

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 3.115 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. The total annual burden on respondents was previously 4,660.04 hours. This extension includes an adjustment that adds one respondent which increases the total annual burden by 52.96 hours.

Respondents: Directors or Administrators of WIC State agencies.
Estimated Number of Respondents: 89 respondents.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: Seventeen.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 4,713 hours.

Dated: January 5, 2005.

Roberto Salazar,
Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service.
[FR Doc. 05-562 Filed 1-11-05; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3410-30-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Ravalli County Resource Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Ravalli County Resource Advisory Committee will be meeting to discuss project development for 2005 and project updates for 2004. Agenda topics will include electing a chairperson for 2005, public outreach methods, and a public forum (question and answer session). The meeting is being held pursuant to the authorities in the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Public Law 92-463) and under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (Pub. L. 106-393). The meeting is open to the public.

DATES: The meeting will be held on January 25, 2005, 6:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Ravalli County Administration Building, 215 S. 4th Street, Hamilton, Montana. Send written comments to Dan Ritter, Acting District Ranger, Stevensville Ranger District, 88 Main Street, Stevensville, MT 59870, by facsimile (406) 777-7423, or electronically to dritter@fs.fed.us.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dan Ritter, Acting Stevensville District Ranger and Designated Federal Officer. Phone: (406) 777-5461.

Dated: January 6, 2005.

David T. Bull,
Forest Supervisor.
[FR Doc. 05-608 Filed 1-11-05; 8:45 am]
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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Notice of Request for Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA.

ACTION: Proposed collection; comments requested.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Rural Business-Cooperative Service's (RBS) intention to request an extension of the clearance for an existing information collection in order to render service to associations of producers of agricultural, forestry, fisheries products and federations, and subsidiaries, thereof, as authorized in the Cooperative Marketing Act of 1926.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by March 14, 2005.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Tracey L. Kennedy, Agricultural Economist, RBS, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., STOP 3252, Washington, DC 20250-3252, Telephone (202) 690-1428.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Annual Survey of Cooperative Involvement in International Markets.
OMB Number: 0570-0020.

Expiration Date of Approval: February 28, 2005.

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

Abstract: The mission of the Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS), formerly Agricultural Cooperative Service (ACS), is to assist farmer-owned cooperatives in improving the economic well-being of their farmer-members. This is accomplished through a comprehensive program of research on structural, operational, and policy issues affecting cooperatives; technical advisory assistance to individual cooperatives and to groups of producers who wish to organize cooperatives; and development of educational and informational material. The authority to carry out RBS's mission is defined in the Cooperative Marketing Act of 1926 (44 Stat. 802-1926).

Authority and Duties of Division (7 U.S.C. 453).

(a) The division shall render service to associations of producers of agricultural products, and federations and subsidiaries, thereof, engaged in the cooperative marketing of agricultural products including processing, warehousing, manufacturing, storage, the cooperative purchasing of farm supplies, credit, financing, insurance, and other cooperative activities.

(b) The division is authorized to:

(1) Acquire, analyze, and disseminate economic, statistical, and historical information regarding the progress, organization, and business methods of cooperative associations in the United States and foreign countries.

(2) Conduct studies of the economic, legal, financial, social, and other phases of cooperation, and publish the results thereof. Such studies shall include the analyses of the organization, operation, financial and merchandising problems of cooperative organizations.

(3) Make surveys and analyses if deemed advisable of the accounts and business practices of representative cooperative associations upon their request; report to the association so surveyed the results thereof; and with the consent of the association so surveyed to publish summaries of the results of such surveys, together with similar facts, for the guidance of cooperative associations and for the purpose of assisting cooperative associations in developing methods of business and market analysis.

(4) Acquire from all available sources, information concerning crop prospects, supply, demand, current receipts, exports, imports, and prices of agricultural products handled or marketed by cooperative associations, and employ qualified commodity marketing specialists to summarize and analyze this information and disseminate the same among cooperative associations and others.

RBS also has a stated objective to "assist U.S. farmer cooperatives to expand their participation in international trade of agricultural products and supplies and to review their progress."

