

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

[Docket No. LS-01-11]

Notice of Request for Extension of Currently Approved Information Collection and Recordkeeping Requirements

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 an extension of approval of an information collection in support of the Livestock Mandatory Reporting Act of 1999 and regulations which was temporarily approved until January 31, 2002.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by December 24, 2001, to be assured of consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Comments may be sent to John E. Van Dyke, Chief, Livestock and Grain Market News Branch, Livestock and Seed Program, Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Room 2619-South Building, Stop 0252, Washington, DC 20250-0242; telephone (202) 720-6231, facsimile (202) 690-3732, e-mail john.vandyke@usda.gov. For further information, contact John E. Van Dyke at the above address. Comments received may be inspected at 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Room 2619-South Building, Washington, DC between 7:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. The comments will also be posted on the Livestock and Grain Market News Branch Web site, located at www.ams.usda.gov/lsg/mncs/index.htm.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Livestock Mandatory Reporting Act of 1999.

OMB Number: 0581-0186.

Expiration Date of Approval: January 31, 2002.

Type of Request: Extension of an emergency approved information collection and recordkeeping requirements.

Abstract: In accordance with the Livestock Mandatory Reporting Act of 1999 (Act)(7 U.S.C. 1635h-1636h), a mandatory program of reporting information related to the marketing of cattle, swine, lambs, and products of such livestock, was established and made effective on April 02, 2001 (65 FR 75464; 66 FR 41194). This mandatory reporting program requires the submission of market information by packers who have annually slaughtered an average of 125,000 cattle or 100,000 swine over the most recent 5 calendar year period, or have annually slaughtered or processed an average of 75,000 lambs over the most recent 5 calendar year period. Importers who have annually imported an average of 5,000 metric tons of lamb meat products over the most recent 5 calendar year period are also subject to mandatory reporting requirements. This program is intended to provide information on pricing, contracting for purchase, and supply and demand conditions for livestock, livestock production, and livestock products, that can be readily understood by producers, packers, and other market participants.

Packers subject to mandatory reporting requirements are required to report the details of all transactions involving purchases and sales of livestock, domestic and export sales of boxed beef and lamb cuts (including applicable branded product) and sales of lamb carcasses. Qualifying importers are required to report sales of all imported boxed lamb cuts. To verify the accuracy of submitted information, each packer and importer required to report must maintain, and make available for 2 years, such records as are necessary to document the purchase, sale, pricing, transportation, delivery, weighing, slaughter, or carcass characteristics associated with reported livestock, boxed beef and/or boxed lamb transactions.

The information collection and recordkeeping requirements in the regulations under the Act (7 CFR part

59) are essential to establishing and implementing a mandatory program of livestock and livestock products reporting. Based on the information available, AMS estimates that there are 49 beef packer plants, 50 pork packer plants, and 17 lamb packer plants and lamb importers that are required to report market information. These companies have similar recordkeeping systems and business operation practices and conduct their operations in a similar manner. AMS believes that all of the information required can be collected from existing materials and systems and that these materials and systems can be adapted to satisfy the forms. The Paperwork Reduction Act also requires AMS to measure the recordkeeping burden. Each packer and importer required to report must maintain and make available upon request for 2 years, such records as are necessary to verify the accuracy of the information required to be reported. These records include original contracts, agreements, receipts, and other records associated with any transaction relating to the purchase, sale, pricing, transportation, delivery, weighing, slaughter, or carcass characteristics of all livestock.

The electronic data files which the packers are required to utilize when submitting information to AMS will have to be maintained as these files provide the best record of compliance. The recordkeeping burden includes the amount of time needed to store and maintain records. AMS estimates that, since records of original contracts, agreements, receipts, and other records associated with any transaction relating to the purchase, sale, pricing, transportation, delivery, weighing, slaughter, or carcass characteristics of all livestock are stored and maintained as a matter of normal business practice by these companies for a period in excess of 2 years, additional annual costs are nominal. AMS estimates the annual cost per respondent for the storage of the electronic data files which were submitted to AMS in compliance with the reporting provisions to be \$1,830.00. This estimate includes the cost of electronic data storage media, backup electronic data storage media, and backup software required to maintain an estimated annual electronic recordkeeping and backup burden of 42

megabytes, on average, per respondent. In addition, this estimate includes the cost per employee to maintain such records which is estimated to average 70 hours per year at \$20.00 per hour for a total salary component cost of \$1,400.00 per year.

