

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: 5/11/26, 4:00 PM
Received: April 29, 2026
Status: Pending_Post
Category: Govt.-State
Tracking No. mok-219b-qk9i
Comments Due: May 18, 2026
Submission Type: Web

Docket: FNS-2026-0166

Agency Information Collection Activities: Renewing Burden Number 0584-0293

Comment On: FNS-2026-0166-0001

Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposals, Submissions, and Approvals

Document: FNS-2026-0166-DRAFT-0002

Comment on FR Doc # 2026-05442

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Government Agency Type: State

Government Agency: State of TN Agriculture Commodity Division

General Comment

Collecting information when a state contracted warehouse is involved is burdensome, yet imperative. Most of these warehouses are understaffed and their inventory systems might identify commodities as a USDA Food but does not allow them to separate it out for monthly inventory reports thus it becomes a manual process. Primarily because school foods warehousing is not their sole revenue or even their main income stream. Coupled with the fact that manually doing inventory often includes transposing errors and mis picks. That does not even consider the need to notify the schools of incoming product and being able to categorize inventory per school.

Taking these facts into consideration, now it manifests as much work on the SDA that is to monitor and maintain accurate records of those warehouses and ensure the schools have no more than 6 mos. inventory. Many SDAs, are understaffed, utilize spreadsheets as inventory records and have trouble being present during annual physical inventory and other essential monitoring on top of manually tracking the warehouses inventory. Direct shipments are no problem because of WBSCM but the processing portion of the entitlement funds are quite challenging working through multiple processors and warehouses.