

Agency Retrospective Review Plan Report—May 2012—USDA

Agency/ Sub-agency	RIN/OMB Control No.	Title of Initiative/Rule/ICR	Brief Description	Actual or Target Completion Date	Anticipated savings in costs and /or information collection burdens	Progress updates and anticipated accomplishments	Notes
USDA – Food Safety							
Food Safety & Inspection Service (FSIS)	0583-AD39	Electronic Import Inspection and Certification of Imported Products and Foreign Establishments	This rule will amend import inspection regulations to provide for the electronic transmittal of foreign establishment certificates and foreign inspection certificates. FSIS will also propose to amend its regulations to give importers the option of submitting electronic import inspection applications.	Final rule to publish by 12/2012.	<p>The final rule, in conjunction with the Public Health Information System, will reduce the information collection burden on importers by approximately 10,000 hours.</p> <p>The electronic import system will also facilitate the import product foreign inspection and annual foreign establishment certifications by providing immediate and direct electronic government-to-government exchange of information; as well as exchange of information with the CBP system.</p> <p>The new business practice may be operational as early as March or April 2012, and the regulations will codify the changes.</p>	Proposed rule is expected to publish in 5/2012.	
FSIS	0583-AD41	Electronic Export Application and Certification Fee	The electronic export application and certification system will be a component of the Agency's Public Health Information System (PHIS). The export component of PHIS will be available as an alternative to the paper-based application and certification process.	Final rule to publish by 12/2012.	<p>The final rule is expected to reduce the information collection burden. Actual amount TBD.</p> <p>When an electronic government-to-government system interface or data exchange is used, fraudulent transactions', such as false alterations and reproductions will be significantly reduced, if not eliminated. Moreover, the workload of the inspection personnel is reduced through the elimination of physical handling and processing of applications and certificates, reducing a two step process to one step.</p>	Proposed rule published on January 23, 2012.	

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FSIS	0583-AC59	Prior Labeling Approval System: Generic Label Approval	This rulemaking will continue an effort initiated several years ago by amending FSIS' regulations to expand the types of labeling that are generically approved.	Final Rule to publish by 12/2012.	<p>The final rule is expected to reduce the information collection burden hours on industry by 31,091.</p> <p>The proposed rule would be beneficial because it would streamline the generic labeling process, while imposing no additional cost burden on establishments. Consumers would benefit because industry would have the ability to introduce products to the marketplace more quickly.</p> <p>Moreover, the change would make better use of FSIS resources because it would reduce the number of labels required to be reviewed by the Agency.</p>	Proposed rule published 12/2011; electronic system for label submission established in early 2012.	
FSIS	0583-AD32	Modernization of Poultry Slaughter inspection	This rule will modernize young chicken and turkey slaughter inspection in the United States by focusing FSIS inspection resources on the areas of the poultry production system that pose the greatest risk to food safety. The new inspection system will shift the responsibility for detecting visible carcass defects from FSIS inspectors to plant employees. FSIS will continue to conduct an on-line carcass-by-carcass inspection, but FSIS inspectors will be located further down the production line, where they will be presented with carcasses that have fewer defects to inspect.	Final rule to publish by 12/2012 with a 90-day implementation period. Plants will be allowed to opt in earlier. Rule to be implemented by 3/2013.	<p>The final rule will reduce costs by making better use of the Agency's inspection resources and improving the effectiveness of inspection systems. It is also expected to reduce the risk of foodborne illness in the United States and remove unnecessary barriers to innovation. The final rule will provide the framework for action to provide public health-based inspection in all establishments that slaughter amenable poultry species.</p> <p>FSIS expects the rule to help prevent an estimated 5,200 illnesses. The Agency expects the average net benefits to the public health, the poultry industry and consumers to be \$377.7 annually, with a range from \$325.8 million to \$442.7 million. Benefits include cost savings of \$258.9 million, FSIS projected budget savings of \$39.6 million, and public health benefits totaling \$79.2 million. Annual costs to establishments are \$20.3 million. Therefore, annual net benefits of this rule are an estimated \$357.4 million.</p>	Proposed rule was published January 27, 2012.	FSIS received requests for clarification on certain aspects of the proposal, the information was provided and the public comment period was extended until May 29, 2012.

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USDA – National Resources and Environment							
Forest Service(FS)	0596-AD01	National Environmental Policy Act Efficiencies	The Forest Service is proposing to develop and provide notice and comment on the addition of new categorical exclusions (CEs) to its NEPA Regulations. These CEs, designed to expedite landscape restoration activities on National Forests, Grasslands, and Prairies, will supplement existing Agency categorical exclusions found in 36 CFR part 220.6	Final Rule to publish by 10/2012.	Categorical exclusions will reduce cost and time commitment burden on the Agency without reducing environmental protection.	Proposed rule is expected to publish 7/2012.	
USDA – Rural Development							
Rural Business Services (RBS)	0570-AA76 0570-0050 0570-0061 0570-0059	Rural Energy America Program	The rule proposes to change the RES and EEI grant application requirements to reduce burden and streamline the application process by requesting documentation for a complete application based on total project costs.	Final Rule to publish by 9/2013.	The final rule is expected to reduce the information collection burden by approximately 100,000 hours per year, or about 30 percent of the current effort required under the Interim Rule. This reduction is achieved most notably in RES/EEI grant portion of the rule in the following areas: estimated 20 percent reduction in the number of hours it takes to complete a technical report for those applications for projects with total project costs (TPC) of more than \$80,000 to \$200,000; the elimination of a technical report for those applications for projects with TPC of \$80,000 or less; and a 50 percent reduction in the number of hours it takes to complete the narrative portion of an application.	Proposed rule is currently in Departmental clearance and expected to publish 8/2012.	

