

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Farm Service Agency****Notice of Request for Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection—Farm Loan Programs Account Servicing Policies**

AGENCY: Farm Service Agency, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the intent of the Farm Service Agency (FSA) to request an extension of a currently approved information collection for "Farm Loan Programs Account Servicing Policies" used in support of the FSA, Farm Loan Programs (FLP). This renewal does not involve any revisions to the program regulations.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received on or before October 21, 2003 to be assured consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Bashir Duale, Senior Loan Officer, USDA, Farm Service Agency, Loan Servicing and Property Management Division, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., STOP 0523, Washington, DC 20250-0523; Telephone (202) 720-1645; Electronic mail: bashir_duale@wdc.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Farm Loan Programs Account Servicing Policies.

OMB Control Number: 0560-0161.

Expiration Date of Approval: March 31, 2004.

Type of Request: Extension of Currently Approved Information Collection.

Abstract: The regulation describes the policies and procedures the Agency will use in servicing delinquent FLP loans. Servicing of the accounts is administered in accordance with the provisions of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (CONACT), as amended. The CONACT establishes required notification by the Agency and response time frame requirements for the borrower and Agency actions on the borrower's request. Specifically, it requires a borrower to document that they can meet family living and farm operating expenses and service all debts, including the loan they are proposing to be restructured by the Agency. This information submitted by the borrowers to the Agency is used by the Agency officials to consider a financially distressed or delinquent borrower's request for debt restructuring, including rescheduling,

re-amortization, consolidation, deferral, and write down.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 45 minutes per response.

Respondents: Individuals or households, businesses or other for profit and farms.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 11,672.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 25,302.

Comments are sought on these requirements including: (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 the burden 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 Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503 and to Bashir Duale, USDA, FSA, Farm Loan Programs, Loan Servicing and Property Management Division, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., STOP 0523, Washington, DC 20250-0523. Copies of the information collection may be obtained from Bashir Duale at the above address.

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

Signed in Washington, DC, on August 15, 2003.

James R. Little,

Administrator, Farm Service Agency.

[FR Doc. 03-21491 Filed 8-21-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-05-P

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) is seeking comments from all interested individuals and organizations on the collection of information for a Minority Farm Register, which is a voluntary register of minority farm or ranch operators, landowners, tenants and others with farming or ranching interest. The Minority Farm register will provide a listing to be used by USDA's Office of Outreach and other minority outreach organizations to better serve minority farmers and help abate the decline of minority farmers throughout the country.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received on or before October 21, 2003 to be assured consideration. Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable. Comments should reference the OMB number and title of the information collection to which they pertain.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be sent to Ronald W. Holling, Assistant to the Director, Office of Business and Program Integration, Farm Service Agency, STOP 0501, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-0501, (202) 720-8530; e-mail Ronald.Holling@usda.gov, and to the Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503. All comments will become a matter of public record. For further information, contact Ronald Holling at the address listed above.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: USDA Minority Farm Register.

OMB Number: 0560-NEW.

Type of Request: Request for Approval of a New Information Collection.

Abstract: The purpose of this information collection is to create a Minority Farm Register, which is a voluntary register of minority farm or ranch operators, landowners, tenants and others with farming or ranching interest. The information to be collected will be name, address, Social Security Number, phone number, race, ethnicity and gender. The names and addresses will be the only required information. Providing Social Security Numbers, phone numbers, race, ethnicity and gender will be completely voluntary. The Register will provide a listing to be used by USDA's Office of Outreach to help minority farm and ranch operators who are not land owners to be introduced to FSA's land ownership and farm loan programs to acquire land

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Farm Service Agency****Information Collection: Minority Farm Register**

AGENCY: Farm Service Agency, USDA.

and position minority owners of farm and ranch land to be informed of FSA and other USDA farm programs. Except for Social Security Numbers, information on the list may be shared with community-based outreach organizations. The Social Security Numbers, when provided, will only be used internally by USDA to match the person with their farm program records in order to better target outreach efforts. Race, ethnicity and gender, when provided, will be used by USDA and minority outreach organizations that serve the particular clientele.