Information collection requirements include the submission of the required information on a daily and weekly basis in the standard format provided in the following forms: (1) Live Cattle Daily Report (Current Established Prices), (2) Live Cattle Daily Report (Committed and Delivered Cattle), (3) Live Cattle Weekly Report (Forward Contract and Packer-Owned), (4) Live Cattle Weekly Report (Formula Purchases), (5) Cattle Premiums and Discounts Weekly Report, (6) Boxed Beef Daily Report, (7) Swine Prior Day Report, (8) Swine Daily Report, (9) Swine Noncarcass Merit Premium Weekly Report, (10) Live Lamb Daily Report (Current Established Prices), (11) Live Lamb Daily Report (Committed and Delivered Lambs), (12) Live Lamb Weekly Report (Forward Contract and Packer-Owned), (13) Live Lamb Weekly Report (Formula Purchases), (14) Lamb Premiums and Discounts Weekly Report, (15) Boxed Lamb Report, and (16) Lamb Carcass Report. Cattle packers utilize six of these forms when reporting information to AMS including two for daily cattle reporting, three for weekly cattle reporting, and one for daily boxed beef cuts reporting. Swine packers utilize three forms, two for daily reporting of swine purchases and one for weekly reporting of non-carcass merit premium information. Lamb packers utilize seven of these forms when reporting information to AMS including two for daily lamb reporting, three for weekly lamb reporting, one for daily and weekly boxed lamb cuts reporting and one for daily and weekly lamb carcass reporting. Lamb importers utilize one of these forms when reporting information to AMS for reporting weekly imported boxed lamb cut sales.

These information collection requirements have been designed to minimize disruption to the normal business practices of the affected entities. Each of these forms requires the minimal amount of information necessary to properly describe each reportable transaction. The number of forms reflect an attempt to reduce the complexity of each form.

Because there was insufficient time for a normal clearance procedure, AMS requested emergency processing and received temporary approval from OMB for the use of the information collection and recordkeeping requirements that was used to implement the mandatory

livestock reporting program on an expedited basis. OMB granted temporary approval on January 18, 2001, to expire on January 31, 2002.

AMS provided two methods for respondents to use when submitting information electronically under LMR. The first method, electronic data transfer, allows respondents to submit livestock mandatory information in comma-delimited ASCII (text) data files directly to AMS. This method is used by a majority of those entities required to submit information to AMS. Respondents create these text files by extracting the required information from their existing electronic recordkeeping systems, thereby avoiding manual data entry. The second method, the industry web interface, allows respondents to input and submit livestock mandatory information to AMS through the Internet. Respondents access the AMS livestock mandatory reporting website through a personal computer (PC). The AMS website provides an interface that emulates the official OMB approved collection forms.

Information submitted by respondents through either electronic data collection method is scanned for viruses before being decrypted and loaded into a input directory on the AMS database system (SQL Server). Once accepted, the reports are sent to the AMS Market News Communication System (MNCS) and released to the public.

Both electronic data collection methods are taken into account in the following overall burden estimate and individual burden estimates for each of the 16 reporting forms.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .18 hours per response.

Respondents: Certain packers, livestock product processors and importers.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 116.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1,171.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 24,426.08 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Responses: 135,824 responses.

(1) Live Cattle Daily Report (Current Established Prices): Form LS-113

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for collection of information is estimated to be .17 hours per electronically submitted response.

Respondents: Packer processing plants required to report information on live cattle purchases to the Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Estimated Number of Respondents: 49 plants.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 520 (2 per day for 260 days).

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 4,332 hours.

Total Cost: \$86,640.

(2) Live Cattle Daily Report (Committed and Delivered Cattle): Form LS-114

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for collection of information is estimated to be .17 hours per electronically submitted response.

Respondents: Packer processing plants required to report information on live cattle purchases to the USDA.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 49 plants.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 520 (2 per day for 260 days).

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 4,332 hours.

Total Cost: \$86,640.

(3) Live Cattle Weekly Report (Forward Contract and Packer-Owned): Form LS-115

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for collection of information is estimated to be .25 hours per electronically submitted response.

Respondents: Packer processing plants required to report information on live cattle purchases to the USDA.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 49 plants.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 52 (1 per week for 52 weeks).

