Notices

Federal Register
Vol. 78, No. 156
Tuesday, August 13, 2013

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

August 7, 2013.

The Department of Agriculture will submit the following information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104–13 on or after the date of publication of this notice. 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), New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC; New Executive Office Building, 725—17th Street NW., Washington, DC, 20503. Commenters are encouraged to submit their comments to OMB via email to: *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 by September 12, 2013. 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.

Agricultural Marketing Service

Title: Livestock, Poultry, Grain and Meat Market News

OMB Control Number: 0581–0033

Summary of Collection: The Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, (60 Stat. 1087–1091, as amended: 7 U.S.C. 1621–1627, (AMA) legislates that USDA shall ''collect and disseminate marketing information . . . '' and '' . . . collect, tabulate, and disseminate statistics on marketing agricultural products, including, but not restricted to statistics on marketing supplies, storage, stocks, quantity, quality, and condition of such products in various positions in the marketing channel, use of such products, and shipments and unloads thereof.'' The mission of Market New is to provide current unbiased, factual information to all members of the Nation's agricultural industry, from farm to retailer.

This notice announces the merger of 0581–0005 ''Grain Market News,'' and 0581–0154 ''Livestock and Meat Market News'' into this revised renewal submission of 0581–0033 creating a single collection and re-titled ''Livestock, Poultry, Grain and Meat Market News'' (LPGMN).

Need and Use of the Information: Information is used by the private sector to make economic decisions to establish market values for application in contracts or settlement value, and to address specific concerns or issues related to trade agreements and disputes as well as being used by educational institutions, specifically, agricultural colleges and universities. Government agencies such as the Foreign Agricultural Service, Economic Research Service and the National Agricultural Statistics Service use market news data in the performance of their missions. LPGMN reports provide interested segments of the market chain and the general public with unbiased comprehensive livestock, poultry, meat, eggs, wool and grain market data which helps equalize the competitive position of all market participants. The absence of these data would deny primary and secondary users information that otherwise would be available to aid them in their production and marketing decisions, analyses, research and knowledge of current market conditions. The omission of these data could adversely affect prices, supply, and demand.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit; Farms

Number of Respondents: 2,668

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Weekly; Monthly

Total Burden Hours: 14,747

Agricultural Marketing Service

Title: Livestock Mandatory Reporting Act of 1999

OMB Control Number: 0581–0186

Summary of Collection: The Livestock Mandatory Reporting Act of 1999 (Pub. L. 106–78; 7 U.S.C. 1635–1636h) mandates the reporting of information on prices and quantities of livestock and livestock products. Under this program, certain livestock packers, livestock product processors and importers meeting certain criteria, including size as measured by annual slaughter are required to report market information to the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS). The information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of AMS. USDA's market news provides all market participants, including producers, with the information necessary to make intelligent and informed marketing decisions.

AMS is merging associated burden and form LS–89 approved under information collection 0581–0279, ''Livestock Mandatory Reporting Program, Establishment of the Reporting Regulations for Wholesale Pork'' into the 0581–0186 revised renewal submission.

Need and Use of the Information: The information collected and recordkeeping requirements will serve as the basis for livestock and livestock product market news reports utilized by the industry for marketing purposes. The reports are used by other Government agencies to evaluate market conditions and calculate price levels. Economists at major agricultural colleges and universities use the reports to make short and long-term market projections. The information is reported up to three times daily and once weekly and is only available directly from those entities required to report under the Act.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit;

Number of Respondents: 422

Frequency of Responses: Reporting; Weekly; Other (Daily)

Total Burden Hours: 23,766

Agricultural Marketing Service

Title: Federal-State Marketing Improvement Program (FSMIP)

OMB Control Number: 0581–0240

Summary of Collection: The Federal-State Marketing Improvement Program (FSMIP) operates pursuant to the authority of the Agricultural Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1621, et.seq.). Section 204(b) authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to make available funds to State Departments of Agriculture, State bureaus and departments of markets, State agricultural experiment stations, and other appropriate State agencies for cooperative projects in marketing service and in marketing research to effectuate the purposes of title II of the Agricultural Act of 1946. FSMIP provides matching grants on a competitive basis to enable States to explore new market opportunities for U.S. food and agricultural products and to encourage research and innovation aimed at improving the efficiency and performance of the U.S. marketing system.

