Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for collecting information under this notice is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.

Respondents: Intermodal Marketing Companies.

Respondents: 23.

Estimated Number of Annual Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 23 hours.

Proposed topics for comment include: (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 collected; or (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of the 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. Comments regarding this information collection requirement should be directed to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503, and to Timothy P. Mehl, Chief, Planning and Analysis Division, Kansas City Commodity Office, 9200 Ward Parkway, Kansas City, Missouri 64114, telephone (816) 926–3536, fax (816) 926–6767.

All comments will become a matter of public record.

Signed at Washington, DC, on October 2, 1998.

Keith Kelly,

Executive Vice President, Commodity Credit Corporation.

[FR Doc. 98–27309 Filed 10–9–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–05–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Farm Service Agency

Notice of Request for Approval for a New Information Collection

AGENCY: Farm Service Agency, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the intention of Farm Service Agency (FSA) to request approval for the Crop Data Report Pilot Project. The purpose of this pilot project is to determine the feasibility of offering alternative methods of reporting crop and land use data. Producers will have the option of reporting by using the pilot option or by using the method currently in place nationwide.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received on or before December 14, 1998 to be assured consideration.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS: Contact Rebecca Davis, Production, Emergencies, and Compliance Division, USDA, FSA, STOP 0517, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250–0517, telephone number (202) 720–9882.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Crop Data Report Pilot Project.

OMB Control Number: New submission.

Type of Request: Approval of a new information collection.

Abstract: This pilot was developed in response to OMB requests to lessen crop data and land use reporting burden on producers. The Crop Data Report Pilot Project is comprised of four distinct options. These options are as follows:

(a) *Option 1:* The postcard mail-in certification option. This option allows producers to elect whether to report crops using mail, fax, or traditional in-office reporting methods. A postcard will be mailed to every producer in the county. Using information from the postcard, the producer can elect to participate in the mail-in certification option. Information will be collected from each producer using a prepared form (FSA–578, Report of Acreage new print option). This new print option will include the previous years information for the producer to use as a comparison for the current year and will be implemented in the following counties: O'Brien County, Iowa; Chenango County, New York; Yolo County, California; Grant County, Washington; Johnston County, North Carolina; and Orangeburg, South Carolina.

(b) *Option 2:* The lump sum report option. The purpose of Crop Data Report Option 2 is to determine whether FSA can maintain program integrity when producers report a minimum amount of crop and land data by mail. This option is also designed to test whether allowing producers to report a minimum amount of crop and land data by mail would ease reporting burden. A reporting package is mailed to all producers with cropland; including a new FSA–578L, Report of Acreage Supplemental and a cover letter. This new form, FSA–578L, requires the producer only to report crop, acres, owner, operator and shares, and planting date and is a drastic departure from FSA's historical collection of crop and land use data. While simplifying reporting and easing the burden on the producer, it would also in some cases require the collection of additional data at a later date. This option will be implemented in the following counties: Sherburne/Anoka/Hennepin Counties, Minnesota; Grant County, Wisconsin; Oxford County, Maine; Collin County, Texas; Seward County, Nebraska; and Pike/Bullock Counties, Alabama.

(c) *Option 3:* The total package mail option. This option of reporting crop and land data was derived to parallel reporting methods utilized by Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC). Information previously collected in the FSA–578, Report of Acreage, included information pertaining to FCIC such as crop code, actuarial data and ''T-area'' which has been made obsolete. A new print option will allow the system to print a slight deviation of the current FSA–578, Report of Acreage, to include the obsolete information. The new print option will still create an FSA–578, Report of Acreage, incorporating the FCIC data and will also include the data from previous years for comparison to assist in completing the current years report. This option will be implemented in the following counties: Scott County, Indiana; Wyoming County, New York; Republic County, Kansas; Willacy County, Texas; Osceola/Brevard/Orange Counties, Florida; and Grant County, North Dakota.

(d) *Option 4:* The mail-in aerial photocopy option. This option was developed to test the feasibility of collecting crop and land data from producers using aerial photos only. Producers will receive reporting packets that will contain copies of aerial photos of each tract operated by the producer and instructions for reporting crops. This option will test the ability of the county office staff to interpret the information from the aerial photographs and data load information into the automated FSA–578. This option will be implemented in the following counties: Branch County, Michigan; Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania; Cochise County, Arizona; Little River, Arkansas; Pointe Coupee Parish, Louisiana; and Converse County, Wyoming.

