any of the following methods: Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments. E-mail: jhitchcock@csrees.usda.gov; Fax: 202-720-0857; Mail: Information Systems and Technology Management, CSREES, USDA, STOP 2216, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-2216; Hand Delivery/Courier: 800 9th Street, SW., Waterfront Centre, Room 4217, Washington, DC 20024.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jason Hitchcock, 202-720-4343.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: CSREES Current Research Information System.

OMB Number: 0524-0042.

Expiration Date of Current Approval: 05/31/2007.

Type of Request: Intent to seek approval to revise and extend an information collection for three years.

Abstract: The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) administers several competitive, peer-reviewed research, education, and extension programs, under which awards of a high-priority are made. These programs are authorized pursuant to the authorities contained in the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977, as amended (7 U.S.C. 3101 *et seq.*); the Smith-Lever Act (7 U.S.C. 341 *et seq.*); and other legislative authorities.

CSREES also administers several formula funded research programs. The programs are authorized pursuant to the authorities contained in the McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Research Act of October 10, 1962 (16 U.S.C. 582a–582a–7); the Hatch Act of 1887, as amended (7 U.S.C. 361a–i); Section 1445 of Public Law 95–113, the Food and Agriculture Act of 1977, as amended (7 U.S.C. 3222); and Section 1433 of Subtitle E (Sections 1429–1439), Title XIV of Public Law 95–113, as amended (7 U.S.C. 3191–3201). Each formula funded program is also subject to requirements, which were revised in March 2000, and set forth in the “Administrative Manual for the McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Research Program,” the “Administrative Manual for the Hatch Research Program,” the “Administrative Manual for the Evans-Allen Cooperative Agricultural Research Program,” and the “Administrative Manual for the Continuing Animal Health and Disease Research Program.” Copies of the administrative manuals are available online at: <http://www.csrees.usda.gov/business/awards/formula.html> under Regulations, Guidelines, and Policies for each formula funded research program. The Current Research Information System (CRIS) is the USDA’s documentation and reporting system for ongoing agricultural, food science, human nutrition, and forestry research. CRIS forms AD–416, AD–417, AD–419, and AD–421 constitute a necessary information collection for publicly-supported research projects as set forth in requirements established in 7 CFR Parts 3400–3419 pertaining to the aforementioned authorities. This information collection is necessary in order to provide descriptive information regarding individual research activities, integrated activities, and extension activities to document expenditures and staff support for the activities, and to

monitor the progress and impact of such activities.

The historical mission of CRIS, broadly stated, is to document the research activities of USDA and the State agricultural research system partners, to satisfy a variety of reporting requirements, and to provide access to research information. This mission supports one of CSREES’ primary functions, as stated in the agency strategic plan, of providing program leadership to identify, develop, and manage programs to support university-based and other institutional research. The boundaries and scope of the CRIS mission are being expanded each year toward a more comprehensive purpose of documenting all of the research, education, and extension activities funded or managed by CSREES. As such, the information collected for CRIS can be utilized in an essentially unlimited number of ways for a wide array of purposes. In anticipation of the Office of Science and Technology Policy research and non-research business model requirements, CSREES is working to align this collection activity with that effort. CSREES is also revising this information collection to include the reporting information on the following Extension Activities to report using the CRIS forms: Pest Management, Farm Safety, New Technologies for Ag Extension, Youth Farm Safety Education and Certification, Federally Recognized Tribes Extension Program, Renewable Resources Extension Act, and Federal Administration. Generally, CRIS provides ready access to information through public web accessible data as well as individually requested, customized reports and services for agency officials, program leaders, administrators, and managers. The information provided helps users to keep abreast of the latest developments in agricultural, food science, human nutrition and forestry research and education; track resource utilization in specific target areas of work, plan for future activities; plan for resource allocation to research, education, and extension programs; avoid costly duplication of effort; aid in coordination of efforts addressing similar problems in different locations; and aid research, education, and extension workers in establishing valuable contacts within the agricultural community.

Descriptive information pertaining to documented projects is available to the general public as well as the research, education, and extension community contributing to CRIS. Limited financial information is available on individual grants and cooperative agreements as well as summary financial information

through the CRIS Web site. A cooperating institution, including a state agricultural experiment station, state forestry school, 1862 land grant institution, or 1890 land grant institution has access to all of the data pertaining to that institution. Many institutions take advantage of this access utilizing CRIS system facilities to manage the research programs at their institution. In addition, CSREES staff members can request specialized reports directly from the CRIS staff. These requests can include financial disclosure pertaining to a particular subject area or targeted program. The nature of this type of request characterizes one of the strengths of the CRIS information collection. The system collects obligations and expenditures on individual projects; however, information can be retrieved and aggregated based on subject areas or targeted programs, and corresponding financial information can be tabulated accordingly. The inclusion of subject-based classifications and subject specific descriptive fields supports a unique retrieval capability in this system. The information can be utilized nationally, regionally, or at more detailed levels, by program leaders, budget officials, and administrators to identify resource utilization, monitor research, education, and extension activity in specific target areas, and support decision making and resource allocation, not just on individual projects, but also for specific program areas. This combination of system capabilities facilitates program evaluation, accountability, and decision making processes.