The Minority Farm Register will be established by FSA and jointly administered with USDA's Office of Outreach. A specific register sign-up form will be issued in Spanish and English. Informational registration material will be distributed to community-based organizations, minority-serving educational institutions, and government agencies assisting minorities with land retention and acquisition, and will be available on the internet to ensure the program is widely publicized and accessible to all. Community-based organizations, minority-serving educational institutions and other groups serving minority clientele will be partnered with as needed. The USDA is requesting a 3-year extension of approval.

This information collection was previously approved by OMB for USDA's Office of Outreach under OMB Control Number 0508-0004. The collection is being transferred to FSA and approval is being sought as a new collection of information.

Respondents: Individuals and households.

Estimated annual number of respondents: 54,000.

Estimated annual number of forms filed per person: 1.

Estimated average time to respond: 5 minutes (0.083 hours).

Estimated total annual burden hours: 4,500.

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) 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 through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other

technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

All comments received in response to this notice, including names and addresses when provided, will be a matter of public record. Comments will be summarized and included in the submission for OMB approval.

Dated: Signed at Washington, DC, on July 10, 2003.

James R. Little,

Administrator, Farm Service Agency.

[FR Doc. 03-21532 Filed 8-21-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-05-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Information Collection; Timber Sale Operating Plans

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice; request for comment.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Forest Service is seeking comments from all interested individuals and organizations on the extension of a previously approved information collection for Timber Sale Operating Plans. The collected information will help the Forest Service facilitate contract administration of timber sales on National Forest System lands. Information will be collected from purchasers of this timber.

DATES: Comments must be received in writing on or before October 21, 2003.

ADDRESSES: All comments should be addressed to Rex Baumbach, Forest and Rangelands Management, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Mail Stop 1105, Washington, DC 20250-1105.

Comments also may be submitted via facsimile to (202) 205-1045 or by e-mail to: rbaumbach@fs.fed.us.

The public may inspect comments received in the Office of the Director, Forest and Rangelands Management Staff, Forest Service, USDA, Room 3NW, Yates Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC. Visitors are urged to call ahead to (202) 205-0855 facilitate entrance into the building.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rex Baumbach, Timber Sale Contract Administration Specialist, Forest and Rangelands Management, at (202) 205-0855.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Description of Information Collection

The following describes the information collection to be extended:

Title: Timber Operating Plans.

OMB Number: 0596-0086.

Expiration Date of Approval: January 31, 2004.

Type of Request: Extension of an information collection previously approved by the Office of Management and Budget.

Abstract: The information collected is used by the agency to plan agency timber sale contract administration workload and to determine whether timber sale purchasers had scheduled operations delayed and; therefore, are eligible for an extension of the contract termination date. The information is required by timber sale contract provisions in Form FS 2400-6, Timber Sale Contract, and Form FS 2400-6T, Timber Sale Contract.

Respondents are National Forest System land timber sale purchasers who prepare a chart or letter within 60 days of a timber sale contract award, and annually thereafter until the contract is completed. The timber sale purchaser outlines timeframes and methods of accomplishing road construction, timber harvesting, and other contract requirements.

Forest Service personnel evaluate the collected information to facilitate timber sale contract administration and to determine eligibility for National Forest System land timber sale contract term extensions. Data gathered in this information collection are not available from other sources.

Estimate of Annual Burden: 30 minutes per response.

Type of Respondents: Purchasers of National Forest System timber.

Estimated Annual Number of Respondents: 2500.

Estimated Annual Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.5.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 1,875 hours.

Comment Is Invited

The agency invites comments on the following: (a) The necessity of the information collection for the stated purposes and the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical or scientific 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 collected; and (d) ways to minimize the information collection burden on respondents, including the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection