

The production of distillers' grains has continued to grow in recent years concurrent with increased ethanol production. GIPSA will broadly refer to "distillers' grains" as being any of the plethora of co-products generated by dry-mill ethanol plants, including distillers' wet grains (DWG), distillers' dried grains (DDG), distillers' wet grains with solubles (DWGS), distillers' dried grains with solubles (DDGS), and condensed distillers' solubles (CDS), unless otherwise specified. According to USDA's Economic Research Service, the United States produced an estimated 44.6 million metric tons of DDGS in the 2014/15 crop year, compared to 12.4 million metric tons of DDGS in 2006/07, when GIPSA's previous ANPR was first published. Increasing supply, two years of higher prices for competing feeds (soybean meal and corn), and successful foreign market development efforts by USDA and trade associations have led to a surge in DDGS exports from the United States. Exports now constitute nearly 25 percent of domestic DDGS production, totaling 11.0 million metric tons in the 2014/15 crop year, compared to exports of only 14.5 percent of production, totaling 1.8 million metric tons in 2006/07.

In order for U.S. standards and grading procedures to remain relevant, GIPSA is issuing this Request for Information to invite interested parties to submit comments, ideas, and recommendations on GIPSA's role in the marketing of grain, oilseeds, and related agricultural products, including distillers' grains. All interested persons are specifically encouraged to comment on the following issues related to this notice:

1. Are there any market-identified quality attributes that GIPSA does not currently describe (or provide testing) that would facilitate the marketing of grain, oilseeds, and related products?
2. What role should GIPSA take, if any, in standardizing the testing of inputs and outputs of ethanol co-product processing? Has anything changed in the marketing of ethanol and ethanol co-products since GIPSA's last ANPR in 2007 related to standardization, product description, or quality assessment?
3. Are there any other services that GIPSA could offer to facilitate the marketing of grain, oilseeds, or related products?

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 71–87K; 7 U.S.C. 1621–1638D

Larry Mitchell,

Administrator, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

National Agricultural Statistics Service

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

January 13, 2016.

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 are requested regarding: (1) 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; (2) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; (4) 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.

Comments regarding this information collection received by February 18, 2016 will be considered. Written comments should be addressed to: Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), New Executive Office Building, 725–17th Street NW., Washington, DC, 20503. Commenters are encouraged to submit their comments to OMB via email to: OIRA_Submission@omb.eop.gov or fax (202) 395–5806 and to Departmental Clearance Office, USDA, OCIO, Mail Stop 7602, Washington, DC 20250–7602. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling (202) 720–8681.

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.

National Agricultural Statistics Service

Title: Local Food Marketing Practices Survey

OMB Control Number: 0535–NEW

Summary of Collection: Data will be collected under the authority of 7 U.S.C. 2204(a). Section 10016(a)(1)(A) of the 2014 Farm Bill (Public Law 113–79) directs the Department of Agriculture (USDA) to collect data on "the production and marketing of locally or regionally produced agricultural food products," while Section 10016(b)(2) requires USDA to "conduct surveys and analysis and publish reports relating to the production, handling, distribution, retail sales, and trend studies. . . of or on locally or regionally produced agricultural food products." The survey will gather data on production, risk management, and marketing practices. Contingent upon the availability of funding, the Local Foods Survey will be a Census follow-on-survey.

Need and Use of the Information: A growing interest in support of local agricultural economies through the purchase of foods from sources that are geographically close to the consuming areas, via channels that are direct from farm to consumer or at most one step removed. The institution of the USDA Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food Initiative was designed to eliminate organizational barriers to improve coordination and availability of resources for the promotion of local food systems. The primary purpose of the survey is to produce benchmark statistics on the number of operations that produce local foods, the value of local foods sales (in total and by specific marketing channel), and marketing practices and expenses. Farms in all 50 states will be asked to provide these data. Statistics from this survey will be used by state agencies to better understand, support, and promote their local food markets, as well as by researchers studying local foods.

Description of Respondents: Farmers and Ranchers.

Number of Respondents: 28,000.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Annually.

Total Burden Hours: 21,000.

Charlene Parker,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

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