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General Comment

This comment supports the National Institute of Food and Agriculture's (NIFA) proposal to extend and revise the information collection associated with the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP).

The program is highly relevant, as it enables the estimated 76 respondents (Land Grant Universities) to conduct data entry into the Web-based Nutrition Education Evaluation and Reporting System (WebNEERS), perform aggregation and reporting, and submit program plans and budget information through a centralized system. Extension professionals, paraprofessionals, and trained volunteers employed by these institutions deliver the nutrition education classes to families and youth with limited financial resources. These processes are essential to determine whether federally funded nutrition education efforts are working and making a difference, while also enabling EFNEP staff to make informed improvements in the delivery of nutrition education services.

The addition of a Youth Food and Physical Activity Questionnaire for grades 6–12 is a positive and important improvement. Adolescence is a critical stage when lifelong eating habits are formed, and collecting data from this age group allows EFNEP to better understand participants' needs, measure program impact, and design more effective interventions. The program is especially valuable because it helps families and youth learn what they are eating and how their choices affect their health, providing knowledge that can shape lifelong habits and even influence future generations. Reliable information on nutrition also ensures that program resources are directed where they are most effective, an especially important consideration given the diverse demographic and financial backgrounds of EFNEP participants.

With respect to the estimated annual burden of 18,772 hours across 76 respondents, the average burden per institution appears reasonable given the scope of program implementation and the importance of evidence-based decision-making. Institutions may also implement appropriate administrative structures to ensure that reporting responsibilities are handled effectively and professionally. For these reasons, approval of the proposed extension and revisions to this information collection is supported, as it will

ensure the continued delivery of high-quality nutrition education services to families and youth with limited financial resources.