Need and Use of the Information: The information collection requirements in this request are needed to implement the Federal-State Marketing Improvement Program (FSMIP). The information will be used by the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) to establish the entity's eligibility for participation, the suitability of the budget for the proposed project, and compliance with applicable Federal regulations.

Description of Respondents: State, Local or Tribal Government

Number of Respondents: 80

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Annually; Semi-annually

Total Burden Hours: 5,363

Charlene Parker,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2013–19504 Filed 8–12–13; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–02–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS–2011–0031]

Notice of Decision To Authorize the Importation of Fresh Pitayas and Pomegranates From Mexico Into the Continental United States

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: We are advising the public of our decision to authorize the importation into the continental United States of fresh pitayas and pomegranates from Mexico. Based on the findings of pest risk analyses, which we made available to the public for review and comment through a previous notice, we believe that the application of one or more designated phytosanitary measures will be sufficient to mitigate the risks of introducing or disseminating plant pests or noxious weeds via the importation of fresh pitayas and pomegranates from Mexico.

DATES: As of August 13, 2013.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Marc Phillips, Senior Regulatory Policy Specialist, Regulations, Permits, and Import Manuals, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 133, Riverdale, MD 20737–1231; (301) 851–2114.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Under the regulations in ''Subpart—Fruits and Vegetables'' (7 CFR 319.56–1 through 319.56–58, referred to below as the regulations), the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture prohibits or restricts the importation of fruits and vegetables into the United States from certain parts of the world to prevent plant pests from being introduced into and spread within the United States.

Section 319.56–4 of the regulations contains a performance-based process for approving the importation of commodities that, based on the findings of a pest risk analysis (PRA), can be safely imported subject to one or more of the designated phytosanitary measures listed in paragraph (b) of that section. Under that process, APHIS publishes a notice in the **Federal Register** announcing the availability of the PRA that evaluates the risks associated with the importation of a particular fruit or vegetable. Following the close of the 60-day comment period, APHIS may authorize the importation of the fruit or vegetable subject to the identified designated measures if: (1) No comments were received on the PRA; (2) the comments on the PRA revealed that no changes to the PRA were necessary; or (3) changes to the PRA were made in response to public comments, but the changes did not affect the overall conclusions of the analysis and the Administrator's determination of risk.

In accordance with that process, we published a notice[1] in the **Federal Register** on August 2, 2011 (76 FR 46268–46269, Docket No. APHIS–2011–0031), in which we announced the availability, for review and comment, of PRAs that evaluate the risks associated with the importation into the continental United States of fresh pitayas and pomegranates from Mexico.

We solicited comments on the notice for 60 days ending on October 3, 2011. We received three comments by that date. They were from a State agricultural agency, a foreign trade association, and a foreign governmental organization. The comments are discussed below by topic.

One commenter who opposed the action stated that pitayas and pomegranates from Mexico are hosts for several species of economically important fruit flies, specifically *Anastrepha* species and Mediterranean fruit fly, as well as other surface-feeding arthropods that could be an economic threat to agriculture in the commenter's State. In particular, the commenter stated that irradiation at the proposed absorbed dose of 150 Gy does not fully remove the possible risk of introduction of exotic fruit flies.

Prior to approving the proposed 150 Gy dose, APHIS reviewed scientific evidence on the effectiveness of this dose. The importation of other commodities treated with this dose without the introduction or dissemination of plant pests demonstrates the effectiveness of the proposed 150 Gy dose as a mitigation.

The commenter also stated that the required proposed irradiation does not mitigate the risk of the surface-feeding species of arthropods. The commenter asked that shipments not be permitted entry into his State until the shipping protocol has had sufficient time to demonstrate the effectiveness of the cited mitigation measures.

As noted in the risk management documents (RMDs) for both pitayas and pomegranates, the proposed mitigation for surface feeders on these commodities is not irradiation, but

[1] To view the notice, the PRA, and the comments we received, go to *http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=APHIS–2011–0031.*