

# 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

### Food and Nutrition Service

#### Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection, Comment Request—Food Stamp Program: Operating Guidelines, Forms, and Waivers

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is publishing for public comment a summary of new information collection being required by proposed regulations. The proposed collection is an addition to collection currently approved under OMB No. 0584-0083.

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received by December 13, 1999, to be assured of consideration.

**ADDRESSES:** Send comments and requests for copies of this information collection to Jeffrey N. Cohen, Chief, Electronic Benefits Transfer Branch, Benefit Redemption Division, Food and Nutrition Service, USDA, 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, Virginia 22302. Comments may also be datafaxed to Mr. Cohen at (703) 605-0232 or they may be transmitted by e-mail to jeff.cohen@fns.usda.gov.

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 a practical use; (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 comments will be summarized and included for the Office of Management and Budget approval of the information collection. All comments will become a matter of public record.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jeffrey N. Cohen, telephone number (703) 305-2517.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Title:* Operating Guidelines, Forms and Waivers.

*OMB Number:* 0584-0083.

*Expiration Date:* October 2002.

*Type of Request:* Addition to a currently approved collection.

*Abstract:* On February 23, 1999, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) published a proposed rule at 64 FR 8733 without including separate notice of a new information collection burden in OMB No. 0584-0083. This notice corrects that omission and explains the new information collection burden for Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) system reporting.

EBT systems currently deliver about 67% of all Food Stamp Program (FSP) benefits. Forty-one States and the District of Columbia have EBT systems and thirty-four of those are implemented throughout the entire State or the District. In 1990, Congress allowed EBT as an option to States for the delivery of FSP benefits. In 1996 Congress mandated that all State agencies must deliver FSP benefits using EBT systems by October 1, 2002.

For the FSP, EBT systems move money from Federal accounts held in the name of each State to accounts at banks and other financial institutions held by or for food retailers. Retailers must first be authorized by FNS to accept food stamp benefits. States determine the eligibility and the monthly FSP allotments for recipients. They give each household a plastic EBT card and a Personal Identification Number (PIN). State EBT systems operate like a debit card system with an immediate decrement to the household account when the card and PIN are used for a food purchase. The amount of the purchase is credited to the food retailer account and funds are settled each bank working day through the Automated Clearinghouse (ACH) process.

The FSP EBT regulations are being revised to require the SAS No. 70 examinations and this will add new information collection burdens for States and auditors conducting SAS No. 70 examinations of EBT service providers. The SAS No. 70 examination results in a report on the policies and procedures placed in operation by the service provider and tests of their operating effectiveness. This kind of report is commonly referred to by auditors as a SAS No. 70 type 2 report. The new burden on State agencies is recordkeeping. The new burden on auditors is the examination and report.

*Respondents:* State agencies with Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) systems delivering Food Stamp Program benefits and auditors of EBT transaction processing service providers.

*Number of respondents:* 53 State agency respondents and 10 auditors of EBT transaction processing service providers.

*Estimated number of responses per respondent:* 1 response per State agency to retain and provide copies of SAS No. 70 examination reports annually. 10 auditors performing 2 SAS No. 70 examinations annually.

*Estimate of the burden:*

10 auditors at an estimated 2,704 hours or 27,040 hours annually.

53 State agencies at an estimated 0.25 hours or 13.25 hours annually.

*Estimated total annual burden on respondents:* 27,053.25 hours annually. [Operating Guidelines, Forms, and Waivers]

Dated: October 5, 1999.

**Samuel Chambers, Jr.,**

*Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service.*

[FR Doc. 99-26496 Filed 10-8-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-U

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. 99-044N]

#### National Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspection

**AGENCY:** Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The National Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspection will hold a public meeting

on November 3–4, 1999, to review and discuss five issues: (1) Extending USDA's Meat and Poultry Inspection Program to Additional Species (Inspection Methods Standing Sub-Committee), (2) Reinforcing the Food Code by Adopting Key Food Safety Provisions as Federal Performance Standards, (3) Regulatory Reform (Inter-Governmental Roles Standing Sub-Committee), (4) HACCP Systems In-depth Verification Review, and (5) *E. coli* 0157 Action Plan (Resource Allocation Standing Sub-Committee). Three standing subcommittees of the full committee will also meet on November 3, 1999, to continue working on issues discussed during the full committee session. All interested parties are welcome to attend the meeting and to submit written comments and suggestions concerning issues the Committee will review and discuss. A schedule of when issues are scheduled for discussion is available on the FSIS Homepage at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov>.