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 637 hours.

Total Cost: \$12,740.

(4) Live Cattle Weekly Report (Formula Purchases): Form LS-116

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for collection of information is estimated to be .25 hours per electronically submitted response.

Respondents: Packer processing plants required to report information on live cattle purchases to the USDA.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 49 plants.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 52 (1 per week for 52 weeks).

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 637 hours.

Total Cost: \$12,740.

(5) Cattle Premiums and Discounts Weekly Report: Form LS-117

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for collection of information is estimated to be .08 hours per electronically submitted response.

Respondents: Packer processing plants required to report information on live cattle purchases to the USDA.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 49 plants.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 52 (1 per week for 52 weeks).

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 204 hours.

Total Cost: \$4,080.

(6) Boxed Beef Daily Report: Form LS-126

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for collection of information is estimated to be .125 hours per electronically submitted response.

Respondents: Packer processing plants required to report information on domestic and export boxed beef cut sales to the USDA.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 49 plants.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 520 (2 per day for 260 days).

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 3,185 hours.

Total Cost: \$63,700.

(7) Swine Prior Day Report: Form LS-118

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for collection of information is estimated to be .25 hours per electronically submitted response.

Respondents: Packer processing plants required to report information on live swine purchases to the USDA.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 50 plants.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 260 (1 per day for 260 days).

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 3,250 hours.

Total Cost: \$65,000.

(8) Swine Daily Report: Form LS-119

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for collection of information is estimated to be .17 hours per electronically submitted response.

Respondents: Packer processing plants required to report information on live swine purchases to the USDA.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 50 plants.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 520 (2 per day for 260 days).

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 4,420 hours.

Total Cost: \$88,400.

(9) Swine Noncarcass Merit Premium Weekly Report: Form LS-120

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for collection of information is

estimated to be .25 hours per electronically submitted response.

Respondents: Packer processing plants required to report information on live swine purchases to the USDA.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 50 plants.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 52 (1 per week for 52 weeks).

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 650 hours.

Total Cost: \$13,000.

(10) Live Lamb Daily Report (Current Established Prices): Form LS-121

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for collection of information is estimated to be .34 hours per electronically submitted response.

Respondents: Packer processing plants required to report information on live lamb purchases to the USDA.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 8 plants.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 260 (1 per day for 260 days).

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 707 hours.

Total Cost: \$14,140.

(11) Live Lamb Daily Report (Committed and Delivered Lambs): Form LS-122.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for collection of information is estimated to be .34 hours per electronically submitted response.

Respondents: Packer processing plants required to report information on live lamb purchases to the USDA.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 8 plants.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 260 (1 per day for 260 days).

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 707 hours.

Total Cost: \$14,140.

(12) Live Lamb Weekly Report (Forward Contract and Packer-Owned): Form LS-123

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for collection of information is estimated to be .25 hours per electronically submitted response.

Respondents: Packer processing plants required to report information on live lamb purchases to the USDA.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 8 plants.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 52 (1 per week for 52 weeks).

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 104 hours.

Total Cost: \$2,080.

(13) Live Lamb Weekly Report (Formula Purchases): Form LS-124

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for collection of information is estimated to be .25 hours per electronically submitted response.

Respondents: Packer processing plants required to report information on live lamb purchases to the USDA.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 8 plants.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 52 (1 per week for 52 weeks).

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 104 hours.

Total Cost: \$2,080.

(14) Lamb Premiums and Discounts Weekly Report: Form LS-125

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for collection of information is estimated to be .08 hours per electronically submitted response.

Respondents: Packer processing plants required to report information on live lamb purchases to the USDA.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 8 plants.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 52 (1 per week for 52 weeks).

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 33 hours.

Total Cost: \$660.

(15) Boxed Lamb Report: Form LS-128

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for collection of information is estimated to be .167 hours per electronically submitted response for domestic packing plants and .084 hours per electronically submitted response for importers.

Respondents: Packer processing plants and importers required to report information on boxed lamb cut sales to the USDA.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 14 entities (including 1 entity that both processes and imports).

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 260 (1 per day for 260 days) for domestic packing plants; 52 (1 per week for 52 weeks) for importers.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 391 hours for domestic packing plants and 26 hours for importers.

Total Cost: \$7,810 for domestic packing plants and \$520 for importers for a total of \$8,330.00.

