



## **DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**

### **Employment and Training Administration**

#### **Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request; National Agricultural Workers Survey**

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Labor’s (DOL’s) Employment and Training Administration (ETA) is soliciting comments concerning a proposed revision for the authority to conduct the information collection request (ICR) titled, “National Agricultural Workers Survey.” This comment request is part of continuing Departmental efforts to reduce paperwork and respondent burden in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA).

**DATES:** Consideration will be given to all written comments received by [INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

**ADDRESSES:** A copy of this ICR with applicable supporting documentation, including a description of the likely respondents, proposed frequency of response, and estimated total burden, may be obtained free by contacting Mr. Daniel Carroll by telephone at 202-693-2795 (this is not a toll-free number) or by email at [carroll.daniel.j@dol.gov](mailto:carroll.daniel.j@dol.gov). For persons with a hearing or speech disability who need assistance to use the telephone system, please dial 711 to access telecommunications relay services.

Submit written comments about, or requests for a copy of, this ICR by mail or courier to the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, Office of Policy Development and Research, Room N-5641, 200 Constitution Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20210; by email: [carroll.daniel.j@dol.gov](mailto:carroll.daniel.j@dol.gov); or by Fax 202-693-2766.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Wayne Gordon by telephone at 202-693-3179 (this is not a toll-free number) or by email at [gordon.wayne@dol.gov](mailto:gordon.wayne@dol.gov).

**AUTHORITY:** 44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** DOL, as part of continuing efforts to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, conducts a pre-clearance consultation program to provide the general public and Federal agencies an opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing collections of information before submitting them to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for final approval. This program helps to ensure requested data can be provided in the desired format, reporting burden (time and financial resources) is minimized, collection instruments are clearly understood, and the impact of collection requirements can be properly assessed.

The National Agricultural Workers Survey (NAWS) is an employment-based, annual survey of the demographic, employment, and health characteristics of hired crop workers, including those who employers hire indirectly through labor contractors. The survey began in 1988. It is distinct from other farm labor information sources, such as the United States Department of Agriculture's Farm Labor Survey, in that it collects information directly from crop workers. Each year the NAWS contractor interviews between 1,500 and 3,500 crop workers. The contractor interviews crop workers three times per year to account for the seasonality of agricultural employment. ETA uses NAWS data to estimate each state's share of crop workers who are eligible for employment and training services through ETA's National Farmworker Jobs Program. Other Federal agencies similarly use the survey's data to estimate the number and characteristics of crop workers and their dependents who qualify to participate in or receive services from various migrant and seasonal farmworker programs. The United States Department of Agriculture periodically uses NAWS data, along with other data, to estimate changes in agricultural productivity.

ETA is seeking approval to modify a currently approved collection. This request is to include H-2A crop workers in the survey population, combine separate questions on race and ethnicity into one question, in conformance with the new OMB Standard for race and ethnicity, and add new questions to the survey on foodborne illness, heat illness, and precision agriculture.

In reference to the job site, questions on foodborne illness will gather information on:

- Food safety training and practices
- Use and type of food storage vessels
- Provision of toilets and hand-cleaning facilities
- Occurrence of discharge in the field/open air

Questions on heat-related illness will gather information on:

- The prevalence and incidence of heat stress
- The prevalence of reporting severe symptoms to the employer
- Heat stress interventions at the job site
- Employer provision of heat-related safety training
- Employer provision of an acclimatization period during extremely high temperatures

A question on precision agriculture will ask about the types of technology that crop workers use or interact with at the work site while performing agricultural tasks (e.g., GPS-enabled devices, internet-enabled devices, task automation).

The Wagner-Peyser Act, as amended (29 U.S.C. 49f (d) and 491-2(a)) authorizes this information collection.

This information collection is subject to the PRA. A Federal agency generally cannot conduct or sponsor a collection of information, and the public is generally not required to respond to an information collection, unless it is approved by OMB under the PRA and displays a currently valid OMB Control Number. In addition, notwithstanding

any other provisions of law, no person shall generally be subject to penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information that does not display a valid Control Number. See 5 CFR 1320.5(a) and 1320.6.

Interested parties are encouraged to provide comments to the contact shown in the ADDRESSES section. To receive consideration, you must provide written comments, which DOL will summarize and include in the request for OMB approval of the final ICR. To help ensure appropriate consideration, comments should mention OMB Control No. 1205-0453.

Submitted comments will also be a matter of public record for this ICR and posted on the Internet, without redaction. DOL encourages commenters not to include personally identifiable information, confidential business data, or other sensitive statements/information in any comments.

DOL is particularly interested in comments that:

- Evaluate 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;
- Evaluate 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;
- Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- 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, (e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses).

*Agency:* DOL-ETA.

*Type of Review:* Revision.

*Title of Collection:* National Agricultural Workers Survey.

*Form:* Primary Questionnaire.

*OMB Control Number:* 1205-0453.

*Affected Public:* Individuals and Households, Private Sector.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 3,594.

*Frequency:* Annual.

*Total Estimated Annual Responses:* 3,594.

*Estimated Average Time per Response:* 41 minutes.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 1,289 hours.

*Total Estimated Annual Other Cost Burden:* \$0.

**José Javier Rodríguez,**

*Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training, Labor.*

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