**DATES:** The full Committee will hold a public meeting on Wednesday and Thursday, November 3–4, 1999, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Subcommittees will hold public meetings on November 3, 1999, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The full Committee meeting will take place at the United States Department of Agriculture, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC in the Jefferson Room. The subcommittees will meet in the Adams, Roosevelt, and Washington Rooms of the Quality Hotel & Suites, Courthouse Plaza, 1200 North Courthouse Road, Arlington, Virginia 22201 (703) 524-4000. Send written comments to the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) Docket Clerk: Docket 99-044N, Room 102 Cotton Annex Building, 300 12th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20250. Comments may also be sent by facsimile (202) 205-0381. The comments and the official transcript of the meeting, when it becomes available, will be kept in the Docket Clerk's office at the address provided above.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Contact Michael N. Michelli at (202) 720-6269, FAX (202) 720-2345, or E-mail [michael.micchelli@usda.gov](mailto:michael.micchelli@usda.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Background**

On February 12, 1997, the Secretary of Agriculture renewed the charter for the Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspection. The Committee provides advice and recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture pertaining to Federal and State meat and

poultry inspection programs pursuant to sections 7(c), 24, 205, 301(a)(3), and 301(c) of the Federal Meat Inspection Act and sections 5(a)(3), 5(c), 8(b), and 11(e) of the Poultry Products Inspection Act. The Administrator of FSIS is the chairperson of the Committee. Membership of the Committee is drawn from representatives of consumer groups; producers, processors, and marketers from the meat and poultry industry; and State government officials. The current members of the National Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspection are: Terry Burkhardt, Wisconsin Bureau of Meat Safety and Inspection; Dr. James Denton, University of Arkansas; Caroline Smith-DeWaal, Center for Science in the Public Interest; Nancy Donley, Safe Tables Our Priority; Carol Tucker Foreman, Food Policy Institute, Consumer Federation of America; Dr. Cheryl Hall, Zacky Farms, Inc.; Kathleen Hanigan, Farmland Foods; Dr. Lee C. Jan, Texas Department of Health; Alice Johnson, National Turkey Federation; Dr. Collette Schultz Kaster, Premium Standard Farms; Dr. Daniel E. LaFontaine, South Carolina Meat-Poultry Inspection Department; Michael Mammaing, Iowa Department of Agriculture; Dr. Dale Morse, New York Office of Public Health; Rosemary Mucklow, National Meat Association; and Gary Weber, National Cattlemen's Beef Association. On September 20, 1999, the Secretary of Agriculture appointed two new members to the Committee: Donna Richardson, Howard University Cancer Center and Magdi Abadir, Cuisine Solutions.

The Committee has three standing subcommittees to deliberate on specific issues and make recommendations to the whole Committee and to the Secretary of Agriculture.

Members of the public will be required to register at the meeting. There is no pre-registration required. The meeting agenda will be available on the FSIS Homepage at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov>. Persons requiring a sign language interpreter or other special accommodations should notify Michael N. Michelli, by October 18, 1999.

**Additional Public Notification**

Pursuant to Department Regulation 4300-4, "Civil Rights Impact Analysis," dated September 22, 1993, FSIS has considered the potential civil rights impact of this public meeting on minorities, women, and persons with disabilities. FSIS anticipates that this public meeting will not have a negative or disproportionate impact on minorities, women, or persons with disabilities. However, public meetings generally are

designed to provide information and receive public comments on substantive issues which may lead to new or revised agency regulations or instructions. Public involvement in all segments of rulemaking and policy development are important. Consequently, in an effort to better ensure that minorities, women, and persons with disabilities are made aware of this public meeting and are informed about the mechanism for providing their comments, FSIS will announce it and provide copies of this **Federal Register** publication in the FSIS Constituent Update.

FSIS provides a weekly FSIS Constituent Update, which is communicated via fax to over 300 organizations and individuals. In addition, the update is available on line through the FSIS web page located at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov>. The update is used to provide information regarding FSIS policies, procedures, regulations, **Federal Register** Notices, FSIS public meetings, recalls, and any other types of information that could affect or would be of interest to our constituents/stakeholders. The constituent fax list consists of industry, trade, and farm groups, consumer interest groups, allied health professionals, scientific professionals and other individuals that have requested to be included. Through these various channels, FSIS is able to provide information with a much broader, more diverse audience. For more information and to be added to the constituent fax list, fax your request to the Office of Congressional and Public Affairs, at (202) 720-5704.

Done at Washington, DC on: October 5, 1999.

**Thomas J. Billy,**  
Administrator.

[FR Doc. 99-26559 Filed 10-8-99; 8:45 am]  
BILLING CODE 3410-DM-P

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**Forest Service**

**BHROWS (Big Game Habitat Restoration on a Watershed Scale) Project; Clearwater National Forest, Clearwater County, ID**

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA. As lead agency for this project, the Forest Service, with assistance from the Idaho State Department of Fish and Game, will cooperate with other Federal agencies, as well as County, State, and tribal governments who display an interest in the project, and who require assessment and concurrence.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS)