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Notices

Federal Register

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.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Office of the Secretary

Privacy Act of 1974; Revision of System of Records

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Revision of an Existing Privacy Act System of Records.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a(e)(11)), the Department of Agriculture (USDA) is issuing notice of our intent to amend the system of records entitled the Personnel and Payroll System for USDA Employees, USDA/OP-1, to include a new routine use. The disclosure is required by the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (Pub. L. 104-193). We invite public comment on this publication.

DATES: Persons wishing to comment on the proposed routine use must do so by 30 days from date of publication. (February 27, 1998).

EFFECTIVE DATE: The proposed routine use will become effective as proposed without further notice 45 days from date of publication (March 16, 1998), unless comments dictate otherwise.

ADDRESSES: Interested individuals may comment on this publication by writing to Joan Golden, Room 341-W Jamie L. Whitten Federal Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250, by fax to (202) 720-8721, or by email to joan.golden@usda.gov. All comments received will be available for public inspection at that address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Evelyn Davis, Room 43-W Jamie L. Whitten Federal Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250, (202) 720-7765, (202) 690-4728 (Fax).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to Pub. L. 104-193, the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, USDA will disclose data from its Personnel and Payroll System for USDA Employees system of records to the Office of Child Support Enforcement, Administration for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services for use in the National Database of New Hires, part of the Federal Parent Locator Service (FPLS) and Federal Tax Offset System, DHHS/OCSE No. 09-90-0074. A description of the Federal Parent Locator Service may be found at 62 FR 51663 (October 2, 1997).

FPLS is a computerized network through which States may request location information from Federal and State agencies to find non-custodial parents and their employers for purposes of establishing paternity and securing support. On October 1, 1997, the FPLS was expanded to include the National Directory of New Hires, a database containing employment information on employees recently hired, quarterly wage data on private and public sector employees, and information on unemployment compensation benefits. On October 1, 1998, the FPLS will be expanded further to include a Federal Case Registry. The Federal Case Registry will contain abstracts on all participants involved in child support enforcement cases. When the Federal Case Registry is instituted, its files will be matched on an ongoing basis against the files in the national Directory of New Hires to determine if an employee is a participant in a child support case anywhere in the country. If the FPLS identifies a person as being a participant in a State child support case, that State will be notified. State requests to the FPLS for location information will also continue to be processed after October 1, 1998.

When individuals are hired by USDA, we may disclose to the FPLS their names, social security numbers, home addresses, dates of birth, dates of hire, and information identifying us as the employer. We also may disclose to FPLS names, social security numbers, and quarterly earnings of each USDA employee, within one month of the end of the quarterly reporting period.

Information submitted by USDA to the FPLS will be disclosed by the Office of Child Support Enforcement to the Social Security Administration for verification to ensure that the social security number provided is correct. The data disclosed by USDA to the FPLS will also be disclosed by the Office of Child Support Enforcement to the Secretary of Treasury for use in verifying claims for the advance payment of the earned income tax credit or to verify a claim of employment on a tax return.

A "Report on New System," required by 5 U.S.C. 552a(o), as implemented by Transmittal Memoranda 1 and 3 to OMB Circular A-108, was sent to the Chairman, Committee on Governmental Affairs, United States Senate, the Chairman, Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, House of Representatives, and the Administrator, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget on January 22, 1998.

Signed at Washington, DC, on January 22, 1998.
Dan Glickman,
Secretary of Agriculture.

Accordingly, the system notice is amended as follows:
USDA/OP-1

SYSTEM NAME:

Personnel and Payroll System for USDA Employees.

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ROUTINE USES OF RECORDS MAINTAINED IN THE SYSTEM, INCLUDING CATEGORIES
OF USERS AND THE PURPOSES OF SUCH USES:

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(26) The names, social security numbers, home addresses, dates of birth, dates of hire, quarterly earnings, employer identifying information, and State of hire of employees may be disclosed to the Office of Child Support Enforcement, Administration for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services for the purpose of locating individuals to establish paternity, establishing and modifying orders of child support, identifying sources of income, and for other child support enforcement actions as required by the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (Pub. L. 104-193).

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