

# Notices

Federal Register

Vol. 61, No. 88

Monday, May 6, 1996

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. FV95-955-3]

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

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

**ACTION:** Proposed Collection: Comment request.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Agricultural Marketing Service's (AMS) intention to request an extension for and revision to a currently approved information collection for Vidalia Onions Grown in Georgia, Marketing Order No. 955.

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received by July 5, 1996 to be assured of consideration.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS:** Tom Tichenor, Marketing Order Administration Branch, F & V, AMS, USDA, P.O. Box 96456, room 2523-S, Washington, D.C., 20090-6456, Telephone (202) 720-6862 or FAX (202) 720-5698.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Title:* Vidalia Onions Grown in Georgia, Marketing Order No. 955.

*OMB Number:* 0581-0160.

*Expiration Date of Approval:* July 29, 1996.

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

*Abstract:* Marketing order programs provide an opportunity for producers of fresh fruits, vegetables and specialty crops, in a specified production area, to work together to solve marketing problems that cannot be solved individually. Order regulations help ensure adequate supplies of high quality product and adequate returns to

producers. Under the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937 (Act), as amended (7 U.S.C. 601-674), industries enter into marketing order programs. The Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to oversee the order operations and issue regulations recommended by a committee of representatives from each commodity industry.

The information collection requirements in this request are essential to carry out the intent of the Act, to provide the respondents the type of service they request, and to administer the Vidalia onion marketing order program, which has been operating since 1990. The order authorizes production and marketing research and development projects, including paid advertising. The research and promotion activities are paid for by assessments levied on handlers of Vidalia onions.

The order, and rules and regulations issued thereunder, authorize the Vidalia Onion Committee (Committee), the agency responsible for local administration of the order, to require handlers and growers to submit certain information. Much of this information is compiled in aggregate and provided to the industry to assist in marketing decisions.

The Committee has developed forms as a means for persons to file required information with the Committee relating to onion supplies, shipments, dispositions, and other information needed to effectively carry out the purpose of the Act and order. Vidalia onions may be shipped beginning mid April and ending in mid July, and these forms are utilized accordingly. A USDA form is used to allow growers to vote on amendments to or continuance of the marketing order. In addition, Vidalia onion growers and grower/handlers who are nominated by their peers to serve as representatives on the Committee must file nomination forms with the Secretary.

The forms covered under this information collection require the minimum information necessary to effectively carry out the requirements of the order, and their use is necessary to fulfill the intent of the Act as expressed in the order.

The size of the Vidalia onion industry has decreased in recent years. The Committee estimates that there are 195

producers and 109 handlers of Vidalia onions currently operating in the production area. These numbers are lower than those used in the previous (1993) information collection burden and, thus, change the burden for all but one of the forms subject to this information collection. All of the handlers are also producers of Vidalia onions.

The burden for the Vidalia Onion Handler Report is changed in this information collection. Under the order, handlers are responsible for reporting to the Committee acquisitions of onions and for submitting an assessment payment based on the volume of onions shipped. The form is used by each handler to report the volume of onions acquired, handled and shipped by the handler, and the assessment due on the onions shipped. The Committee uses this information to verify the handler's assessment obligation.

The information requested on this form was increased in 1993 to include the names of producers and other handlers who the respondent purchased onions from, sold onions to, or packed onions for, during the monthly reporting period. The revised form also asks for the location and quantity of any onions placed into storage during the reporting period. This additional information is needed for compliance purposes, and will enable the Committee to better determine who is responsible for paying assessments on any particular lot of onions. However the time needed to complete the form was not correspondingly increased. This information collection increases the burden from 5 minutes to 20 minutes to complete the form. The total information collection burden has been adjusted accordingly.

The information collected is used only by authorized employees of the Committee and authorized representatives of the USDA, including AMS, Fruit and Vegetable Division regional and headquarter's staff. Authorized Committee employees and the industry are the primary users of the information and AMS is the secondary user.

*Estimate of Burden:* Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .30 hours (18 minutes) per response.

*Respondents:* Vidalia onion growers and handlers and two public members

in the designated production area in Georgia.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 197 (195 growers/ handlers and 1 public member and 1 alternate public member).

*Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* 2.5.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 496 hours.