FSA's approach to collecting this information for all options is to collect only the information needed to support program eligibility and compliance requirements.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for Option 1 of this pilot project

is estimated to average .02 hours per response. Public reporting burden for Option 2 of this pilot project is estimated to average .10 hours per response.

Respondents: Individual producers.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 35,000.

Estimated Number of Responses Per Respondent: 4.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 5,550.

Burden hours for Options 3 and 4 have already been incorporated into the original OMB clearance package for acreage reporting. Those hours will not be increased or decreased for the purpose of this pilot project.

Proposed topics for comment include: (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 collected; or (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of the information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments should be sent to the Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, D.C. 20503, and to Rebecca Davis, Production, Emergencies, and Compliance Division, USDA, FSA, STOP 0517, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250–0517, (202) 720–9882. 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.

Signed at Washington, DC, on October 6, 1998.

Keith Kelly,

Administrator, Farm Service Agency.

[FR Doc. 98–27310 Filed 10–9–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–05–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. 98–055N]

Codex Alimentarius Commission: Meeting of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Under Secretary for Food Safety, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA); the Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA; Food and Drug Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; and the National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Department of Commerce, are sponsoring a public meeting on October 15, 1998, to provide information and receive public comments on agenda items that will be discussed at the Thirty-First Session of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene, which will be held in Orlando, Florida, October 26–30, 1998.

DATES: The public meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 15, 1998, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will be held in Room 5066–S, South Agriculture Building, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 14th Street and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250–3700.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Patrick J. Clerkin, U.S. Manager for Codex, U.S. Codex Office, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Room 4861, South Agriculture Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250–3700. Telephone: (202) 205–7760; Fax: (202) 720–3157.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex) was established in 1962 by two United Nations organizations, the Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Health Organization. Codex is the principal international organization for encouraging fair international trade in food and protecting the health and economic interests of consumers. Through adoption of food standards, codes of practice and other guidelines developed by its committees, and by promoting their adoption and implementation by governments, Codex seeks to ensure that the world's food supply is sound, wholesome, free from adulteration and correctly labeled.

The Codex Committee on Food Hygiene was established to draft basic provisions on food hygiene for all foods. The Government of the United States hosts this Committee and chairs the Committee meetings.

Issues To Be Discussed at the Public Meeting

The following specific issues will be discussed during the public meeting:

1. Report by the Secretariat on Matters Referred by the Codex Alimentarius Commission and/or Other Codex Committees to the Food Hygiene Committee, including the Proposed Draft Amendment to Section 6.12 of the General Principles of Food Hygiene *at Step 4.*	CX/FH 98/2
2. Proposed Draft Principles and Guidelines for the Conduct of Microbiological Risk Assessment *at Step 7*	CX/FH 98/3
3. Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for Bottled (Packaged) Drinking Waters (Other than Natural Mineral Water) *at Step 7.*	CX/FH 98/4
4. Proposed Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for Milk and Milk Products	CX/FH 98/5
—Government Comments at Step 3	CX/FH 98/5–Add. 1
5. Proposed Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for the Transport of Foodstuffs in Bulk and Semi-Packed Foodstuffs	CX/FH 98/6
—Government Comments at Step 3	CX/FH 98/6–Add. 1
6. Discussion Paper on the Proposed Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for Primary Production, Harvesting and Packaging of Fresh Product.	CX/FH 98/7
7. Discussion Paper on the Proposed Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for Pre-Cut Fruits and Vegetables	CX/FH 98/8
8. Discussion Paper on Proposed Draft Guidelines for Hygienic Recycling of Processing Water in Food Plants	CX/FH 98/9
9. Discussion Paper on Recommendations for the Management of Microbiological Hazards for Foods in International Trade.	CX/FH 98/10
10. Implications for Broader Application of the HACCP System	CX/FH 98/11
11. Discussion Paper on the Development of Risk-Based Guidance for the Use of HACCP-like Systems in Small Businesses, with Special Reference to Developing Countries.	CX/FH 98/12
12. The Implications of Regional Differences in the Prevalence of Foodborne Pathogens in the Management of Microbiological Hazards for Foods in International Trade.	CX/FH 98/13