

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

Commodity Credit Corporation

Request for Approval of an Information Collection

AGENCY: Commodity Credit Corporation, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Commodity Credit Corporation's (CCC) intention to request a new information collection. This information collection will be used in support of the Pasture Recovery Program (PRP) which reimburses producers for drought-related losses on pasture during calendar year 1999 as authorized by the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2000. Producers must agree to reestablish vegetation on pasture acreage destroyed by the drought in order to receive the disaster payment.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received on or before February 20, 2001 to be assured consideration.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS: Contact Clayton Furukawa, Agricultural Program Specialist, USDA, FSA, CEPD, STOP 0513, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-0513; telephone (202) 690-0571; e-mail Clayton_Furukawa@wdc.usda.gov; or facsimile (202) 720-4619.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Pasture Recovery Program Contract.

OMB Control Number: 0560-NEW.

Type of Request: Approval of a new information collection.

Abstract: The PRP was authorized by the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2000, to reimburse farmers and ranchers

for drought related losses to pasture during calendar year 1999. The information is necessary to ensure the integrity of the program and to ensure that only eligible producers are authorized contracts.

Producers requesting PRP payments from the CCC must provide specific data related to the disaster payment request. The form included in this information collection package requires farm and tract numbers, name and address, number of acres where vegetation will be reestablished, and similar information, in order to determine eligibility. Producers must also agree to the terms and conditions contained in the form. Without the collection of this information, CCC cannot ensure the integrity of the program.

Estimate of Respondent Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .25 hours per response.

Respondents: Individuals producers, partnerships, corporations, tribal members, or other eligible agricultural producers.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 15,000.

Estimated Number of Annual Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 1.25 hours (This estimate includes 60 minutes travel time for applicants to the local USDA service center office.)

Proposed topics for comment include: (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 burden, 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 burden of the collection of the 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 must be sent to the Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503, and to Clayton Furukawa, Agricultural Program Specialist, USDA-FSA-CEPD, STOP

0513, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-0513; telephone (202) 690-0571; e-mail Clayton_Furukawa@wdc.fsa.usda.gov; or facsimile (202) 720-4619. Copies of the information collection may be obtained from Mr. Furukawa at the above address.

OMB is required to make a decision concerning the collection of information contained in these proposed regulations between 30 and 60 days after publication of this document in the **Federal Register**. Therefore, a comment to OMB is best assured of having its full effect if OMB receives it within 30 days of publication.

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 at Washington, DC, on December 13, 2000.

Keith Kelly,

Executive Vice President, Commodity Credit Corporation.

[FR Doc. 00-32713 Filed 12-21-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-05-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Notice of Proposed Change to the Natural Resources Conservation Service's National Handbook of Conservation Practices

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Department of Agriculture, New York State Office.

ACTION: Notice of availability of proposed changes in the NRCS National Handbook of Conservation Practices, Section IV of the New York State NRCS Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) for review and comment.

SUMMARY: It is the intention of NRCS to issue a revised conservation practice standard in its National Handbook of Conservation Practices. This revised standard is: Swaste Storage Facility (NY313).

DATES: Comments will be received on or before January 22, 2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Inquire in writing to Wayne E. Maresch, State Conservationist, Natural Resources

Conservation Service, (NRCS), 441 S. Salina Street, Fifth Floor, Suite 354, Syracuse, New York, 13202-2450.

A copy of this standard is available from the above individual.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 343 of the Federal Agricultural Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 states that revisions made after enactment of the law to NRCS State Technical Guides used to carry out highly erodible land and wetland provisions of the law shall be made available for public review and comment. For the next 30 days the NRCS will receive comments relative to the proposed changes. Following that period a determination will be made by the NRCS regarding disposition of those comments and a final determination of change will be made.

Dated: December 7, 2000.

Wayne M. Maresch,

State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Syracuse, NY.

[FR Doc. 00-32737 Filed 12-21-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-16-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

Municipal Interest Rates for the First Quarter of 2001

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of municipal interest rates on advances from insured electric loans for the first quarter of 2001.