Comments are invited on: (1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the functioning of the Vidalia onion marketing order program; (2) the accuracy of the collection burden estimate and the validity of methodology and assumptions used in estimating the burden of respondents; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information requested; and (4) ways to minimize the burden, including use of automated electronic technologies.

Comments should reference OMB No. 0581-0160 and Vidalia Onion Marketing Order No. 955, and be mailed to the Docket Clerk, Fruit and Vegetable Division, AMS, USDA, P.O. Box 96456, room 2523-S, Washington, D.C., 20090-6456. Comments should reference the docket number and the date and page number of this issue of the Federal Register. All comments received will be available for public inspection in the Office of the Docket Clerk during regular USDA business hours at 14th and Independence Ave. S.W., Washington, D.C., Room 2523 South Building.

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

Dated: April 30, 1996.

Robert C. Keeney,

*Director, Fruit and Vegetable Division.*

[FR Doc. 96-11155 Filed 5-3-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

## Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service

### Committee of Nine Meeting Cancellation

Section 869 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (Pub. L. 104-127) amends Section 3(c)3 of the Act of March 2, 1887 (Hatch Act of 1887), by repealing the Committee of Nine. This committee represented the directors of State agricultural experiment stations in providing recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture on cooperative regional research projects and related program policy and procedures. Therefore, as a result of the aforementioned repeal, Cooperative State Research, Education,

and Extension Service announces cancellation of the following meeting:

*Name:* Committee of Nine.

*Date and Time:*

May 15, 1996, 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

May 16, 1996, 8:30 a.m.-Noon.

*Place:* USDA, CSREES, 14th & Independence Avenue, SW, Room 3854 South Building, Washington, D.C. 20250.

*Action:* This meeting has been cancelled.

*Contact person for more information:* Dr.

George E. Cooper, Executive Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, 14th & Independence Avenue, SW., Room 3851, South Building, Washington, D.C. 20250, Telephone: 202-720-4088.

Done at Washington, D.C. this 30th day of April 1996.

B. H. Robinson,

*Administrator, Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service.*

[FR Doc. 96-11148 Filed 5-3-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-22-M

## Food and Consumer Service

### Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed collection; Comment Request—Food Stamp Program Application for Stores

**AGENCY:** Food and Consumer Service, USDA.

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

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Food and Consumer Service's (FCS) intention to request an extension of a previously approved information collection in support of the Food Stamp Program application from retail food stores who wish to participate in the program and for which approval expires on May 31, 1996.

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received by July 5, 1996.

**ADDRESSES:** Send comments and requests for copies of this information collection to: Suzanne M. Fecteau, Chief, Redemption Management Branch, Benefit Redemption Division, Food and Consumer Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, VA 22302.

Comments are invited on: (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) 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; (c)

ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be 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 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, and will become a matter of public record.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Suzanne M. Fecteau, (703) 305-2419.

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Title:* Food Stamp Program Application For Stores, Form FNS-252 (9-93); Food Stamp Program Application For Stores—Reauthorization, Form FCS-252R (2-95); Food Stamp Program Application For Stores—Supplement, Form FNS-252A (8-94); Food and Nutrition Service Meal Services, Form FNS 252-2 (10-79).

*OMB Number:* 0584-0008.

*Expiration Date of Approval:* 3 years from date of approval.

*Type of Request:* Reinstatement, with change of a previously approved collection for which approval expires on May 31, 1996.

*Abstract:* The Food and Consumer Service (FCS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture is the Federal Agency responsible for the Food Stamp Program. The Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended (7 U.S.C. 2011 *et seq.*), requires that the Agency determine the eligibility of firms and certain food service organizations to accept and redeem food stamp benefits and to monitor them for compliance and continued eligibility.

Part of FCS' responsibility is to accept applications from retail food stores and programs that wish to participate in the Food Stamp Program, review the applications in order to determine whether or not applicants meet eligibility requirements, and make determinations whether to grant or deny authorization to accept and redeem food stamp benefits. FCS is also responsible for requiring updates to application information and reviewing that information to determine whether or not the firms or services continue to meet eligibility requirements.

*Estimate of Burden:* Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .29 hours per response.

*Respondents:* Retail food stores and State or local governments.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 112,023.