

Dated: October 4, 2000.

Barry L. Carpenter,

Deputy Administrator, Livestock and Seed Program.

[FR Doc. 00-26107 Filed 10-11-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Docket No. LS-00-08]

Notice of Request for Extension and Revision of Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), this notice announces the Agricultural Marketing Service's (AMS) intention to request an extension for and revision to a currently approved information collection for the Federal Seed Act Labeling and Enforcement.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by December 11, 2000 to be assured of consideration.

Additional Information or Comments: Richard C. Payne, Chief, Seed Regulatory and Testing Branch (SRTB), Livestock and Seed Program, AMS, Room 209, Building 306, BARC-E., Beltsville, Maryland 20705-2325, telephone (301) 504-9430, Fax (301) 504-8098.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Federal Seed Act Program.

OMB Number: 0581-0026.

Expiration Date of Approval: July 30, 2001.

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

Abstract: This information collection and recordkeeping requirements are necessary to conduct the FSA (7 U.S.C. 1551, *et seq.*) program with respect to certain testing, labeling, and recordkeeping requirements of agricultural and vegetable seeds in interstate commerce.

The FSA, Title II, is a truth-in-labeling law that regulates agricultural and vegetable planting seed in interstate commerce. Seed subject to the FSA must be labeled with certain quality information and it requires information to be truthful. The Act prohibits the interstate shipment of falsely advertised seed and seed containing noxious-weed seeds that are prohibited from sale in

the State into which the seed is being shipped.

Besides providing farmers and other seed buyers with information necessary to make an informed choice and protect the buyer from buying mislabeled seed, the FSA promotes fair competition within the seed industry. It also encourages uniformity in labeling, aiding the movement of seed between the States. Because seed moving in interstate commerce must be labeled according to the FSA, most State laws have seed labeling requirements similar to those of the FSA, causing more uniformity of State laws.

Although anyone can submit a complaint to the SRTB, the FSA is primarily enforced through cooperative agreements with the States. State seed inspectors inspect and sample seed where it is being sold. They send a sample of the seed and a copy of the labeling to the State seed laboratory where the sample is tested and the analysis compared with the label. When violations are found, State personnel may take corrective action such as issuing a stop sale order to keep the seed from being sold until it is correctly labeled or otherwise disposed of. They may also take action against the shipper or labeler of the seed. The action a State may take against a shipper in another State is limited. Therefore, violations involving interstate shipments may be turned over to AMS for Federal action.

AMS investigates the complaints. The investigation normally involves check testing the State's official sample and possibly the shipper's file sample at the Testing Section. The shipper's records are checked to establish that there was a violation of the FSA, responsibility for the violation, and the cause of the mislabeling, if possible. The investigation will help the shipper find and correct the problem causing the violation and help AMS to determine the appropriate regulatory action.

No unique forms are required for this information collection. The FSA requires seed in interstate commerce to be tested and labeled. Once in a State, seed must comply with the testing and labeling requirements of the State seed law. The same test and labeling required by the FSA nearly always satisfies the State's testing and labeling requirements. Also the receiving, sales, cleaning, testing, and labeling records required by the FSA, are records that the shipper would normally keep in good business practice.

The information obtained under this information collection is the minimum information necessary to effectively carry out the enforcement of the FSA.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 2.08 hours per response.

Respondents: Interstate shippers and labelers of seed.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 2,997.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 5.90.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 37,215 hours.

Comments are invited on: (1) Whether the proposed collections of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) 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; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of 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 may be sent to Richard C. Payne, Chief, Seed Regulatory and Testing Branch, LS, AMS, USDA, Room 209, Building 306, BARC-E., Beltsville, Maryland 20705-2325 or by E-mail to richard.payne2@usda.gov. All comments received will be available for public inspection during regular business hours at the same address.

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

Dated: October 4, 2000.

Barry L. Carpenter,

Deputy Administrator, Livestock and Seed Program.

[FR Doc. 00-26108 Filed 10-11-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Commodity Credit Corporation and Farm Service Agency

Hurricane Damage Assistance for 1999 Crop

AGENCIES: Commodity Credit Corporation and Farm Service Agency, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of relief available to reduce the amount of loan indebtedness on certain 1999-crop loans.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the intent of the Secretary of Agriculture,

pursuant to new legislation, to release up to \$81 million of loan indebtedness for certain 1999 crop loans made in North Carolina by the Commodity Credit Corporation where the collateral was destroyed or damaged by Hurricanes Dennis, Floyd or Irene. To assure all are given a chance to be heard, this notice sets out the statute and invites all persons who believe that they may be entitled to relief under the terms of the statute as well as all other interested persons to comment or suggest how eligibility for relief should be determined and how such relief should be administered.

