

# 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. AMS-LPS-17-0008]

#### Request for Extension and Revision of a Currently Approved Information Collection

**AGENCY:** Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service's (AMS) intent to request approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for an extension of and revision to the currently approved information collection used in support of the voluntary grading and certification of poultry products, rabbit products, shell eggs, meat, meat products, and Quality Systems Verification Programs (OMB 0581-0128).

**DATES:** Submit comments on or before May 8, 2017.

**ADDRESSES:** Interested persons are invited to submit comments concerning this notice by using the electronic process available at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov). Written comments may also be submitted to Quality Assessment Division; Livestock, Poultry, and Seed Program; Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA; 1400 Independence Avenue SW.; Room 3932-S, Stop 0258; Washington, DC 20250-0258; or by facsimile to (202) 690-2746. All comments should reference the docket number AMS-LPS-17-0008, the date of submission, and the page number of this issue of the **Federal Register**. All comments received will be posted without change, including any personal information provided, and will be made available for

public inspection at the above physical address during regular business hours.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Michelle Degenhart, Assistant to the Director, Quality Assessment Division, at (202) 260-8417, or email [michelle.degenhart@ams.usda.gov](mailto:michelle.degenhart@ams.usda.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Overview of This Information Collection

- (1) *Agency:* USDA, AMS.
- (2) *Title:* Regulations for Voluntary Grading, Certification, and Standards—7 CFR 54, 56, 62, and 70.
- (3) *OMB Number:* 0581-0128.
- (4) *Expiration Date of Approval:* July 31, 2017.
- (5) *Type of Request:* Request for extension of and revision of a currently approved information collection.
- (6) *Abstract:* The Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (AMA) (7 U.S.C. 1621-1627) directs and authorizes the USDA to develop and improve standards of quality, grades, grading programs, and certification services which facilitate the marketing of agricultural products. To provide programs and services, section 203(h) of the AMA (7 U.S.C. 1622(h)) directs and authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to inspect, certify, and identify the class, quality, quantity, and condition of agricultural products under such rules and regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, including assessment and collection of fees for the cost of service. The regulations in 7 CFR 54, 56, and 70 provide a voluntary program for grading, certification and standards of shell eggs, poultry products, rabbit products, meats, prepared meats, and meat products. The regulation in 7 CFR 62—Quality Systems Verification Programs (QSVP) is a collection of voluntary, audit-based, user-fee funded programs that allow applicants to have program documentation and program processes assessed by AMS auditor(s) and other USDA officials.

AMS also provides other types of voluntary services under these regulations, including contract and specification acceptance services and verification of product, processing, further processing, temperature, and quantity. Because this is a voluntary program, respondents request or apply for the specific service they wish, and in doing so, they provide information. The information collected is used only

by authorized representatives of USDA (AMS, Livestock, Poultry, and Seed Program's QAD national and field staff, which includes state agencies) and is used to conduct services requested by respondents. Information collected includes but is not limited to: Total received volume in pounds or cases, volume in pounds of graded, processed and reprocessed products, case volume of graded product, applicant's name, billing and facility address, commitment hours, and requests for approval of commodity specifications or chemical compounds. AMS is the primary user of the information.

The information collection requirements in this request are essential to carry out the intent of AMA, to provide the respondents the type of service they request, and to administer the program.

(7) *Estimate of Burden:* Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 0.197 hours per response.

(8) *Respondents:* Livestock, meat, poultry, shell egg industries, or other agricultural enterprises; state or local governments; or other business organizations.

(9) *Estimated Number of Respondents:* 1,564.

(10) *Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* 34.47.

(11) *Estimated Total Annual Responses:* 53,915.

(12) *Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 10,655.63 hours.

*Comments are invited on:* (1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of AMS, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of AMS' 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.

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

including any personal information provided.

Dated: March 6, 2017.