As trade agreements are implemented and domestic farm supports are reduced, a global presence is increasingly important to producers, their communities, and to job-creation and retention in agri- and food-related industries. Measurement and monitoring of cooperatives' global presence are stated objectives of RBS's International Trade Program. In order to carry out the Agency's mission and objectives, RBS needs to collect information from the cooperative community. This information collection

is designed to provide time-series data that will provide a better understanding of the opportunities and limitations of producer-owned cooperatives in global markets. The data provide the basis for research on trade-related issues affecting cooperatives, and background for trade-related policy analysis.

Beginning in 1980, RBS's predecessor, ACS, collected cooperative trade data at 5-year intervals. Value of cooperative exports by commodity and destination was measured, as well as information related to method of sale. Values of imports by cooperatives, commodity, and country of origin were collected in 1986 and 1991. Since 1997, data have been collected on an annual basis, as it became apparent that data collected at intervals longer than 1 year do not provide for meaningful analysis. Further, data collected prior to 1997 had been strictly limited to exports and imports, neglecting other important international arrangements such as strategic alliances and foreign direct investments. A more comprehensive, annual data set accomplishes stated Cooperative Service objectives to measure and monitor cooperatives' global presence. These data are generally not available to RBS unless provided by the cooperatives.

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

Respondents: Cooperatives involved in international activities.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 105.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: One per year.

Estimated Number of Responses: 105.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 105 hours.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Cheryl Thompson, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, at (202) 692-0043.

Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the function 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 use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other

technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to Cheryl Thompson, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., STOP 0742, Washington, DC 20250. All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of a public record.

Dated: January 4, 2005.

Peter J. Thomas,

Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service.

[FR Doc. 05-576 Filed 1-11-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-XY-U

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Census Bureau

Field Representative Exit Questionnaire (BC-1294/1294(D))

ACTION: Proposed collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before March 14, 2005.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6086, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at mcclayton@doc.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to Geraldine Burt, Census/Field Division, Room 1784/FOB 3, Washington, DC 20233-4400, and 301-763-1935.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

Retention of trained field interviewing staff is a major concern for the Census Bureau because of both the monetary costs associated with employee turnover, as well as the potential impact on data quality. The Field Representative Exit Survey is used to

collect data from a sample of our former current survey interviewers (field representatives) and decennial operations interviewers (enumerators). The purpose of the Field Representative Exit Survey is to determine the reasons for interviewer turnover and what the Census Bureau might do to help reduce its turnover rate for interviewing staff.

We will use Form BC-1294 to collect data from field representatives who leave the Census Bureau. We will use Form BC-1294(D) to collect data from the enumerators hired to work on the 2010 Test Census in 2005/2006 (and in the 2008 Dress Rehearsal in 2007) who stop working voluntarily before the operation for which they were hired is completed. Both forms ask questions about the factors that affected an interviewer's decision regarding voluntarily leaving employment with the Census Bureau. The BC-1294 and BC-1294(D) cover the same topics, but the questions and response choices on the BC-1294(D) have been tailored to decennial census operations.

Interviewer turnover is of heightened concern during a decennial census because of the short time periods for data collection operations and the potential adverse impact excessive turnover would have on completing operations as scheduled. The 2010 Test Censuses are being used by the Census Bureau to test and experiment with procedures in a simulated census environment in preparation for the 2010 Census. The second of the major field tests for the 2010 Test Census will be conducted in 2006. The primary goal of the 2006 Census Test will be to test and improve the field and automated systems needed to support the major design components of the 2010 Census. The results of the 2006 Census Tests will inform the design of the 2008 Dress Rehearsal. Emphasis in the 2006 Census Test will be on continuing the assessment of new methods and systems proposed for 2010, including an analysis of the impact of the use of hand-held computers for locating addresses and route planning, interviewing and collection of Global Positioning Systems (GPS) coordinates on field staffing.

The information collected via the Field Representative Exit Survey will help the Census Bureau develop plans to reduce turnover in its current survey and decennial interviewing staff. These results allow for better informed management decisions regarding the field work force and the implementation of more effective recruitment, pay plans, interviewer training, and retention strategies for both current and decennial interviewers.