

survivors of the person who has died, disappeared, or been declared incompetent.

Information is obtained only when a producer eligible to receive a payment or disbursement dies, disappears, or is declared incompetent, and documentation is needed to determine if any survivors are entitled to receive such payments or disbursements.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .5 hours (1/2 hour) per response.

Respondents: Individual producers.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 4,000.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: one.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 2,000.

Proposed topics for comment include:

(a) Whether the 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 burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information collected; or (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of the 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. Comments should be sent to the Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503 and to David Tidwell, Agricultural Program Specialist, Production, Emergencies, and Compliance Division, USDA, FSA, STOP 0517, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-0517, (202)720-4542.

Copies of the information collection may be obtained from David Tidwell, at the above address.

A comment to OMB is best assured of having its full effect if OMB receives it within 30 days of publication. This does not affect the deadline for the public to comment to the Department of Agriculture on the substantive regulations that may be the subject of other notices.

Signed at Washington, DC, on October 26, 2000.

George Arredondo,

Acting Executive Vice President, Commodity Credit Corporation.

[FR Doc. 00-28264 Filed 11-2-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-05-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Commodity Credit Corporation

Request for Extension and Revision of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Commodity Credit Corporation, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the intention of the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) and the Farm Service Agency (FSA) to request an extension and revision for the Highly Erodible Land Conservation and Wetland Conservation certification requirements. This information is collected in support of the conservation provisions of Title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended by the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 and the Federal Agriculture, Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (the Statute).

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received on or before January 2, 2001 to be assured consideration.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS: Contact Sharon Biastock, Agricultural Program Specialist, Production, Emergencies, and Compliance Division, USDA, FSA, STOP 0517, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-0517, telephone (202)720-6336.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Highly Erodible Land Conservation and Wetland Conservation Certification.

OMB Control Number: 0560-0185.

Expiration Date: December 31, 2000.

Type of Request: Extension and revision of a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: Rules governing those requirements under Title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended by the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 and the Federal Agriculture, Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 relating to highly erodible lands and wetlands are codified in 7 CFR part 12. In order to ensure that persons who request benefits subject to conservation restrictions get the necessary technical assistance and are informed regarding the compliance requirements on their land, information is collected with regard to their intended activities on their land which could affect their eligibility for requested USDA benefits. Once technical determinations are made, producers are required to certify that

they will comply with the conservation requirements on their land to maintain their eligibility for certain programs.

Persons may request that certain activities be exempt according to provisions of the Statute. Information is collected from those who seek these exemptions for the purpose of evaluating whether the exempted conditions will be met.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .16 hours (10 minutes) per response.

Respondents: Individual producers.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 250,000

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 40,000.

Proposed topics for comment include:

(a) Whether the collection 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 burden, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of the information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments should be sent to the Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503 and to Sharon Biastock, Agricultural Program Specialist, Production, Emergencies, and Compliance Division, USDA, FSA, STOP 0517, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-0517, telephone (202)720-6336.

Signed at Washington, DC, on October 26, 2000.

George Arredondo,

Acting Executive Vice President, Commodity Credit Corporation.

[FR Doc. 00-28265 Filed 11-2-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-05-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

Protein Certification

AGENCY: Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, USDA.

ACTION: Final notice.

SUMMARY: The Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) will begin certifying wheat protein content results on any specified moisture basis requested by applicants, in addition to certifying results on the current 12.0 percent moisture basis. This change was requested by importers of U.S. wheat.

EFFECTIVE DATES: May 1, 2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul Manol at GIPSA, USDA, STOP 3632, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC, 20250-3632; FAX (202) 720-1015; or E-mail Pmanol@gipsadc.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On May 1, 1978, GIPSA (then the Federal Grain Inspection Service or FGIS) began offering official wheat protein testing for Hard Red Winter and Hard Red Spring wheat to interested parties in the grain industry. An "as-is" moisture basis was used to calculate protein content, though it could also be determined and recorded using any specified moisture basis if requested by the applicant for inspection. GIPSA received numerous complaints, mostly from foreign buyers, about calculating protein content on an as-is moisture basis. These complaints were generally about low protein levels which, in part, appeared due to the difference between the U.S. and Canadian methods for computing and stating protein content. Canada was using a fixed 13.5 percent moisture basis; the U.S. an as-is moisture basis calculation. When using an as-is moisture basis to certify protein, the certified protein result depends directly on the moisture level of the wheat—it is inversely proportional to the moisture content. Consequently, as the moisture content of the wheat gets lower, the protein content reported on an as-is basis gets higher. This phenomenon can give the perception that the protein level increased when, in fact, it remained unchanged.

