

ADDRESSES: Written comments concerning this notice may be sent to Jason Hitchcock, USDA/CSREES/ISTM, STOP 2216, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250–2216 or sent electronically to: jhitchcock@csrees.usda.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request a copy of the information collection, contact Jason Hitchcock, e-mail: jhitchcock@csrees.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service Application Kit for Research and Extension Programs.

OMB Number: 0524–0039.

Expiration Date of Current Approval: April 30, 2009.

Type of Request: Revise a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: The Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) sponsors ongoing agricultural research, extension, and education programs under which competitive, formula, and special awards of a high-priority nature are made. Before awards can be made, certain information is required from applicants as part of an application process.

The nature of the competitive, peer-reviewed process makes it important that information from applicants be available in a standardized format to ensure equitable treatment. Each year, request for applications are issued for various research, education, and extension areas targeted for support. Applicants submit applications for these targeted areas following formats outlined in the application guidelines accompanying each program's solicitation. CSREES awards grants after evaluating these applications, using peer review panels and other merit review processes. The forms and narrative information are mainly used for application evaluation and administration purposes. While some of the information is used to respond to inquiries from Congress and other government agencies, the forms are not designed to be statistical surveys.

CSREES requires submission of grant applications electronically through the Grants.gov storefront. The application processes through Grants.gov leverage several standard forms. In addition to Grants.gov's standards forms, CSREES must collect some additional information for the proper evaluation and processing of applications. These forms include the following:

Supplemental Information Form—This form is used in all grant application packages, and collects the

program name and program code to which the applicant is applying, additional applicant type information, Department of Health and Human Services Payment Management System account information, key words, and the conflict of interest information as an attached file.

Application Type Form—This form is used principally by the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative Competitive Grants Program to collect the specific type of application being submitted. This form is being revised to change the applicant type names and some business rules on the form.

Application Modification Form—This form is used to indicate the forms or narrative portions of an application that an applicant has changed or corrected from a previously submitted application.

Form CSREES–2008, Assurance Statement(s)—This form is used in formula grant programs and provides required assurances of compliance with regulations involving the protection of human subjects, animal welfare, and recombinant DNA research.

Form CSREES–2010, Fellowships/Scholarships Entry/Annual Update/Exit Form—This form will apply only to CSREES award recipients to document fellowships and scholarships, pertinent demographic data on the fellows/scholars, the progress of the fellows/scholars under the program, and performance outcomes of the student beneficiaries.

Respondents: Non-profit institutions, State, local, or Tribal governments, and a limited number of for-profit institutions and individuals.

Estimated Number of Respondents by form:

Supplemental Information: 5,050.

Application Type: 2,150.

Application Modification: 0.

Form CSREES–2008, Assurance Statement(s): 1,850.

CSREES–2010, Fellowships/Scholarships Entry/Exit: 150.

Summary of USDA/1890 Cooperation: 170.

The individual form burden is as follows (calculated based on a survey of grant applicants conducted by CSREES):

Supplemental Information: 2 hours.

Application Type: 15 minutes.

Application Modification: 5 minutes.

Form CSREES–2008, Assurance Statement(s): 30 minutes CSREES–2010, Fellowships/Scholarships Entry/Annual.

Update/Exit: 3 hours.

Summary of USDA/1890 Cooperation: 50 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: The annual total burden

on the public for all forms is estimated to be 12,160 hours.

Frequency of Responses: Annually.

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, 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 address stated in the preamble.

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

Done at Washington, DC, this 29th day of Oct, 2008.

Gale Buchanan,

Undersecretary, Research, Education, and Economics.

[FR Doc. E8–26354 Filed 11–4–08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Farm Service Agency

Commodity Credit Corporation; Information Collection; Debt Settlement Policies and Procedures

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

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) are requesting comments from all interested individuals and organizations on an extension of a currently approved information collection that supports the FSA and CCC Debt Settlement Policies and Procedures regulations.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received on or before January 5, 2009 to be assured consideration.

ADDRESSES: We invite you to submit comments on this notice. In your comments, include date, volume and page number of this issue of the **Federal Register**. You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

Mail: Thomas F. Harris II, Claims Program Specialist, Financial Management Division, Office of Budget and Finance, Farm Service Agency, USDA, STOP 0581, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250-0581, or 3101 Park Center Drive, Suite 1210, Alexandria, Virginia 22302.

E-mail: Send comment to: tom.harris@wdc.usda.gov.

Fax: (703) 305-1148.

Comments also should be sent to the Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503. Copies of the information collection may be obtained from Thomas F. Harris II at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Thomas F. Harris II, Claims Program Specialist, telephone (703) 305-1439.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Debt Settlement Policies and Procedures.

OMB Control Number: 0560-0146.

Expiration Date of Approval: May 31, 2009.

Type of Request: Extension with no revision.

Abstract: This information collection is needed to enable FSA and CCC to effectively administer the regulations at 7 CFR 792 (FSA) and 7 CFR 1403 (CCC) on debt settlement policies and procedures and on the identification of and settlement of outstanding claims. Collection of outstanding debts owed to FSA or to CCC can be effected by installment payments if a debtor furnishes satisfactory evidence of inability to pay a claim in full, and if the debtor specifically requests an installment agreement. Part of the requirement is that the debtor furnishes this request in writing and with a financial statement or other information that would disclose a debtor's assets and liabilities. This information is required in order to evaluate any proposed plan. Such requests for documentation furnished by the debtor are also used in the other collection tools employed by both FSA and CCC in managing debt settlement policies and procedures. If an installment agreement is approved, then a Promissory Note (CCC-279), or an approved alternative promissory note format, must be executed between the debtor and the FSA/CCC representative(s).

During the past two years, over \$7,470,969 in debt collection was facilitated by the use of this requested information and 141 Promissory Notes were established between debtors and FSA and CCC. Total active Note amount for the past two years is presently 235

total Promissory Notes (includes total notes established (141); notes defaulted (21), notes written off (20) and notes discharged in Bankruptcy (2)) with a total outstanding amount of \$7,043,331.11.

The Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996 requires the head of an agency to take all appropriate steps to collect delinquent debts before discharging such debts. The current information collection forms and formats have been successfully used for the past several years and have become familiar tools for both the agency employees and for the producer. Thus, adequate forms and formats already exist and are in use. Developing new forms and formats could be costly and is not required to meet the demands of the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996. Nonetheless, comment is requested on how the forms and process may be improved, as specified below.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this information collection is estimated to average 1 hour per response. The average travel time, which is included in the total burden, is estimated to be 1 hour per respondent.

Respondents: Producers participating in FSA and CCC programs.

Estimated Number of Annual Respondents: 100.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 200 hours.

Comments Are Invited on:

(1) 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;

(2) The accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(3) Enhancing the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; or

(4) Minimizing 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, including name and addresses when provided, will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Signed at Washington, DC, on October 29, 2008.

Thomas B. Hofeller,

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

[FR Doc. E8-26290 Filed 11-4-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-05-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

Information Collection Activity; Comment Request

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended), the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) invites comments on this information collection for which RUS intends to request approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by January 5, 2009.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Michele L. Brooks, Director, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, Rural Utilities Service, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., STOP 1522, Room 5818, South Building, Washington, DC 20250-1522. Telephone: (202) 690-1078; Fax: (202) 720-8435.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) regulation (5 CFR 1320) implementing provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13) requires that interested members of the public and affected agencies have an opportunity to comment on information collection and recordkeeping activities [see 5 CFR 1320.8(d)]. This notice identifies an information collection that RUS is submitting to OMB for extension.

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether this 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 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 respondents, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic,