

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

Federal Crop Insurance Corporation

Notice of Request for Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, USDA.

ACTION: Extension of approval of an information collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a public comment period on the information collection requests (ICRs) associated with crop insurance policies administered by Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC).

DATES: Written comments on this notice will be accepted until close of business June 4, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments to the Risk Management Education Division, Risk Management Agency, United States Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Stop 0808, Portals Building, 5th Floor, Suite 508, Washington, DC, 20250-0808.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information contact Craig Witt, Director, Risk Management Education Division, Risk Management Agency, United States Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Stop 0808, Portals Building, 5th Floor, Suite 508, Washington, DC, 20250-0808.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Dairy Options Pilot Program; DOPP III.

OMB Number: 0563-0058.

Expiration Date of Approval: February 29, 2004.

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

Abstract: Section 191 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform

Act (FAIR) of 1996 authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture (Secretary) to conduct a pilot program for one or more agricultural commodities to determine the feasibility of the use of futures and options as risk management tools to protect producers from fluctuations in price, yield and income. Accordingly, the Secretary directed RMA to develop DOPP. Section 134 of the Agricultural Risk Protection Act (ARPA) of 2000 amends section 191 of FAIR. In doing so, an expansion of eligible pilot counties to a maximum of 300 is authorized, except that no more than 25 counties may be in any one State.

The purpose of this notice is to announce the availability of DOPP in new States and counties and provide the new terms and conditions of the program.

DOPP is intended to offer an educational experience to dairy producers whose need for risk management tools has risen sharply as a result of unprecedented price volatility, the reduction of price supports, and the current unavailability of production or price insurance. The program represents a joint initiative between RMA and the private sector. DOPP procedures were first proposed to RMA by the Coffee, Sugar & Cocoa Exchange (CSCE), known as the New York Board of Trade (NYBOT). During the development of this program, the Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME) provided additional recommendations. The intended educational benefits of DOPP include the preparation of producers to manage their price risk independently through the milk futures and options markets.

We are asking the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to extend its approval of our use of this information collection activity for an additional 3 years.

The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public concerning this information collection activity. These comments will help us:

(1) Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information has practical utility;

(2) Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information;

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

(4) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, through use, as appropriate, of automated, electronic, mechanical, and other collection technologies, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

Estimate of burden: The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1.0 hours per response.

Respondents/Affected Entities: Parties affected by the information collection requirements included in this Notice are dairy producers, and brokers.

Estimated annual number of respondents: 9,625.

Estimated annual number of responses per respondent: 6.9.

Estimated annual number of responses: 36,300.

Estimated total annual burden on respondents: 38,015.

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

Signed in Washington, DC, on March 29, 2001.

Phyllis W. Honor,

Acting Manager, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation.

[FR Doc. 01-8416 Filed 4-4-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-08-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Federal Crop Insurance Corporation

Notice of Request for Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, USDA.

ACTION: Extension of approval of an information collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a public comment period on the information collection requests (ICRs) associated with crop insurance policies administered by Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC).

DATES: Written comments on this notice will be accepted until close of business June 4, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments to the Director, Product Development Division, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), 6501 Beacon Drive, Kansas City, MO 64133.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dave Clauser, Supervisory Insurance Management Specialist, Research and Development, Product Development Division, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, at the Kansas City, MO address listed above, telephone (816) 926-7730.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Multiple Peril Crop Insurance.

OMB Number: 0563-0053.

Expiration Date of Approval: April 30, 2001.

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

Abstract: FCIC is renewing the currently approved information collection package number 0563-0053. It is currently up for renewal and extension for three years. FCIC is conducting a thorough review of information collections associated with its crop insurance policies. FCIC is using data elements in this renewal package instead of form standards. The information collected by FCIC allows it to provide an actuarially sound insurance program for producers and increases producers' risk management options. The information is collected by insurance companies reinsured by FCIC, crop insurance agents, and FCIC. The Federal Crop Insurance Corporation requires several data elements to be reported to them. This information comes from the producer applying for crop insurance, the insurance company accepting and issuing crop insurance policies and determining insurance coverage, premiums, the amount of production and loss, and indemnities. This data is used to administer the Federal crop insurance program in accordance with the Federal Crop Insurance Act, as amended.

The collections identified in this notice also provide FCIC with data for establishing new and different types of insurance coverage or crop options to increase insurance protection. Policy provisions and options permit producers to personalize their insurance coverage through written agreements which allow deviations from the written policy. Producer may elect exclusion for hail and fire or high risk land, etc.

Since crops differ significantly, FCIC customizes its required information collections for each crop that it insures. The type and amount of information

determined by FCIC as necessary to establish and maintain the crop insurance program must also be reasonable, and FCIC must take into consideration the time and cost to producer, insurance providers, insurance agents, and loss adjusters. FCIC is reviewing the burden calculation in preparation of applying for renewal of OMB approval of its information collections.

We are asking the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to extend its approval of our use of this information collection activity for an additional 3 years.

The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public concerning this information collection activity. These comments will help us:

(1) Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information has practical utility;

(2) Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information;

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

(4) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, through use, as appropriate, of automated, electronic, mechanical, and other collection technologies, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

Estimate of burden: The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 0.4 hours per response.

Respondents/Affected Entities: Parties affected by the information collection requirements included in this Notice are producers, insurance companies reinsured by FCIC, and insurance agents.

Estimated annual number of respondents: 1,304,390.

Estimated annual number of responses per respondent: 2.6.

Estimated annual number of responses: 3,345,415.

Estimated total annual burden on respondents: 1,194,316.

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

Signed in Washington, D.C., on March 29, 2001.

Phyllis W. Honor,

Acting Manager, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation.

[FR Doc. 01-8417 Filed 4-4-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-08-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

McCaslin Project; Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, Oconto and Forest Counties, WI

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice; Intent to prepare environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: The Forest Service will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) to document the analysis and disclose the environmental impacts of proposed land management activities, and corresponding alternatives, within the McCaslin project area.

The purpose of the McCaslin project is to implement land management activities that are consistent with direction in the Nicolet National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) and respond to specific needs identified in the project area. The project-specific needs include addressing: forest age and composition, stand tending and reforestation, road closures, erosion control, fish and wildlife habitat maintenance and improvement, and archaeological evaluation and interpretation.

The McCaslin project area is located primarily on National Forest System lands, administered by the Lakewood/Laona Ranger District, north of Lakewood, Wisconsin. The legal description for the project area is: Township 33 North, Range 15 East, sections 1-3, 11-14, and 24-25; Township 33 North, Range 16 East, sections 1-11, 14-23, and 27-30; Township 33 North, Range 17 East, sections 5 and 6; and Township 34 North, Range 16 East, Sections 16, 17, 20-29, and 32-36; Fourth Principal Meridian.

DATES: Comments concerning the proposed land management activities should be received on or before May 7, 2001 to receive timely consideration in the preparation of the draft EIS.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments concerning the proposed land management activities or requests to be placed on the project mailing list to: Edward C. Wenger, District Ranger, Lakewood/Laona Ranger District, 15085 State Rd. 32, Lakewood, Wisconsin 54138.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Lampereur, Project Leader/NEPA Coordinator, Lakewood/Laona Ranger District, 15085 State Rd. 32, Lakewood, Wisconsin 54138, phone (715) 276-6333.