DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Marketing Service

[Doc. No. AMS–SC–17–0004]

Christmas Tree Promotion, Research, and Information Order; Request for Extension and Revision of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this document announces the Agricultural Marketing Service’s (AMS) intention to request approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). AMS requests an extension of and revision to the currently approved information collection 0581–0268 the Christmas Tree Promotion, Research and Information Order (Order).

DATES: Comments must be received by May 8, 2017.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments concerning this notice. Comments should be submitted on the Internet at http://www.regulations.gov or to Promotion and Economics Division, Specialty Crops Program, AMS, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Stop 0244, Room 1406–S, Washington, DC 20250–0244. All comments should reference the document number, the date and the page number of this issue of the Federal Register and will be made available for public inspection in the above office during regular business hours or at http://www.regulations.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Marlene Betts at the above address, by telephone at (202) 720–9915, or by email at Marlene.Betts@ams.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Christmas Tree Promotion, Research, and Information Order (Order).

OMB Number: 0581–0268.

Expiration Date of Approval: July 31, 2017.

Type of Request: Extension and Revision of a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: The Christmas Tree Promotion, Research, and Information program was created to help strengthen the position of Christmas trees in the marketplace, and maintain, develop, and expand markets for Christmas trees in the United States. The Order (7 CFR part 1214) is authorized under the Commodity Promotion, Research, and Information Act of 1996 (1996 Act) (7 U.S.C. 7411–7425).

The Order was implemented on November 2011, and immediately stayed. The stay was lifted on April 7, 2014, in accordance with the provisions of the Agriculture Act of 2014 (2014 Farm Bill). Currently, the Christmas tree program is being administered by the Christmas Tree Promotion Board (Board) appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture and financed by a mandatory assessment on producers and importers of fresh cut Christmas trees. The assessment rate is 0.15 per Christmas tree cut and sold domestically or imported into the United States. The program provides for an exemption for producers and importers that cut and sell or import fewer than 500 Christmas trees annually. In 2018, a referendum will be held among eligible producers and importers to determine whether they favor continuation of the program. The information collection requirements in this request are essential to carry out the intent of the Order and the 1996 Act. The objective in carrying out this responsibility includes assuring the following: (1) Funds are collected and properly accounted for; (2) expenditures of all funds are for the purposes authorized by the 1996 Act and Order; and (3) the board’s administration of the programs conforms to USDA policy.

The Order’s provisions have been carefully reviewed, and every effort has been made to minimize any unnecessary recordkeeping costs or requirements, including efforts to utilize information already submitted under other Christmas tree programs administered by USDA and other State programs.

The forms covered under this collection require the minimum information necessary to effectively carry out the requirements of the program. Such information can be supplied without data processing equipment or outside technical expertise. In addition, there are no additional training requirements for individuals filing out reports and remitting assessments to the Board. The forms are simple, easy to understand, and place as small a burden as possible on the person required to file the information.

Collecting information yearly would coincide with normal industry business practices. The timing and frequency of collecting information are intended to meet the needs of the industry while minimizing the amount of work necessary to fill out the required reports. The requirement to keep records for two years beyond the fiscal period of their applicability is consistent with normal industry practices. In addition, the information to be included on these forms is not available from other sources because such information relates specifically to individual producers and importers who will be subject to the provisions of the Order and 1996 Act. Therefore, there is no practical method for collecting the required information without the use of these forms.

AMS is committed to complying with the E-Government Act, which requires Government agencies in general to provide the public the option of submitting information or transacting business electronically to the maximum extent possible.

Estimate of Burden: Public recordkeeping burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 0.398 hour per response.

Respondents: Producers and importers.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 12,455.

Estimated Total Annual Responses: 26,885.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 2.16.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 10,701 hours.

Comments are invited on: (1) Whether the proposed 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 the burden of the proposed collection of information including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

All responses to this document will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record.

Authority: 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35.
**COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS**

**Notice of Public Meeting of the Tennessee Advisory Committee**

**AGENCY:** U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights (Commission) and the Federal Advisory Committee Act that the Tennessee Advisory Committee will hold a meeting on Wednesday, March 29, 2017 for discussing potential project/hearing locations.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 29, 2017 12:30 p.m. EST.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be by teleconference. Toll-free call-in number: 877–795–3610, conference ID: 6858129.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jeff Hinton, DFO, at jhinton@usccr.gov or 404–562–7006.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Members of the public can listen to the discussion. This meeting is available to the public through the following toll-free call-in number: 877–795–3610, conference ID: 6858129. Any interested member of the public may call this number and listen to the meeting.