To address these concerns and increase the uniformity of official protein reporting procedures, FGIS proposed, in 1986, to revise its Grain Inspection Handbook to certify protein content on a constant 12.0 percent moisture basis. A 12.0 percent moisture basis was recommended by various grower and processor organizations, as well as the Grain Quality Workshops, because this percentage represented the average moisture content of wheat exported from the United States. Certifying protein content on a constant 12.0 percent moisture basis would provide buyers and sellers of U.S. wheat results that could be easily evaluated and compared with results from other

major wheat exporting countries. For example, Canada uses a 13.5 percent moisture basis, Australia uses either 11.0 percent or "as-is", England and Sweden use 15.0 percent, and many Eastern European and other countries around the world use the dry matter basis. This proposal, announced in the May 30, 1986, **Federal Register** (51 FR 19556), solicited industry comment on this action.

Comments on the May 30, 1986, proposal generally favored a constant moisture basis for protein determination. Some commentors suggested using either a dry matter (0.0 percent moisture basis) or a 14.0 percent moisture basis as the constant. European flour mill purchase specifications typically use a dry matter reporting basis, whereas American mills rely on a 14.0 percent moisture basis. The majority of commentors, including foreign buyers, supported the proposal to certificate protein on a constant 12.0 percent moisture basis. Consequently, FGIS announced this change in the August 26, 1986, **Federal Register** (51 FR 30323) to become effective May 1, 1987.

Moving to a constant 12.0 percent moisture basis eliminated varying protein results caused by fluctuating wheat moisture levels. To date, GIPSA only certifies protein results on a 12.0 percent moisture basis.

The current 12.0 percent moisture basis requirement for protein analysis in wheat may not be fully facilitating the marketing of export wheat. A number of U.S. wheat importers have asked GIPSA to provide optional certification of wheat protein content results on any specified moisture basis requested by applicants, in addition to the current 12.0 percent moisture basis.

To address these requests, GIPSA published a Notice in the October 1, 1998, **Federal Register** (63 FR 52681) that solicited comments on introducing flexible certification in our protein testing program, in addition to maintaining the standardization of results. Allowing certification on the 12.0 percent moisture basis and, optionally, on a moisture basis requested by the applicant would provide sufficient information on the inspection certificate to facilitate the marketing of wheat. Although this certification option was developed to address the export market's need, it could be used for domestic shipments as well. This would be especially true in situations when an exporter is originating wheat to fulfill an export contract that requires a moisture basis other than 12.0 percent. Therefore, this certification option would be available

from GIPSA field offices, delegated States, and designated agencies. Adopting this action would allow GIPSA and the grain industry the greatest flexibility in the certification of wheat protein. Protein results would continue to be certified on a constant 12.0 percent moisture basis on all certificates, but GIPSA also would have the flexibility to meet customers' requests for additional information.

Discussion of Comments Received

A total of 22 comments were received from several foreign wheat millers and governments (Jordan, Syria, India, and Poland); State Wheat Boards/Commissions (California, Idaho, Nebraska, and Oregon); a State Department of Agriculture (Wisconsin); U.S. Wheat Associates; and U.S. grain industry trade groups (National Grain & Feed Association (NGFA) and North American Export Grain Association (NAEGA)). One domestic miller also commented on the proposal.

Thirteen comments favored the notice as it was written; that is, to allow for protein certification on any moisture basis requested by an applicant as well as the current 12.0 percent moisture basis. These comments were from the State Wheat Boards/Commissions, the State Department of Agriculture, U.S. Wheat Associates, and several foreign entities.

Two comments (NGFA and NAEGA) opposed the proposal as written. They suggested that reporting protein results on 12 percent and alternative moisture bases would likely create documentation problems for processing letters of credit. They suggested using one basis or the other, but not both.

The remaining seven comments, from foreign entities, suggested reporting results on any moisture basis requested; a 12 percent basis; an "as-is" basis; or a dry matter basis. One commentor suggested certifying the testing methodology.

Producer groups tend to favor certifying protein content on a 12-percent and any requested moisture basis. Their rationale is that dual certification would alleviate any "misperception" that a grain handler could purchase grain on a 12-percent basis and subsequently re-market the same lot of grain using a lower moisture basis, thereby "increasing" the protein content. This was one of the concerns about GIPSA's original policy that certified protein content on an "as-is" basis.

