

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 25, 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) 720-8958.

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.

Food and Nutrition Service

Title: Negative Quality Control Review Schedule; Status of Sample Selection and Completion.

OMB Control Number: 0584-0034.

Summary of Collection: The legislative basis for the operation of the quality control system is provided by section 16 of the Food Stamp Act of 1977. State agencies are required to perform Quality Control (QC) reviews for the Food Stamp Program (FSP). As part of the Performance Reporting System, each State agency is required to provide a systemic means of determining the accuracy of household eligibility and measuring the extent to which households receive the food stamp allotment to which they are entitled. Section 275.21(a) requires State agencies to submit reports to enable the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) to monitor their compliance with Program requirements relative to the Quality Control Review System. FNS will collect information using forms FNS-245 *Negative Case Action Review Schedule* and FNS-248 *Status of Sample Selection and Completion*.

Need and Use of the Information: FNS will collect information to record data in negative case reviews. Negative case actions include the denial, termination or suspension of benefits. FNS will also measure program operations and determination of a State's eligibility for enhanced administrative funding and to monitor the progress of sample selection and completion. If the information were not collected, it would delay the awarding of monetary incentives in which the negative error rate played a role.

Description of Respondents: State, Local, or Tribal Government; Federal Government; individuals or households.

Number of Respondents: 53.

Frequency of Responses: Recordkeeping; Reporting: On occasion; Annually.

Total Burden Hours: 121,636.

Ruth Brown,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. E6-12164 Filed 7-28-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-30-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food and Nutrition Service

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Supplemental Form for Collecting Taxpayer Identifying Numbers

AGENCY: Food and Nutrition Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice invites the general public and other public agencies to comment on the Agency's proposed information collection of taxpayer identifying numbers.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before September 29, 2006.

ADDRESSES: 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 has practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methods 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 the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to Mark Porter, Grants Management Division, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, VA 22302.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection form and instruction should be directed to Mark Porter at (703) 305-2847.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Supplemental Form for Collecting Taxpayer Identifying Numbers, FNS-711.

OMB Number: 0584-0501.

Expiration Date: September 30, 2006.

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

Abstract: Section 31001(y) of the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996 (Pub. L. 104–134), codified at 31 U.S.C. 3325(d), requires Federal agencies to include the taxpayer identifying number (TIN) of all persons or organizations they pay whenever a request for payment is submitted to Federal payment officials. Departmental Regulation 2100–2 reflects the statutory provision at 31 U.S.C. 7701(c) which requires all individuals and entities doing business with USDA to furnish a TIN. The purpose of the Supplemental Form for Collecting Taxpayer Identifying Numbers is to comply with Federal law by enabling the Agency to legally obtain a TIN from all persons and organizations who are entered into a direct payment relationship with FNS.

Affected Public: Individuals and entities who enter into a direct payment agreement with FNS under any of the various nutrition and nutrition education programs administered by FNS.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 800.

Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Responses: 800.

Hours per Response: 0.0833.

Total Annual Reporting Hours: 66.6.

Number of Recordkeepers: 8.

Estimated Annual Hours per Recordkeeper: 1.0.

Total Annual Recordkeeping Hours: 8.

Total Annual Burden Hours: 74.6 (annual reporting hours plus annual recordkeeping hours).

Dated: July 20, 2006.

Roberto Salazar,

Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service.
[FR Doc. E6–12141 Filed 7–28–06; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. FSIS–2006–0017]

Technical Service Center Operations

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice, request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is reviewing the organization, operations, and services provided by its Technical

Service Center (TSC) in Omaha, Nebraska, with the intent of improving TSC programs that provide technical advice, guidance, and information to FSIS personnel, the regulated industry, and the general public. FSIS is particularly interested in improving TSC programs that assist small businesses. FSIS seeks comment from the public as part of this effort to improve TSC operations.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received on or before August 30, 2006.

ADDRESSES: FSIS invites interested persons to submit comments on this notice. Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

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.regulations.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 the FDMS Docket Number FSIS–2006–0017 to submit or view public comments and to view supporting and related materials available electronically. After the close of the comment period, the docket can be viewed using the “Advanced Search” function in Regulations.gov.

Mail, including floppy disks or CD-ROMs, and hand- or courier-delivered items: Send to Program Evaluation and Improvement Staff, Food Safety and Inspection Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 3833 South Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250–3700.

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

All submissions received must include the Agency name and docket number FSIS–2006–0017.

All comments submitted in response to this notice will be posted to the regulations.gov Web site and on the Agency’s Web site at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations_&_policies/2006_Notices_Index/index.asp. The comments also 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, except Federal holidays.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Contact Matthew Michael, Director, Program Evaluation and Improvement Staff, Office of Program Evaluation, Enforcement & Review, FSIS, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 3833 South Building, 14th and Independence

Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250–3700; telephone (202) 720–6735; fax (202) 690–1030; e-mail:
matthew.michael@fsis.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

In 1997, FSIS established the TSC to serve as a vital component in implementing the Agency’s science-based inspection system. As part of the 1996 FSIS reorganization, the TSC was established to provide frontline inspectors and supervisors consistent technical guidance and expertise on the interpretation, enforcement, and application of regulations, policies, and systems. FSIS’ intent was to concentrate in one location the technical expertise previously located in numerous headquarters and field offices in order to provide comprehensive and consistent technical advice quickly during the implementation of this initiative. The center’s creation was critical to the successful implementation of the 1996 Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) systems regulation, which established new requirements for the regulated industry and changed many of the tasks carried out by inspectors.

In November 2004, FSIS asked the National Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspection to provide input on how well the TSC is functioning, and what the center should be doing in light of the fact that HACCP implementation was complete. In its report to FSIS, NACMPI fully supported the continuation of the center to provide technical assistance to the Agency and the industry and made a number of suggestions to improve the center’s effectiveness, including improving consistency of answers, compiling helpful resources for the industry, and expanding formal correlation between FSIS and industry.

The TSC continues to assist the FSIS workforce, plant owners and operators, state and foreign government officials, industry representatives, and others by:

- Providing technical advice, guidance, and information related to the interpretation, application, implementation and enforcement of regulations, policies and systems concerning meat and poultry processing, slaughter, imports and egg products inspection activities;

- Contributing to the development of Agency policy on various matters, particularly issues involving inspection at slaughter and processing;

- Correlating inspection procedures and requirements with FSIS’ Office of Field Operations personnel and industry;