

Notices

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Doc. No. AMS-ST-26-1717]

Notice of Request for Extension 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 notice announces the Agricultural Marketing Service's (AMS) intention to request approval from the Office of Management and Budget for an extension of, and revision to, the currently approved information collection, "Country of Origin Labeling."

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by November 10, 2026 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments concerning this notice by using the electronic process available at <http://www.regulations.gov>. Comments may also be filed with the Docket Clerk, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Room 2069-South, Washington, DC 20250; or by fax: (202) 260-8369. All comments should reference the docket number AMS-ST-26-1717, the date, and the page number of this issue of the **Federal Register**. All comments submitted in response to this notice will be posted without change, including any personal information provided, at <http://www.regulations.gov> and will be included in the record and made available to the public.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Fiona Pexton, Acting Director, Labeling and Compliance Division, Science & Technology Program, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Ave.

SW, Washington, DC 20250; telephone: (202) 720-4486; email: cool@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Title:

Country of Origin Labeling.

OMB Number: 0581-0250.

Expiration Date of Approval: December 30, 2026.

Type of Request: Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection.

Abstract: The 2002 (Pub. L. 107-171) and 2008 (Pub. L. 110-234) Farm Bills and the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016 (Pub. L. 114-113), amended the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to require retailers to notify their customers of the country of origin of muscle cuts and ground lamb, chicken, and goat meat; wild and farm-raised fish and shellfish; perishable agricultural commodities; peanuts, pecans, and macadamia nuts; and ginseng. An interim final rule for mandatory Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) for fish and shellfish became effective on April 4, 2005. An interim final rule for the remaining covered commodities became effective on September 30, 2008. On January 15, 2009, a final rule was published for all covered commodities which became effective March 16, 2009. On May 23, 2013, a final rule was published to amend the definition of retailer and labeling requirements for meat muscle cut commodities derived from animals slaughtered in the United States. With the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016, Congress amended the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to remove muscle cut beef and pork, and ground beef and pork commodities from COOL requirements. On March 2, 2016, AMS issued a final rule to remove mandatory COOL requirements for beef, pork, ground beef and ground pork to conform with the statute. Mandatory COOL requirements remain in full force and effect for all remaining covered commodities. Enforcement activities have been conducted since 2006 utilizing cooperative agreements established with State agencies as authorized by the statute. The previously approved information collection request expires on December 30, 2026.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for recordkeeping storage and maintenance is estimated to average 56.9 hours per response.

Recordkeepers: Importers, food manufacturers, and food retailers.

Estimated Number of Recordkeepers: 349,598.

Estimated Total Annual Responses: 349,598.

Estimated Number of Responses per Recordkeeper: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 19,879,947 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 notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record. All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record.

Melissa Bailey,

Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 2026-18562 Filed 9-10-26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Doc. No. AMS-SC-26-1156]

Avocados Grown in South Florida; Continuance Referendum

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Referendum order.

SUMMARY: This document directs that a referendum be conducted among eligible Florida avocado growers to determine whether they favor continuance of the marketing order regulating the handling of avocados grown in South Florida.

DATES: The referendum will be conducted from September 21 through October 13, 2026. Only current Florida avocado growers who have grown avocados for market within the marketing order's production area during the period of April 1, 2025, through March 31, 2026, are eligible to vote in this referendum. Ballots delivered to AMS via U.S. mail or electronic ballot must show proof of delivery by no later than 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on October 13, 2026, to be included in the vote tabulation.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the marketing order may be obtained from the Southeast Region Branch, Market Development Division, Specialty Crops Program, AMS, USDA, 1124 1st Street South, Winter Haven, FL 33880; telephone: (863) 324-3375; or from the Docket Clerk, Market Development Division, Specialty Crops Program, AMS, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, STOP 0237, Washington, DC 20250-0237; telephone (202) 720-8085; or on the internet: <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-7/subtitle-B/chapter-IX/part-915>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Steven Kauffman, Marketing Specialist, or Christian D. Nissen, Branch Chief, Southeast Region Branch, Market Development Division, Specialty Crops Program, AMS, USDA, 1124 1st Street South, Winter Haven, FL 33880; telephone: (863) 324-3375; or email: Steven.Kauffman@usda.gov or Christian.Nissen@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to Marketing Order No. 915, as amended (7 CFR part 915) (the Order), and the applicable provisions of the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, as amended (7 U.S.C. 601-674) (the Act), it is hereby directed that a referendum be conducted to ascertain whether continuance of the Order is favored by Florida avocado growers. The referendum will be conducted from September 21 through October 13, 2026, among Florida avocado growers in the Order's production area. Only current Florida avocado growers that were engaged in the production of avocados for market during the period of April 1, 2025, through March 31, 2026, may participate in the continuance referendum.

USDA has determined that continuance referenda are an effective means for determining whether growers favor the continuation of marketing order programs. In accordance with § 915.64(d), USDA must conduct a referendum every six years. USDA would consider termination of the Order if continuance is not favored by at least

two-thirds of the producers voting in the referendum, or at least two-thirds of the volume represented in the referendum. In evaluating the merits of continuance versus termination, USDA will not exclusively consider the results of the continuance referendum. USDA will also consider all other relevant information concerning the operation of the Order and relative benefits and costs to growers, handlers, and consumers to determine whether continued operation of the Order would tend to effectuate the declared policy of the Act.

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. chapter 35), the ballot materials used in the referendum have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and have been assigned OMB No. 0581-0189, Fruit Crops. It has been estimated that it will take an average of 20 minutes for each of the approximately 200 South Florida avocado growers to cast a ballot. Participation is voluntary. Ballots delivered to AMS via U.S. mail or electronic ballot must show proof of delivery by no later than 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on October 13, 2026, to be included in the vote tabulation.

Steven Kauffman, Delaney Fuhrmeister, Rebecca Geller, Jennie Varela, and Christian D. Nissen of the Southeast Region Branch, Specialty Crops Program, AMS, USDA, are hereby designated as the referendum agents of the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct this referendum. The procedure applicable to the referendum shall be the "Procedure for the Conduct of Referenda in Connection with Marketing Orders for Fruits, Vegetables, and Nuts Pursuant to the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, as Amended" (7 CFR 900.400 *et seq.*).

Ballots and voting instructions will be sent by U.S. mail or through electronic mail to all Florida avocado growers of record and may also be obtained from the referendum agents or their appointees.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 601-674.

Erin Morris,

Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 2026-18587 Filed 9-10-26; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

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: 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; the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and 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 and other forms of information technology.

Comments regarding this information collection received by October 13, 2026 will be considered. Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be submitted within 30 days of the publication of this notice on the following website www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain. Find this particular information collection by selecting "Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments" or by using the search function.

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.

Forest Service

Title: Grazing Permit Administration Forms.

OMB Control Number: 0596-0003.

Summary of Collection: Annually, livestock grazing occurs on approximately 94 million acres of National Forest Service (NFS) lands. This grazing is subject to authorization and administrative oversight by the Forest Service (FS). The information is required for the issuance and administration of grazing permits, including fee collections, on NFS land as authorized by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act 1976, as amended, and subsequent Secretary of Agriculture Regulation 5 U.S.C. 301, 36 CFR 222, subparts A and C. The bills for collection of grazing fees are based on the number of domestic livestock grazed on national forest lands and are a direct result of issuance of the grazing permit. Information must be collected on an