

Total Burden Hours: 51,222.

Levi S. Harrell,

*Departmental Information Collection
Clearance Officer.*

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

National Agricultural Statistics Service

Notice of Intent To Request Revision and Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the intention of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) to request revision and extension of a currently approved information collection, the Agricultural Prices Surveys. Revision to burden hours will be needed due to the addition and/or deletion of surveys, changes in the size of the target population, sampling design, and/or questionnaire length.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by June 26, 2023 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by docket number 0535-0003, by any of the following methods:

- *Email:* ombofficer@nass.usda.gov. Include docket number above in the subject line of the message.
- *E-fax:* (855) 838-6382.
- *Mail:* Mail any paper, disk, or CD-ROM submissions to: Richard Hopper, NASS Clearance Officer, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 5336 South Building, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250-2024.

• *Hand Delivery/Courier:* Hand deliver to: Richard Hopper, NASS Clearance Officer, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 5336 South Building, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250-2024.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Kevin L. Barnes, Associate Administrator, National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, (202) 720-2707. Copies of this information collection and related instructions can be obtained without charge from Richard Hopper, NASS—OMB Clearance Officer, at (202) 690-2388 or at ombofficer@nass.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Agricultural Prices.

OMB Control Number: 0535-0003.

Expiration Date of Approval:

November 30, 2023.

Type of Request: Intent to Seek Approval to Revise and Extend an Information Collection for 3 years.

Abstract: The primary objective of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is to prepare and issue State and national estimates of crop and livestock production, prices, and disposition; as well as economic statistics, environmental statistics related to agriculture and to conduct the Census of Agriculture.

The Agricultural Prices surveys provide data on the prices received by farmers and prices paid by them for production goods and services. NASS estimates based on these surveys are used as a Principle Economic Indicator of the United States. These price estimates are also used to compute Parity Prices in accordance with requirements of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 as amended (Title III, Subtitle A, Section 301(a)). In addition, price data are used by the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation to help determine payment rates, program option levels, and disaster programs.

Changes from the currently approved information collection include:

(1) Addition of the Tobacco Price Inquiry. The Tobacco Price Inquiry is included in the Field Crops Information Collection Request (0535-0002).

(2) Removal of the biennial hay production and sales survey. The data collected on the biennial hay survey was used to weight (by quantity) the monthly hay (alfalfa and other hay) prices to calculate the Marketing Year Average (MYA) and United States hay prices. This has been replaced with assuming the % of alfalfa and other hay marketings by month by state hasn't changed from recent surveys.

(3) Addition of collecting hay prices on the Cattle on Feed Survey. The Cattle on Feed questionnaire (OMB No. 0535-0213) has a total burden of 15 minutes on the questionnaire (6 minutes for cattle on feed questions, 9 minutes for hay prices). This survey is conducted monthly and hay price questions are included to prevent separate contacts for both cattle on feed and hay price surveys. Similar methodology is used to collect hay prices on the milk production survey already included in this request.

(4) Changes in the size of the target population, sampling design, number of mailings, and/or questionnaire length.

These combined changes will decrease number of respondents by

around 27,025 and burden by around 1,820 responses and 6,415 hours.

Authority: These data will be collected under authority of 7 U.S.C. 2204(a). Individually identifiable data collected under this authority are governed by Section 1770 of the Food Security Act of 1985 as amended, 7 U.S.C. 2276, which requires USDA to afford strict confidentiality to non-aggregated data provided by respondents. This Notice is submitted in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-113) and Office of Management and Budget regulations at 5 CFR part 1320.

All NASS employees and NASS contractors must also fully comply with all provisions of the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act (CIPSEA) of 2018, Title III of Public Law 115-435, codified in 44 U.S.C. Ch. 35. CIPSEA supports NASS's pledge of confidentiality to all respondents and facilitates the agency's efforts to reduce burden by supporting statistical activities of collaborative agencies through designation of NASS agents, subject to the limitations and penalties described in CIPSEA.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this information collection is based on more than 30 individual surveys with expected responses of 5–20 minutes and frequency of 1–12 times per year. Estimated number of responses per respondent is approximately 4.1 times per year.

Respondents: Farmers and farm-related businesses.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 40,000.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 26,000 hours.

Copies of this information collection and related instructions can be obtained without charge from Richard Hopper, NASS Clearance Officer, at (202) 690-2388.

Comments: Comments are invited on: (a) 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; (b) 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; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, technological or other forms of information technology collection methods. All responses to this notice will become a matter of

public record and be summarized in the request for OMB approval.

Signed at Washington, DC, April 11, 2023.