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RBS	0570-AA85	Business and Industry Loan Guaranteed Program	The proposed rule will alter the way RBS services the loan guarantees making the program operate at a lower cost	Final rule to be published by 9/2013.	Estimated reduction in burden by approximately 3,000 hours or slightly less than 10 percent of the current burden estimate for the rule.	Proposed rule is expected to publish 8/2012.	
Rural Housing Service	0575-AC91	Community Facilities Loan and Grants	Update program operation in an effort to consolidate, streamline, and simplify existing processes.	Final Rule to publish in 2/2013.	The agency is aligning its application requirements with the lending industry. As such, approximately 90 applicants each year would not be required to provide an examination opinion, which averages about \$45,000 each. Hence, this change will save the public approximately \$4 million a year.	Proposed rule is expected to publish 9/2012.	
USDA – Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services							
Food & Nutrition Service (FNS)	0584-AD87	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP): Eligibility, Certification, and Employment and Training Provisions	FNS is proposing to allow additional administrative options for States to use telephone interviews and telephonic and electronic signature in certifying clients for the SNAP programs. The proposed change, which has been authorized by USDA in many States under program waivers, will be integrated in regulation pursuant to the 2008 Farm Bill.	Final rule is expected to be published by 12/2012.	Reduction in burden for SNAP applicant households is about 20.7 million hours. Permitting households to fulfill the interview requirement without the need to visit the local SNAP office reduces transportation costs and potential loss of wages for households, and reducing burden for State SNAP agencies that administer the program.	Proposed rule published 5/2011.	
FNS	0584-AD60	Direct and Discretionary Certification in the School Meals Programs	Requiring local educational agencies to conduct direct certification in conjunction with the SNAP. Under the direct certification process, a local educational agency obtains documentation of a child's receipt of SNAP benefits.	Effective in the 2011-2012 school year.	Reduction in burden hours for program participants is roughly 113,000 hours per year.	Interim rule published 4/2011; effective in the coming school year (2011-12).	

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USDA – Farm & Foreign Agricultural Services							
Farm Service Agency	0563-New	Acreage and Crop Reporting Streamlining Initiative	To improve and streamline the existing information collection activities currently approved by OMB by eliminating or minimizing the duplication of information collected by each of the agencies	Implementation is to be conducted in phases with the first phase occurring in selected counties in Kansas.	The final rule is expected to reduce the information collection burden. Actual amount TBD.	OMB cleared the information collection on March 23, 2012.	
USDA – Marketing & Regulatory Programs							
Animal Plant Health & Inspection Service (APHIS)	0579–AD23 0579-AC02 Plus the various OMB Control Numbers related to the collections that will be part of CARPOL	Certification, Accreditation, Registration, Permits, and other Licenses (CARPOL)	APHIS is creating a new electronic system to replace its ePermits system that will integrate programs/processes that are currently not electronic and/or part of a consolidated system. The CARPOL system will streamline all certification, accreditation, registration, permitting, and other license processes across APHIS and will communicate with other systems.	The Target Completion Date is 12/2014; however, this will be an ongoing initiative.	APHIS anticipates both savings in cost and information collection burdens for APHIS and the public. The affected publics would be State, Local, and Tribal Governments; Businesses and Other For- Profits (small entities included); Not-for-Profits; Farms; Individuals and Households; and Foreign Federal Governments.	The Assessment of business practices will be completed by September 2012, which will better identify exactly what data will enter the system and how much time and money can be saved as a result.	Once the Assessment is complete, APHIS will have a much better idea of the positive impact of this new system.

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APHIS	0579-0007, 0579-0047, 0579- 0070/0137, 0579-0101, 0579-0127, 0579-0137, 0579-0146, 0579-0148, 0579-0185, 0579-0189, 0579-0192, 0579-0324, 0579-0338, 0579-0367	Animal Disease Testing and Animal Traceability via Mobile Information Management (MIM) Technology	MIM technology uses devices similar to tablets and PDAs to allow officials to wave a wand in front of an animal and read the animal's identification number. The MIM device can record test results, print labels with all necessary information for test tubes to be submitted to a lab, and can file and store this information. When samples are submitted to a lab, the lab can transmit the test results to the appropriate official to take immediate action. This reduces the amount of time spent waiting for results and the cost of mailing or transporting the results from the lab to the official.	APHIS plans to add devices and increase the functionality of the devices as necessary.	APHIS estimates that 136,400 hours (128,412 hours for Business –mostly small business) (7,979 hours for State, Local, and Tribal Governments) could be saved each year.	There are 896,000+ unique AIN/RFID tags and 576,000 unique USDA metal tags now in use. APHIS Accredited Veterinarians in Michigan, California, Montana, Ohio, Kansas, Colorado, and New Mexico have started to use the MIM technology for cattle, and 1.4 million unique animal sightings have been uploaded into the MIM repository. In Pennsylvania, Maine, and Texas, APHIS uses MIM technology to record animals that are exported as well as those rejected for export at the port.	