

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

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Doc. No. TB-03-11]

Request for an Extension of and Revision to 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 approval from the Office of Management and Budget, for an extension of and revision to the currently approved information collection in support of the Dairy and Tobacco Adjustment Act of 1983, the Rural Development, Food and Drug Administrative, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for 2002 (Appropriations Act), and the Tobacco Inspection Act and Regulations Governing the Tobacco Standards.

DATES: Comments received by October 21, 2003, will be considered.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS: Contact Kenneth E. Wall, Chief, Standardization and Review Branch, Tobacco Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 511 Cotton Annex Building, Stop 0280, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-0280, Telephone (202) 205-0744 and Fax (202) 250-1191.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Reporting and Recording Requirements for 7 CFR Part 29.

OMB Number: 0581-0056.

Expiration Date of Approval: May 31, 2004.

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

Abstract: The Tobacco Inspection Act (7 U.S.C. 511 *et seq.*) requires that all tobacco sold at designated auction markets in the U.S. be inspected and graded. Provision is also made for interested parties to request inspection and grading services on an as needed basis. The Appropriations Act (7 U.S.C. 511s) requires that all tobacco eligible for price support in the U.S. be inspected and graded. Also, the Dairy and Tobacco Adjustment Act of 1983 (7 U.S.C. 511r) requires the Secretary to inspect all tobacco offered for importation into the United States for grade and quality, except cigar and oriental tobacco, which must be certified by the importer as to kind and type, and in the case of cigar tobacco, that such tobacco will be used solely in the manufacture of cigars.

The information collection requirements authorized for the programs under the Tobacco Inspection Act, Appropriations Act, and the Dairy Tobacco Adjustment Act of 1983 include: Application for inspection of tobacco, application and other information used in the approval of new auction markets or the extension of services to designated tobacco markets, and information required to be provided in connection with auction and non-auction sales.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 0.56 hours per response.

Respondents: Primarily tobacco companies, tobacco manufacturers, import inspectors, and small business or organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 634.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 13.

Estimated Number of Responses: 8057.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 4,547.

Comments are invited on: (1) 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; (2) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be

collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to Kenneth E. Wall, Chief, Standardization and Review Branch, Tobacco Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 511 Cotton Annex Building, Stop 0280, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-0280. All comments received will be available for public inspection during regular business hours at the same address.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record.

Dated: August 18, 2003.

A.J. Yates,

Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 03-21531 Filed 8-21-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Office of the Under Secretary, Research, Education, and Economics

Notice of the Advisory Committee on Biotechnology and 21st Century Agriculture Meeting

AGENCY: Agricultural Research Service.

ACTION: Notice of Meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App., the United States Department of Agriculture announces a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Biotechnology and 21st Century Agriculture (AC21).

DATES: September 15-16, 2003, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days.

ADDRESSES: The Meeting will take place at the Waugh Auditorium, USDA Economic Research Service, Third Floor, South Tower, 1800 M St., NW., Washington, DC 20036. Members of the public wishing to make oral statements should send request, in writing or by e-mail, to the contact person identified herein. Written requests may be sent to the contact person at: USDA, Office of the Deputy Secretary, 202B Jamie L. Whitten Federal Building, 12th and

Independence Avenue, SW.,
Washington, DC 20250. Request should
be received at least 3 business days
before the meeting.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Michael Schechtman, Designated
Federal Official, Office of the Deputy
Secretary, Telephone (202) 720-3817;
Fax (202) 690-4265; e-mail
mschechtman@ars.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The
second meeting of the AC21 has been
scheduled for September 15-16, 2003.
The AC21 consists of 18 members
representing the biotechnology industry,
the seed industry, international plant
genetics research, farmers, food
manufacturers, commodity processors
and shippers, environmental and
consumer groups, along with academic
researchers including a bioethicist. In
addition, representatives from the
Departments of Commerce, Health and
Human Services, and State, and the
Environmental Protection Agency, the
Council on Environmental Quality, and
the Office of the United States Trade
Representative serve as "ex officio"
members. The Committee meeting will
be held from 8:30 am to 5 p.m. on each
day. The topics to be discussed will
include: (1) Approval of a framework for
the AC21's main report; (2) review of a
draft outline for the introduction to that
report; (3) development of a plan for the
preparation of the report and
organization of work groups; and (4)
continuation of discussion on impacts
of biotechnology along the overall food
production and distribution system,
focusing on potential impacts of new
value-added biotechnology products
with direct consumer benefits.