Estimate of Burden: CSREES is increasing the number of respondents from the previous approved collection by 500 for each component to account for the use of this system by several education and extension programs. No changes have been made to the burden per response from the previous approval. CSREES estimates the number of respondents for the AD–416 form will be 3,758 with an estimated response time of 3.9 hours per form, representing a total annual burden of 14,656 hours for this form. It is estimated for the AD–417 there will be 3,758 respondents with an estimated response time of .7 hours per form, representing a total annual burden of 2,631 hours. CSREES estimates that the number of respondents for the AD–419 form will be 12,267 with an estimated response time of 1.4 hours per form, representing a total annual burden of 17,174 hours. The AD–421 form is estimated to have 12,658 respondents and an estimated

response time of 2.7 hours per form, representing a total annual burden for this form to be 34,177 hours. Thus, for this CRIS information collection CSREES estimates a total of 68,638 annual burden hours.

Comments: Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed 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 the burden of the proposed collection of information; (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; and (e) the expanded use of CRIS forms for education and extension programs, particularly programs that are competitive, project-based, and funded under section 3(d) of the Smith-Lever Act (7 U.S.C. 341).

Dated: November 24, 2006.

Gale Buchanan,

Under Secretary, Research, Education, and Economics.

[FR Doc. E6-20555 Filed 12-4-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. FSIS 2006-0040]

Product Labeling: Definition of the Term "Natural"

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of petition and public meeting; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is announcing receipt of a petition from Hormel Foods to establish a definition for the voluntary claim "natural" and to delineate the conditions under which the claim can be used on the labels of meat and poultry products. The use of the claim "natural" is an issue of significant interest to the Agency, to industry, and to the public. Therefore, the Agency is inviting comments on the issue generally and on the petition and, to facilitate the comment process, is announcing that it will hold a public meeting to discuss the petition. After the comment period closes, FSIS will initiate rulemaking on the claim

"natural." The Agency has decided to initiate rulemaking because it is the most appropriate, open, and transparent method to deal with issues surrounding the definition and use of the claim "natural."

DATES: The public meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 12, 2006, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Comments on this notice must be received by January 11, 2007.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will be held in the rear of the Cafeteria, South Agriculture Building, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250.

FSIS invites interested persons to send comments on this notice. FSIS will finalize an agenda on or before the meeting date and will post it on the FSIS Internet Web page http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News?Meetings_&_Events/. The petition discussed in this notice is available for viewing by the public in the FSIS Docket Room (see address below) and on the FSIS Web site at: http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News?Meetings_&_Events/. The official transcript of the meeting will be available for viewing by the public in the FSIS docket room and on the FSIS Web site http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News?Meetings_&_Events/ when it becomes available.

Comments on this notice may be submitted by any of the following methods:

- Mail, including floppy disks or CD-ROM's, and hand-or courier-delivered items: Send to FSIS Docket Room, Docket Clerk, USDA, FSIS, 300 12th Street, SW., Room 102 Cotton Annex, Washington, DC 20250.

- Electronic mail: fsis.regulationscomments@fsis.usda.gov.

- Federal eRulemaking Portal: This Web site provides the ability to type short comments directly into the comment field on this Web page or attach a file for lengthier comments. Go to <http://www.regulation.gov> and in the "Search for Open Regulations" box, select "Food Safety and Inspection Service" from the agency drop-down menu, then click on "Submit." In the Docket ID column, select FDMS Docket Number 2006-0040 to submit or view public comments and to view supporting and related materials available electronically.

All submissions received by mail or electronic mail must include the Agency name and docket number 2006-0040. All comments sent in response to this document, as well as research and background information used by FSIS in developing this document, will be

available for public inspection in the FSIS Docket Room at the address listed above between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Comments will also be posted on the Agency's Web site at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations_&_policies/regulations_directives_&_notices/index.asp.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For technical information: Dr. Robert C. Post, Director, Labeling and Consumer Protection Staff, Office of Policy, Program, and Employee Development, USDA, FSIS, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250, (202) 205-0279, FAX: (202) 205-3625, e-mail: Robert.Post@fsis.usda.gov.

Pre-registration for this meeting is recommended. To pre-register, please contact Diane Jones by telephone at (202) 720-9692 or be e-mail at Diane.Jones@fsis.usda.gov. Persons requiring a sign language interpreter or special accommodations should contact Ms. Jones as soon as possible.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

FSIS is the public health regulatory agency in the USDA responsible for ensuring that the nation's commercial supply of meat, poultry, and egg products is safe, wholesome, and truthfully labeled and packaged. In particular, FSIS develops and implements national policies to ensure that meat, poultry, and egg product labeling is truthful and non-misleading.

Labeling Guidance on the Voluntary Claim "Natural"

To guide manufacturers in the development of labeling that FSIS was likely to determine to be truthful and not misleading with regard to the voluntary claim "natural," FSIS published policy guidance in the form of Standards and Labeling Policy Memorandum (Memo) 055, dated November 22, 1982. The policy guide states that the term "natural" may be used on labeling for meat products and poultry products provided that the applicant for such labeling demonstrates that:

(1) The product does not contain any artificial flavor or flavoring, coloring ingredient, or chemical preservative (as defined in 21 CFR 101.22), or any other artificial or synthetic ingredient; and (2) the product and its ingredients are not more than minimally processed. Minimal processing may include: (a) Those traditional processes used to make food edible or to preserve it or to make it safe for human consumption, e.g., smoking, roasting, freezing, drying,