DATES: Comments with respect to this notice must be received by October 27, 2000 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be filed by the date set in this notice with Larry W. Mitchell, Deputy Administrator for Farm Programs, STOP 0510, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-0510.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Thomas R. Burgess, telephone (202) 720-0156.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 2101 of Chapter 5 of the Fiscal Year 2001 Military Construction Appropriations (Pub. L. 106-246) provides in connection with North Carolina hurricane losses for up to \$81 million for relief in connection with the 1999 crop year loans made by the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC).

The entire Section reads as follows:

Sec. 2101. With respect to any 1999 crop year loan made by the Commodity Credit Corporation to a cooperative marketing association established under the laws of North Carolina, and to any person or entity in North Carolina obtaining a 1999 crop upland cotton marketing assistance loan, the Corporation shall reduce the amount of such outstanding loan indebtedness in an amount up to 75 percent of the amount of the loan applicable to any collateral (in the case of cooperative marketing associations of upland cotton producers and upland cotton producers, not to exceed \$5,000,000 for benefits to such associations and such producers for up to 75 percent of the loss incurred by such associations and such producers with respect to upland cotton that had been placed under loan) that was produced in a county in which either the Secretary of Agriculture or the President of the United States declared a major disaster or emergency due to the occurrence of Hurricane Dennis, Floyd, or Irene if the Corporation determines that such collateral suffered any quality loss as a result of said hurricane: *Provided*, That if a person or entity obtains a benefit under this section with respect to a quantity of a commodity, no marketing loan gain or loan deficiency payment shall be made available under the Federal Agricultural Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 with respect to such

quantity: *Provided further*, That no more than \$81,000,000 of the funds of the Corporation shall be available to carry out this section: *Provided further*, That the entire amount shall be available only to the extent an official budget request for \$81,000,000, that includes designation of the entire amount of the request as an emergency requirement as defined in the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended, is transmitted by the President to the Congress: *Provided further*, That the entire amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of such Act.

This notice is intended to provide an opportunity for any person who believes that they are entitled to relief to provide comments on how the statutes eligibility provisions should be construed. Such comments should be addressed to Larry W. Mitchell, Deputy Administrator for Farm Programs, STOP 0510, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-0510.

Following such comment, the Deputy Administrator will take such action as may be warranted taking into account, the comments and any other new information as may be relevant, including new legislation as may related to the use of such funds.

Signed at Washington, D.C., on October 4, 2000.

Keith Kelly,

Administrator, Farm Service Agency and Executive Vice President, Commodity Credit Corporation.

[FR Doc. 00-26106 Filed 10-11-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Southwestern Region, Arizona, New Mexico, West Texas and Oklahoma; Proposed 115KV Transmission Line Project on the Tres Piedras Ranger District, Carson National Forest, Taos County, NM

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: Based on a request made by the Kit Carson Electric Cooperative, the Carson National Forest is preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS) to analyze the effects of a proposal to authorize Kit Carson Cooperative to construct, operate and maintain a new 115 KV electric transmission line and fiber optic system on National Forest Lands from the existing Ojo to Taos 115 KV line to Ojo Caliente, New Mexico. The proposal also includes construction, operation and

maintenance of a substation in Ojo Caliente.

The proposal has several parts, most of which pertain directly to National Forest lands and for which the USDA Forest Service will make the decision. Other portions pertain to Bureau of Land Management administered lands including the proposed substation location, for which the responsible line officer in the Bureau of Land Management will be the deciding official. If any alternative should be selected that might include private holdings, Kit Carson Electric Cooperative will negotiate for approval. The purpose of the project is to improve existing service by reducing voltage fluctuations and the number of outages. It is also to provide fiber optic capabilities to a number of small communities in the area.

DATES: The proposed action is currently available for review and comment. It is estimated that the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) will be completed and distributed for comments by the end of January, 2000. A 45 day comment period will follow. The final environmental impact statement and a record of decision is estimated to be released by the end of July 2001.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the proposed action and DEIS will be available upon request from the Carson Forest Supervisor's Office, 208 Cruz Alta Road, Taos, NM 87571, Attn: Power Line Analysis Team. Comments related to the DEIS can be sent to the same address.

Responsible Official: The Forest Supervisor, Carson National Forest, is the responsible official and will decide whether or not the project will be implemented on Forest Service lands. If so, the Forest Supervisor will decide where, how and when they will be implemented.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Power Line Team Leader, Carson Forest Supervisor's Office, (505) 758-6200.

40 CFR 1501.7

Dated: September 27, 2000.

Gilbert Vigil,

Forest Supervisor, Carson National Forest.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The Department of Commerce (DOC) has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for