Callers can expect to incur charges for calls they initiate over wireless lines, and the Commission will not refund any incurred charges. Callers will incur no charge for calls they initiate over landline connections to the toll-free telephone number. Persons with hearing impairments may also follow the proceedings by first calling the Federal Relay Service at 1–800–977–8339 and providing the Service with the conference call number and conference ID number.

Members of the public are also entitled to submit written comments; the comments must be received in the regional office within 30 days following the meeting. Written comments may be mailed to the Midwestern Regional Office, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, 55 W. Monroe St., Suite 410, Chicago, IL 60615. They may also be faxed to the Commission at (312) 353–8324, or emailed to Carolyn Allen at callen@usccr.gov. Persons who desire additional information may contact the Midwestern Regional Office at (312) 353–8311.

Records generated from this meeting may be inspected and reproduced at the Southern Regional Office, as they become available, both before and after the meeting. Records of the meeting will be available via www.facadatabase.gov under the Commission on Civil Rights, Tennessee Advisory Committee link. Persons interested in the work of this Committee are directed to the Commission’s Web site, http://www.usccr.gov, or may contact the Southern Regional Office at the above email or street address.

**Agenda**

Welcome and Call to Order
Diane DiIanni, Tennessee SAC Chairman
Jeff Hinton, Regional Director
Regional Update—Jeff Hinton
New Business: Discussion of Project Proposal/Hearing Locations:
Diane DiIanni, Tennessee SAC Chairman/Staff/Advisory Committee
Public Participation
Adjournment

**COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS**

**Notice of Public Meeting of the Iowa Advisory Committee To Discuss Civil Rights Topics in the State**

**AGENCY:** U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

**ACTION:** Announcement of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights (Commission) and the Federal Advisory Committee Act that the Iowa Advisory Committee (Committee) will hold a meeting on Wednesday, March 22, 2017, at 1:00 p.m. CST for the purpose of a discussion on civil rights topics affecting the state.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 22, 2017, at 1:00 p.m. CST.

**PUBLIC CALL INFORMATION:** Dial 888–684–1262, Conference ID: 8293372.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** David Barreras, DFO, at dbarreras@usccr.gov or 312–353–8311.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Members of the public can listen to the discussion. This meeting is available to the public through the following toll-free call-in number: 888–684–1262, conference ID: 8293372. Any interested member of the public may call this number and listen to the meeting. An open comment period will be provided to allow members of the public to make a statement as time allows. The conference call operator will ask callers to identify themselves, the organization they are affiliated with (if any), and an email address prior to placing callers into the conference room. Callers can expect to incur regular charges for calls they initiate over wireless lines, according to their wireless plan. The Commission will not refund any incurred charges. Callers will incur no charge for calls they initiate over landline connections to the toll-free telephone number. Persons with hearing impairments may also follow the proceedings by first calling the Federal Relay Service at 1–800–977–8339 and providing the Service with the conference call number and conference ID number.

Members of the public are also entitled to submit written comments; the comments must be received in the regional office within 30 days following the meeting. Written comments may be mailed to the Midwestern Regional Office, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, 55 W. Monroe St., Suite 410, Chicago, IL 60615. They may also be faxed to the Commission at (312) 353–8324, or emailed to Carolyn Allen at callen@usccr.gov. Persons who desire additional information may contact the Midwestern Regional Office at (312) 353–8311.

Records generated from this meeting may be inspected and reproduced at the Midwestern Regional Office, as they become available, both before and after the meeting. Records of the meeting will be available via www.facadatabase.gov under the Commission on Civil Rights, Iowa Advisory Committee link: http://www.facadatabase.gov/committee/ meetings.aspx?cid=248. Persons interested in the work of this Committee are directed to the Commission’s Web site, http://www.usccr.gov, or may contact the Midwestern Regional Office at the above email or street address.

**Agenda**

Welcome
Civil Rights Topics in Iowa
Public Comment
Future Plans and Actions: Civil Rights in Iowa
Adjournment