

Notices

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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.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

National Agricultural Statistics Service

Notice of Intent To Request an Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the intent of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) to request an extension of a currently approved information collection, Livestock Surveys, that expires December 31, 2001.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by October 19, 2001 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be sent to Ginny McBride, NASS OMB Clearance Officer, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 5330B South Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-2024 or gmcbride@nass.usda.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rich Allen, Associate Administrator, National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, (202) 720-4333.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Livestock Surveys.

OMB Control Number: 0535-0005.

Approval Expires: December 31, 2001.

Type of Request: Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection.

Abstract: The primary objective of the National Agricultural Statistics Service is to prepare and issue state and national estimates of crop and livestock production. The Livestock survey program collects information on livestock numbers and livestock slaughter. Livestock inventory numbers for breeding and marketing animals

provide producers and the rest of the industry with current and future information on market supplies. This information facilitates more orderly production, marketing and processing of livestock and livestock products. Slaughter totals are used to estimate U.S. red meat production and reconcile inventory estimates. The Livestock program was approved by OMB for a 3-year period in 1998. NASS intends to request that the survey be approved for another 3 years.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 11 minutes per response.

Respondents: Farmers and Meat Inspectors.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 117,000.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 21,450 hours.

These data will be collected under the 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, 7 U.S.C. 2276, which requires USDA to afford strict confidentiality to non-aggregated data provided by respondents.

Copies of this information collection and related instructions can be obtained without charge from Ginny McBride, the Agency OMB Clearance Officer, at (202) 720-5778.

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, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

All responses to this notice will become a matter of public record and be summarized in the request for OMB approval.

Signed at Washington, D.C., August 9, 2001.

Ron Bosecker,
Administrator.

[FR Doc. 01-20502 Filed 8-14-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

Local Dial-Up Internet Grants

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of funds availability.

SUMMARY: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) announces a new grant program and the availability of grant funds under this program to finance the acquisition, construction and installation of equipment, facilities and systems to provide dial-up Internet access services in rural America. The President of the United States and the United States Congress have made \$2 million in grant funds available, through a Pilot Program, to encourage eligible entities to provide Internet service to rural consumers where such service does not currently exist. This program will provide grant funds, on a competitive basis, to entities serving communities up to 20,000 inhabitants to ensure rural consumers enjoy the same quality and range of telecommunications services that are available in urban and suburban communities. Applications for grant funds will be accepted through November 13, 2001.

DATES: Applications for grants will be accepted as of the date of this notice through November 13, 2001. All applications must be delivered to RUS or bear postmark no later than November 13, 2001. Comments regarding the information collection requirements under the Paperwork Reduction Act must be received on or before October 15, 2001, to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Applications are to be submitted to the Rural Utilities Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Stop 1590, Room 40 South Building, Washington, DC 20250-1590. Comments regarding the information collection requirements may be sent to F. Lamont Heppe, Jr., Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, Rural Utilities Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400