agricultural commodities and products and provides grading and classing services to certify the quality or condition of products in marketing channels.

AMS provides oversight of federally sanctioned marketing orders and agreements and industry wide market research and promotion programs. In addition, the agency administers certain pesticide reporting requirements, compiles data concerning pesticide residues on certain products, and conducts or administers research and technical assistance programs to improve the efficiency of the marketing and transportation system and to identify new or expanding market opportunities for U.S. farmers and agribusiness.

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

The Rural Business-Cooperative Service promotes economic development in rural communities by financing needed facilities, assisting business development and rural cooperatives, and planning national strategies for rural economic development.

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration

The USDA Assistant Secretary for Administration provides leadership and oversight in acquisition, asset management, civil rights, internal energy conservation, and recycling. As the USDA Energy Management Executive and the Environmental Executive (dual assignment with the Under Secretary for Research, Education and Economics), the Deputy Assistant Secretary has responsibility for coordinating environmentally preferable and energy-efficient initiatives and serves as an advocate for coordination of these initiatives in USDA facilities and programs across the country.

2. Other Resources

Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998, Sec. 404 (7 U.S.C. 7624), provides authority to increase and coordinate biobased product activities in USDA.

Sustainable America, A New Consensus for Prosperity, Opportunity, and a Healthy Environment for the Future, President’s Council on Sustainable Development, Washington, D.C., 186 pp., 1996. Contains a national action strategy for sustainable development which includes actions to: (1) Diversify the mix of agricultural goods produced to enhance profitability and environmental quality; and (2) promote ongoing efforts to achieve sustainable forest management.

Strategic Direction for Biobased Products Work in USDA Through the Biobased Products Coordination Council (BPCC ), BPCC, Washington, DC, 16 pp, 1999. A plan to carry out programs to increase the domestic research, development and commercialization of biobased industrial and commercial products.


The National Research Council, Biobased Industrial Products, National Academy Press, Washington D.C. (In Press). Provides an analysis of the potential benefits of encouraging a transition to more biobased industrial products through future public policies. Biological sciences are likely to make the same impact on the formation of new industries in the next century as the physical and chemical sciences have had on industrial development throughout the century now coming to a close. The biological sciences, when combined with recent and future advances in process engineering, can become the foundation for producing a wide variety of industrial products from renewable plant resources. These “biobased industrial products” will include fuels, chemicals, lubricants, plastics, adhesives, and building materials. * * * The long-term growth of biobased industrial products will depend on development of cost-competitive technologies and access to diverse markets.

1995 Federal Research and Development Program in Materials Science and Technology, The Materials Technology Subcommittee of the National Science and Technology Council, Gaithersburg, MD, 1995. This report describes the materials R&D programs of nine Federal departments and agencies to facilitate collaboration among the public and private sector members of the broad materials R&D community.


Done at Washington, D.C., on this 10th day of August, 1999.

I. Miley Gonzalez,
Under Secretary, Research, Education and Extension.

[FR Doc. 99–21103 Filed 8–12–99; 8:45 am]

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 99–059–1]

Notice of Request for Extension of Approval of an Information Collection

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Extension of approval of an information collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service’s intention to request an extension of approval of an information collection in support of the regulations issued under the Animal Welfare Act for guinea pigs, hamsters, and rabbits.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by October 12, 1999 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: We invite you to comment regarding the accuracy of burden estimate, ways to minimize the burden (such as through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology), or any other aspect of this collection of information. Please send your comment and three copies to: Docket No. 99–059–1, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Suite 3C03, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737–1238.
The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public (as well as affected agencies) concerning our information collection. These comments will help us:

(1) Evaluate whether the proposed information collection is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(2) Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(3) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(4) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, through use, as appropriate, of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other collection technologies, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

The reporting and recordkeeping requirements of 9 CFR, part 3, subparts B & C, are necessary to enforce regulations intended to ensure the humane treatment of guinea pigs, hamsters, and rabbits during transportation in commerce. We are asking the Office of Management and Budget to approve the continued use of this information collection.

The above reporting and recordkeeping requirements do not mandate the use of any official government form. The burden generated by APHIS requirements that all shipping documents be attached to the container has been cleared by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under OMB No. 0579-0036. The reporting and recordkeeping requirements of 9 CFR, part 3, subparts B & C, are necessary to enforce regulations intended to ensure the humane treatment of guinea pigs, hamsters, and rabbits during transportation in commerce.

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