Other comments in support of the change concurred that it would add flexibility to the U.S. wheat marketing system and allow the U.S. industry to

better meet its customers needs. The change would allow buyers to better compare U.S. wheat to that of other wheat exporting countries and reflect the U.S. wheat industry's commitment to meet customers' needs. Further, it was suggested that the change would allow the national protein certification system to retain its uniformity and meet customers' specific contract needs.

GIPSA believes that introducing flexible certification in the protein testing program, in addition to maintaining standardization of results, will have a positive impact on export and domestic markets. We do not believe that this change would create documentation problems for processing letters of credit as two commentors suggested. On the contrary, providing for this option in the certification program will give the market the flexibility that it needs. Further, alternative protein reporting would be only used on a request basis. The effective date of this change is May 1, 2001. This will allow sufficient time for interested persons to become familiar with this option and allow the industry to make any adjustments deemed necessary.

Protein analysis and certification by GIPSA has always been optional; that is, buyers and sellers contractually agree whether or not to request official protein testing services. Wheat protein content would be certified on an alternative moisture basis only upon specific request by an applicant. In lieu of such a request, wheat protein would continue to be certified on the current 12.0-percent moisture basis. Overall, this certification option would allow GIPSA and the grain industry the greatest flexibility in the certification of wheat protein.

Accordingly, GIPSA will begin certifying protein content in wheat using the current 12.0 percent moisture basis and any other moisture basis requested by an applicant. This certification option will go into effect May 1, 2001. GIPSA field offices, delegated States, and designated agencies will be responsible for the applicable mathematical calculations for certification using the following industry recognized formula:

$$X = \frac{P(100 - PX)}{88}$$

Where:

X = the protein content at a moisture basis other than 12.0 percent requested by an applicant.

P = the protein content determined at a 12.0-percent moisture basis.

PX = the moisture basis specified by the applicant (using the "official" moisture meter results if the applicant requests protein content be certified on an "as-is" basis).

For example, if an applicant requests that protein results also be certified on a dry matter or 0.0 percent moisture basis and the protein content of the lot was determined to be 13.5 percent on a 12.0 percent moisture basis, the following calculation would be used to obtain the alternate protein result:

$$X = \frac{13.5 \times (100 - 0)}{88}$$

$$X = \frac{13.5 \times 100}{88}$$

$$X = \frac{1350}{88}$$

$$X = 15.3$$

Further, the statement on the certificate would read as follows:

Protein 15.3%, dry matter basis, which converts to 13.5% protein, 12.0% moisture basis. Protein content reported on an alternative moisture basis in addition to the U.S. standard 12.0 percent moisture basis at applicant's request.

Authority: Pub. L. 94-582, 90 Stat. 2867, as amended (7 U.S.C. 71 *et seq.*)

Dated: October 30, 2000.

David Orr,

Acting Administrator, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration.

[FR Doc. 00-28146 Filed 11-2-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-EN-P

COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED

Procurement List; Proposed Additions and Deletions

AGENCY: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled.

ACTION: Proposed Additions to and Deletions from Procurement List.

SUMMARY: The Committee is proposing to add to the Procurement List a commodity and services to be furnished by nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities, and to delete commodities and a service previously furnished by such agencies.

COMMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED ON OR BEFORE: December 4, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, Jefferson Plaza 2, Suite 10800, 1421 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22202-3259.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Louis R. Bartalot, (703) 603-7740.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice is published pursuant to 41 U.S.C. 47(a)(2) and 41 CFR 51-2.3. Its purpose is to provide interested persons an opportunity to submit comments on the possible impact of the proposed actions.

Additions

If the Committee approves the proposed addition, all entities of the Federal Government (except as otherwise indicated) will be required to procure the commodity and services listed below from nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities.

I certify that the following action will not have a significant impact on a substantial number of small entities. The major factors considered for this certification were:

1. The action will not result in any additional reporting, recordkeeping or other compliance requirements for small entities other than the small organizations that will furnish the commodity and services to the Government.

2. The action will result in authorizing small entities to furnish the commodity and services to the Government.

3. There are no known regulatory alternatives which would accomplish the objectives of the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act (41 U.S.C. 46-48c) in connection with the commodity and services proposed for addition to the Procurement List. Comments on this certification are invited. Commenters should identify the statement(s) underlying the certification on which they are providing additional information.

The following commodity and services have been proposed for addition to Procurement List for production by the nonprofit agencies listed:

Commodity

Rake, Forest Fire
4210-00-540-4512

NPA: Tuscola County Community Mental Health Services, Caro, Michigan

Services:

Administrative Services (Religious Services Technician)

Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Prisons, Federal Correctional Institution, Cumberland, Maryland