

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Submission for OMB Review;
Comment Request**

November 15, 2011.

The Department of Agriculture has submitted the following information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. Comments regarding (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 to be collected; (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 should be addressed to: Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), *OIRA_Submission@OMB.EOP.GOV* or fax (202) 395-5806 and to Departmental Clearance Office, USDA, OCIO, Mail Stop 7602, Washington, DC 20250-7602. Comments regarding these information collections are best assured of having their full effect if received within 30 days of this notification. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling (202) 720-8958.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number and the agency informs potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information that such persons are not required to respond to the collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Food and Nutrition Service

Title: National School Lunch Program Direct Certification Improvement Study.
OMB Control Number: 0584-0529.

Summary of Collection: Direct certification enables children in households that receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or other public assistance program benefits to be certified to receive free school meals without application. The Child Nutrition and Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) Reauthorization Act

of 2004 (Pub. L. 108-265) required States and local education agencies to use direct certification. The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) issued a new guideline, effective for school year 2009-2010, that direct certification must apply to all students in the household, to the extent possible, if any household member receives SNAP, Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservation, or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families benefits.

Need and Use of the Information: In order for FNS to meet the study objectives, the project will include three data collection efforts: (1) A Web-based national survey of States and local nutrition program administration; (2) in-person interviews conducted with State and district-level staff responsible for direct certification in seven case study States; and (3) an exploration of unmatched SNAP participant records and National School Lunch Program application in case study States. If the data are not collected, FNS will not have the information it needs to address the study objectives.

Description of Respondents: State, Local, or Tribal Government.

Number of Respondents: 6,513.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Other (one-time).

Total Burden Hours: 3,728.

Ruth Brown,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

**Office of the Under Secretary,
Research, Education, and Economics;
Notice of the Advisory Committee on
Biotechnology and 21st Century
Agriculture Meeting**

AGENCY: Agricultural Research Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. 2, the United States Department of Agriculture announces a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Biotechnology and 21st Century Agriculture (AC21).

DATES: The meeting dates are December 6-7, 2011, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day.

ADDRESSES: Room 1107, U.S. Department of State, 2201 C Street NW., Washington, DC 20520.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael Schechtman, Designated Federal Official, Office of the Deputy

Secretary, USDA, 202B Jamie L. Whitten Federal Building, 12th and Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250; Telephone (202) 720-3817; Fax (202) 690-4265; Email *AC21@ars.usda.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The next meeting of the AC21 has been scheduled for December 6-7, 2011. The AC21 consists of members representing the biotechnology industry, the organic food industry, farming communities, the seed industry, food manufacturers, state government, consumer and community development groups, as well as academic researchers and a medical doctor. In addition, representatives from the Department of Commerce, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of State, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Council on Environmental Quality, and the Office of the United States Trade Representative have been invited to serve as "ex officio" members. The Committee meeting will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on each day. The topics to be discussed will include: (1) Considering reports of two working groups on their initial deliberations relating to size and scope of risks and to potential compensation mechanisms; (2) listening to presentations from outside experts on topics relevant to the work of the AC21; and (3) continuing overall discussions on the Committee charge and planning subsequent work.

Background information regarding the work and membership of the AC21 will be made available on the USDA Web site at <http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentid=AC21Main.xml&contentidonly=true>. Members of the public who wish to make oral statements should also inform Dr. Schechtman in writing or via Email at the indicated addresses at least three business days before the meeting. On December 6, 2011, if time permits, reasonable provision will be made for oral presentations of no more than five minutes each in duration.

The meeting will be open to the public, but space is limited and security requirements at the venue dictate that all attendees must be pre-registered for clearance in order to enter the building. If you would like to attend the meetings, you must register by contacting Ms. Dianne Fowler at (202) 720-4074 or by Email at *Dianne.fowler@ars.usda.gov* at least 7 days prior to the meeting. Please provide your name, title, business affiliation, address, telephone, fax number, date of birth, and identifying data (drivers license or passport number) when you register. If you are a person with a disability and request