(16) Lamb Carcass Report: Form LS-129

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for collection of information is estimated to be .167 hours per electronically submitted response.

Respondents: Packer processing plants required to report information on lamb carcass sales to the USDA.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 8 entities.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 260 (1 per day for 260 days).

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 347 hours.

Total Cost: \$6,940.

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 comments received will be available for public inspection during regular business hours at the address above.

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: October 19, 2001.

A. J. Yates,

Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 01-26900 Filed 10-24-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 01-057-1]

International Standards Under the International Plant Protection Convention

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: We are giving notice of a public meeting on a draft international standard for the environmental impact of quarantine pests, including quarantine pests that are invasive.

Place, Date, and Time of Meeting: The meeting will be held at the Yates Auditorium at the Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street NW., Washington, DC. The meeting will be

held on November 15, 2001, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Please use the entrance at C Street.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Ron A. Sequeira, Biological Scientist, CPHST, PPQ, APHIS, 1017 Main Campus Drive, Suite 2500, Raleigh, NC 27606-5202; (919) 513-2662.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) is a multilateral convention adopted in 1952 for the purpose of securing international cooperation in the control and prevention of the spread and introduction of pests of plants and plant products and to promote appropriate measures for their control. Under the IPPC, the understanding of plant protection has been, and continues to be, broad, encompassing the protection of both cultivated and noncultivated plants from direct or indirect injury by plant pests. Activities addressed by the IPPC include the development and establishment of international plant health standards, the harmonization of phytosanitary activities through emerging standards, the facilitation of the exchange of official and scientific information among countries, and the furnishing of technical assistance to developing countries that are signatories to the IPPC. The IPPC is recognized by the World Trade Organization as the standard-setting body for international plant quarantine issues.

The IPPC is placed under the authority of the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the members of the Secretariat of the IPPC are appointed by the FAO. The IPPC is implemented by national plant protection organizations in cooperation with regional plant protection organizations, the Interim Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (ICPM), and the Secretariat of the IPPC. The United States has played a major role in all standard-setting activities under the IPPC and has representation on FAO's highest governing body, the FAO Conference.

The United States became a contracting party to the IPPC in 1972 and has been actively involved in furthering the work of the IPPC ever since. The IPPC was amended in 1979, and the amended version entered into force in 1991 after two-thirds of the contracting countries accepted the amendment. More recently, in 1997, contracting parties completed negotiations on further amendments that were approved by the FAO Conference and submitted to the parties for acceptance. This 1997 amendment updated phytosanitary concepts and

formalized the standard-setting structure within the IPPC. The 1997 amended version of the IPPC will enter into force once two-thirds of the current contracting parties notify the Director General of FAO of their acceptance of the amendment.

The IPPC has been, and continues to be, administered at the national level by plant quarantine officials whose primary objective is to safeguard plant resources from injurious pests. In the United States, the national plant protection organization is the Plant Protection and Quarantine unit of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

In June 2000, an IPPC working group identified the need to supplement the current pest risk analysis guidelines with additional guidance regarding the consideration of potential environmental risks of plant pests and recommended that a draft standard be developed. The entire report from the June 2000 working group meeting is available on the Internet at http://www.fao.org/waicent/faoinfo/agricult/agp/agpp/pq/en/archive/wg_gmos/recom.htm.

In April 2001, the IPPC's ICPM agreed to establish a technical expert working group to develop an IPPC standard for considering the environmental impact of quarantine pests, including quarantine pests that are invasive. The technical expert working group charged with developing the draft standard met in August 2001.

The first draft of the standard includes consideration of the following five elements relating to potential environmental risks of plant pests, which were identified in the June 2000 working group meeting:

1. Reduction or elimination of endangered (or threatened) native plant species;
2. Reduction or elimination of a keystone plant species (a species that plays a major role in the maintenance of an ecosystem);
3. Reduction or elimination of a plant species that is a major component of a native ecosystem;
4. Ecosystem destabilization caused by a change to plant biological diversity;
5. Control, eradication, or management programs that would be needed if a quarantine pest were introduced, and impacts of such programs (e.g., pesticides or release of nonindigenous predators and parasites) on biological diversity.

The draft standard is available on the Internet at <http://www.fao.org/ag/agp/agpp/pq/> and <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/pim/standards/#01>.