Background information regarding the
work of the AC21 will be available on
the USDA Web site at <http://www.usda.gov/agencies/biotech/ac21.html>. On September 15, 2003, if
time permits, reasonable provision will
be made for oral presentations of no
more than five minutes each in
duration. The meeting will be open to
the public, but space is limited. If you
would like to attend the meetings, you
must register by contacting Ms. Dianne
Harmon at (202) 720-4074, by fax at
(202) 720-3191 or by e-mail at
धारmon@ars.usda.gov at least 5 days
prior to the meeting. Please provide
your name, title, business affiliation,
address, telephone, and fax number
when you register. If you require a sign
language interpreter or other special
accommodation due to disability, please

indicate those needs at the time of
registration.

Edward B. Knipling,

Acting Administrator.

[FR Doc. 03-21484 Filed 8-21-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-18-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Farm Service Agency

**Request for Extension of a Currently
Approved Information Collection—
Certified State Mediation Program**

AGENCY: Farm Service Agency, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for
comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the
Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this
notice announces the intention of the
Farm Service Agency (FSA) to request
an extension of approval for the
information collection used in support
of the Certified State Mediation Program
under title 7 of the Code of Federal
Regulations part 785. The collection of
information is used by FSA to
determine whether a State meets the
eligibility criteria to be a recipient of
grant funds, and to determine if the
grant is being administered
appropriately. Lack of adequate
information to make these
determinations could result in the
improper administration and
appropriation of Federal grant funds.

DATES: Comments must be received on
or before October 21, 2003 to be assured
consideration.

ADDRESSES: Comments concerning this
notice should be address to Chester
Bailey, Mediation Coordinator, USDA,
FSA, Outreach Staff, Room 3716-S,
Stop 0511, 1400 Independence Avenue,
SW., Washington, DC 20250 and to: the
Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of
Information and Regulatory Affairs,
Office of Management and Budget,
Washington, DC 20503. Comments may
be submitted by e-mail to
chester.bailey@wdc.usda.gov. Copies of
the information collection may be
obtained by contacting Chester Bailey at
(202) 720-1471.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Chester Bailey, FSA, Outreach Staff,
telephone (202) 720-1471.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Certified Mediation Program.

OMB Control Number: 0560-0165.

Expiration Date of Approval:
September 10, 2003.

Type of Request: Extension of
Currently Approved Information
Collection.

Abstract: This information is needed
by FSA to effectively administer the
Certified State Mediation Program in
accordance with Subtitles A and B of
Title V of the Agricultural Credit Act of
1987 (Pub. L. 100-233). FSA collects the
information by mail, phone, fax, in
person, or via the Internet. Although
other institutions, public and private,
generally require and collect
information similar to that requested by
FSA, there is a wide diversity in
reporting practices.

The information to be collected
includes an application for certification,
re-verification for subsequent annual
approval, SF-424 Application for
Federal Assistance, audit reports and
financial management systems and
reporting requirements.

The information requested is reported
annually and is necessary for the FSA
to determine eligibility, and to
administer the mediation grant program
in an equitable and cost-effective
manner.

Estimate of Burden: The public
reporting burden for this information
collection is estimated to average 34
hours per respondent.

Respondents: State agencies.

Estimated Number of Respondents:
29.

*Estimate Number of Responses per
Respondent:* 6.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on
Respondents:* 986 hours.

Comment is invited on: (a) Whether
the collection of information is
necessary for the above stated purposes
and the proper performance of FSA,
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 being
collected; and (d) ways to minimize the
burden of the collection of information
on those who are to respond, including
through the use of appropriate
automate, electronic, mechanical, or
other technological collation techniques
or other forms of information
technology.

Comments will be summarized and
included in the request for Office of
Management and Budget approval.

Signed in Washington, DC, on August 15,
2003.

James R. Little,

Administrator, Farm Service Agency.

[FR Doc. 03-21490 Filed 8-21-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-05-P