Kevin L. Barnes,

Associate Administrator.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

[Docket No. NRCS-2023-0005]

Proposed Revisions to the National Handbook of Conservation Practices for the Natural Resources Conservation Service

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

ACTION: Notice of availability, request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is giving notice that we intend to issue a series of revised conservation practice standards in the National Handbook of Conservation Practices (NHCP). NRCS is also giving the public an opportunity to provide comments on specified conservation practice standards in the NHCP.

DATES: We will consider comments that we receive by May 30, 2023.

ADDRESSES: We invite you to submit comments in response to this notice. You may submit your comments through one of the following methods below:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and search for Docket ID NRCS-2023-0005. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments; or

- *Mail or Hand Delivery:* Mr. Clarence Prestwich, National Agricultural Engineer, Conservation Engineering Division, NRCS, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue, South Building, Room 4636, Washington, DC 20250. In your comment, please specify the Docket ID NRCS-2023-0005.

All comments received will be made publicly available on <http://www.regulations.gov>.

The copies of the proposed revised standards are available through <http://www.regulations.gov> by accessing Docket No. NRCS-2023-0005.

Alternatively, the proposed revised standards can be downloaded or printed from <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/getting-assistance/conservation-practices>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Clarence Prestwich; telephone: (202) 720-2972, or email: clarence.prestwich@usda.gov. Individuals who require alternative means for communication should contact the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Target Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

NRCS plans to revise the conservation practice standards in the NHCP. This notice provides an overview of the planned changes and gives the public an opportunity to offer comments on the specific conservation practice standards and NRCS's proposed changes.

NRCS State Conservationists who choose to adopt these practices in their States will incorporate these practices into the respective electronic Field Office Technical Guide. These practices may be used in conservation systems that treat highly erodible land (HEL) or on land determined to be wetland. Section 343 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (Pub. L. 104-127) requires NRCS to make available for public review and comment all proposed revisions to conservation practice standards used to carry out HEL and wetland provisions of the law.

Revisions to the National Handbook of Conservation Practices

The amount of the proposed changes varies considerably for each of the conservation practice standards addressed in this notice. To fully understand the proposed changes, individuals are encouraged to compare these changes with each standard's current version, which can be found at: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/resources/guides-and-instructions/conservation-practice-standards>.

NRCS is requesting comments on the following conservation practice standards:

- Anaerobic Digester (Code 366);
- Drainage Water Management (Code 554);
- Irrigation and Drainage Tailwater Recovery (Code 447);
- Pond Sealing or Lining, Geomembrane or Geosynthetic Clay Liner (Code 521);
- Roofs and Covers (Code 367); and
- Surface Drain, Main or Lateral (Code 608).

The following are highlights of some of the proposed changes to each standard:

Anaerobic Digester (Code 366): Reorganized requirements and clarified wording and formatting to increase

readability of the standard. Aligned criteria with other Conservation Practice Standards and planning criteria to maintain consistency. Strengthened requirements to account for effects of nutrients and hazardous gases when implementing anaerobic digesters. Incorporated a limited allowance for emergency venting of biogas when the operation of a flare would lead to an exceedance of local air pollution regulations.

Drainage Water Management (Code 554): Clarified wording and formatting to increase readability of the standard.

Added text to general criteria section that the project is required to comply with Federal, State, Tribal, and local laws, and regulations. Also clarified within general criteria section the allowance of manual and automation technology. Added text to the additional criteria to "Reduce Nutrient, Pathogen, and Pesticide Loading" section.

Irrigation and Drainage Tailwater Recovery (Code 447): Clarified wording and formatting to increase readability of the standard. Added text to general criteria section that the project is required to comply with Federal, state, tribal, and local laws, and regulations. The water quality practice purpose was clarified to include downstream drinking water source improvement.

Pond Sealing or Lining, Geomembrane or Geosynthetic Clay Liner (Code 521): Revised the materials table; the gas venting, water drainage, and leak detection criteria; and the slope requirements. Also, added new considerations on safety, leak detection, and liner protection.

Roofs and Covers (Code 367): Clarified wording and formatting to increase readability of the standard. The purpose was updated to be consistent with the resource concern list. The allowable flexible cover material thickness was updated based on industry standard change.

Surface Drain, Main or Lateral (Code 608): Added statement that the project is required to comply with all Federal, State, Tribal and local laws, rules, and regulations. Removed statement on wetland determinations to make the standard more consistent with other drainage standards. Added other minor changes to improve clarity and readability.

USDA Non-Discrimination Policy

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and USDA civil rights regulations and policies, USDA, its agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on