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[Notices]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Grain Inspection Packers and Stockyards Administration

Notice of Request for Extension of a Currently Approved
Information Collection

AGENCY: **Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, USDA.**

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), **Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA)** is announcing an opportunity for the public to comment on its intention to request an extension for a currently approved information collection, ``Guidelines for Preparation of Research Proposal.'' These guidelines provide instructions for submitting grant proposals requesting funds from GIPSA for research to develop procedures and equipment that may be used to measure grain quality.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by June 19, 1998 to be assured of consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Steve Tanner, Director, Technical Services Division, USDA, GIPSA, FGIS Technical Service Center, 10383 N Executive Hills Boulevard, Kansas City, MO 64153-1394; telephone (816-891-0401).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under Section 4a of the United States Grain Standards Act (USGSA; 7 U.S.C. 71 et seq.), GIPSA is responsible for establishing grain standards which accurately describe the quality of grain being traded and for applying these standards uniformly in a nationwide inspection system. Section 16e of the USGSA authorizes the agency to conduct a continuing research program for the purpose of developing methods to improve accuracy and uniformity in grading grain. To carry out this authority, GIPSA maintains an external research program under which research scientists are invited to submit research grant proposals that include the objectives of the proposed work; application of the proposed work to the grain inspection system; the procedures, equipment, personnel, etc., that will be used to reach the project objectives; the cost of the project; a schedule for completion; qualifications of the investigator and the grantee organization; and a listing of all other sources of financial support for the project. GIPSA utilizes the Guidelines for Preparation of Research Proposals to assist grant applicants with preparation of grant proposals.

Title: Guidelines for Preparation of Research Proposal.

OMB Number: 0580-0014.

Expiration Date of Approval: August 31, 1998.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: The Grain Inspection Packers and Stockyards Administration is interested in supporting research to develop procedures and equipment that may be used to measure grain quality. The Guidelines for Preparation of Research Proposal provides instructions for submitting grant proposals requesting funds from GIPSA for this purpose.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting for this collection of

information is estimated to average 20 hours per response.

Respondents: Organizations who employ scientists and engineers who do research and development on procedures and equipment which may be used to provide measurement of grain quality.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 3.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 60.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Cathy McDuffie, the Agency Support Services Specialist, at (301) 734-5190.

Comments

Comments are invited on: (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 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 forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to: Sharon Vassiliades, ARTS, GIPSA, USDA, STOP 3649, Washington, D.C. 20250-3649; fax 202 720-4628; e-mail svassili@gipsadc.usda.gov.

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

Dated: April 13, 1998.

James R. Baker,
Administrator, **Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration.**
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