SUMMARY: The Rural Utilities Service hereby announces the interest rates for advances on municipal rate loans with interest rate terms beginning during the first calendar quarter of 2001.

DATES: These interest rates are effective for interest rate terms that commence during the period beginning January 1, 2001, and ending March 31, 2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gail P. Salgado, Management Analyst, Office of the Assistant Administrator, Electric Program, Rural Utilities Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 4024-S, Stop 1560, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-1560. Telephone: 202-205-3660. FAX: 202-690-0717. E-mail: GSalgado@rus.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) hereby announces the interest rates on advances made during the first calendar quarter of 2001 for municipal rate electric loans. RUS regulations at § 1714.4 state that each advance of funds on a municipal rate loan shall

bear interest at a single rate for each interest rate term. Pursuant to § 1714.5, the interest rates on these advances are based on indexes published in the "Bond Buyer" for the four weeks prior to the fourth Friday of the last month before the beginning of the quarter. The rate for interest rate terms of 20 years or longer is the average of the 20 year rates published in the Bond Buyer in the four weeks specified in § 1714.5(d). The rate for terms of less than 20 years is the average of the rates published in the Bond Buyer for the same four weeks in the table of "Municipal Market Data—General Obligation Yields" or the successor to this table. No interest rate may exceed the interest rate for Water and Waste Disposal loans.

The table of Municipal Market Data includes only rates for securities maturing in 2001 and at 5 year intervals thereafter. The rates published by RUS reflect the average rates for the years shown in the Municipal Market Data table. Rates for interest rate terms ending in intervening years are a linear interpolation based on the average of the rates published in the Bond Buyer. All rates are adjusted to the nearest one eighth of one percent (0.125 percent) as required under § 1714.5(a). The market interest rate on Water and Waste Disposal loans for this quarter is 5.500 percent.

In accordance with § 1714.5, the interest rates are established as shown in the following table for all interest rate terms that begin at any time during the first calendar quarter of 2001.

Interest rate term ends in (year)	RUS rate (0.000 percent)
2022	5.500 or later
2021	5.500
2020	5.500
2019	5.500
2018	5.500
2017	5.500
2016	5.500
2015	5.500
2014	5.500
2013	5.500
2012	5.375
2011	5.375
2010	5.250
2009	5.250
2008	5.125
2007	5.125
2006	5.000
2005	4.875
2004	4.750
2003	4.500
2002	4.375

Dated: December 18, 2000.

Christopher A. McLean,

Administrator, Rural Utilities Service.

[FR Doc. 00-32645 Filed 12-21-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-15-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA); Treasury Rate Loan Program

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of funding availability (NOFA).

SUMMARY: This Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) announces the availability of \$500 million in direct Treasury rate electric loans for fiscal year (FY) 2001. This document describes the eligibility and submission requirements, the criteria that will be used by the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) to select applications for funding, and the expectation that the current backlog of qualifying applications for loans from RUS under the Rural Electrification Act will exhaust all of the available funding. In the event this assumption proves to be incorrect, RUS intends to publish another NOFA on or before July 1, 2001, announcing the availability of any remaining direct Treasury rate electric loan funds and how they will be allocated. The intended effect of this NOFA is to enable RUS to approve all direct Treasury rate electric loans for FY 2001 prior to July 1, 2001.

DATES: RUS intends to treat all completed qualifying applications for direct electric loans at the municipal rate as pre-applications for direct electric loans at the Treasury rate. The closing date for receipt of pre-applications that will be considered is October 28, 2000; the date on which the direct Treasury rate electric loan program was established by Pub.L. 106-387.

ADDRESSES: Loan applicants that do not have outstanding loans from RUS should write to the Rural Utilities Service, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250-1500. A field or headquarters staff representative may be assigned by RUS to visit the applicant and discuss its financial needs and eligibility. Borrowers that have outstanding loans should contact their assigned RUS general field representative (GFR). Borrowers may consult with RUS field representatives and headquarters staff, as necessary.