**Bruce Summers,**

*Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.*

[FR Doc. 2017-04667 Filed 3-8-17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Agricultural Marketing Service

[Doc. No. AMS-SC-17-0004]

#### Christmas Tree Promotion, Research, and Information Order; Request for Extension and Revision of 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, this document announces the Agricultural Marketing Service's (AMS) intention to request approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). AMS requests an extension of and revision to the currently approved information collection 0581-0268 the Christmas Tree Promotion, Research and Information Order (Order).

**DATES:** Comments must be received by May 8, 2017.

**ADDRESSES:** Interested persons are invited to submit written comments concerning this notice. Comments should be submitted on the Internet at <http://www.regulations.gov> or to Promotion and Economics Division, Specialty Crops Program, AMS, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Stop 0244, Room 1406-S, Washington, DC 20250-0244. All comments should reference the document number, the date and the page number of this issue of the **Federal Register** and will be made available for public inspection in the above office during regular business hours or at <http://www.regulations.gov>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Marlene Betts at the above address, by telephone at (202) 720-9915, or by email at [Marlene.Betts@ams.usda.gov](mailto:Marlene.Betts@ams.usda.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Title:* Christmas Tree Promotion, Research, and Information Order (Order).

*OMB Number:* 0581-0268.

*Expiration Date of Approval:* July 31, 2017.

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

*Abstract:* The Christmas Tree Promotion, Research, and Information program was created to help strengthen the position of Christmas trees in the marketplace, and maintain, develop, and expand markets for Christmas trees in the United States. The Order (7 CFR part 1214) is authorized under the Commodity Promotion, Research, and Information Act of 1996 (1996 Act) (7 U.S.C. 7411-7425).

The Order was implemented on November 2011, and immediately stayed. The stay was lifted on April 7, 2014, in accordance with the provisions of the Agriculture Act of 2014 (2014 Farm Bill). Currently, the Christmas tree program is being administered by the Christmas Tree Promotion Board (Board) appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture and financed by a mandatory assessment on producers and importers of fresh cut Christmas trees. The assessment rate is \$0.15 per Christmas tree cut and sold domestically or imported into the United States. The program provides for an exemption for producers and importers that cut and sell or import fewer than 500 Christmas trees annually. In 2018, a referendum will be held among eligible producers and importers to determine whether they favor continuation of the program.

The information collection requirements in this request are essential to carry out the intent of the Order and the 1996 Act. The objective in carrying out this responsibility includes assuring the following: (1) Funds are collected and properly accounted for; (2) expenditures of all funds are for the purposes authorized by the 1996 Act and Order; and (3) the board's administration of the programs conforms to USDA policy.

The Order's provisions have been carefully reviewed, and every effort has been made to minimize any unnecessary recordkeeping costs or requirements, including efforts to utilize information already submitted under other Christmas tree programs administered by USDA and other State programs.

The forms covered under this collection require the minimum information necessary to effectively carry out the requirements of the program. Such information can be supplied without data processing equipment or outside technical expertise. In addition, there are no additional training requirements for individuals filling out reports and remitting assessments to the Board. The forms are simple, easy to understand,

and place as small a burden as possible on the person required to file the information.

Collecting information yearly would coincide with normal industry business practices. The timing and frequency of collecting information are intended to meet the needs of the industry while minimizing the amount of work necessary to fill out the required reports. The requirement to keep records for two years beyond the fiscal period of their applicability is consistent with normal industry practices. In addition, the information to be included on these forms is not available from other sources because such information relates specifically to individual producers and importers who will be subject to the provisions of the Order and 1996 Act. Therefore, there is no practical method for collecting the required information without the use of these forms.

AMS is committed to complying with the E-Government Act, which requires Government agencies in general to provide the public the option of submitting information or transacting business electronically to the maximum extent possible.

*Estimate of Burden:* Public recordkeeping burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 0.398 hour per response.

*Respondents:* Producers and importers.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 12,455.

*Estimated Total Annual Responses:* 26,885.

*Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* 2.16.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 10,701 hours.

*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.

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

**Authority:** 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35.