

will continue its evaluation of the merits of establishing one or more National Institutes focused on disciplines important to the progress of food and Agricultural science. In the morning there will be welcoming remarks made by the Chairman of the Task Force, Dr. William Danforth, Chancellor Emeritus, Vice Chairman, Board of Trustees, Washington University in St. Louis, and USDA Deputy Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics (REE), Dr. Rodney J. Brown. Welcoming remarks will be followed by a review and editing of the draft report. There will be a working lunch followed by an afternoon discussion of plans and the timetable for completing and approving the final report.

The Task Force Meeting will adjourn on Tuesday, April 20th, around 4 p.m. This meeting is open to the public. Due to a delay, this notice could not be published at least 15 days prior to the meeting. The meeting will be held as scheduled because of the significant sacrifice rescheduling would require of the Task Force members who have adjusted their schedules to accommodate the proposed meeting date. Written comments for the public record will be welcomed before and up to two weeks following the Task Force meeting (by close of business Tuesday, May 4th, 2004). All statements will become part of the official record of the Research, Education, and Economics Task Force and will be kept on file for public review in the Office of the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics.

Done at Washington, DC this 13th day of April 2004.

Rodney J. Brown,

Deputy Under Secretary, Research, Education, and Economics.

[FR Doc. 04-8835 Filed 4-15-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-03-U

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Farm Service Agency

Request for Revision and Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection; Management Advice to Individual Borrowers and Applicants

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 and revision of the Office of

Management and Budget's (OMB) approval of the information collection which supports the FSA, Farm Loan Programs (FLP) loan making and servicing applications. This renewal does not involve any revisions to the program regulations.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received on or before June 15, 2004, to be assured of consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gail Wargo, Senior Loan Officer, USDA, FSA, Farm Loan Programs, Program Development and Economic Enhancement Division, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., STOP 0521, Washington, DC 20250-0521; telephone (202) 720-3647; electronic mail: gail.wargo@wdc.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: *Title:* Management Advice to Individual Borrowers and Applicants.

OMB Control Number: 0560-0154.

Expiration Date of Approval: September 30, 2004.

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

Abstract: The information collected under OMB Control Number 0560-0154 is necessary to provide proper farm assessments, credit counseling and supervision to direct loan borrowers in accordance with the requirements of 7 CFR part 1924, subpart B as authorized by the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act. Specifically, the Agency uses the information to protect the government's financial interests by ensuring that the farming operations of direct loan applicants and borrowers are properly assessed for short and long-term financial feasibility. The information is needed by the Agency to assure that the recipients of direct loans receive appropriate credit counseling and supervision to ensure the greatest chance for financial success.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 2.50 hours per response.

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

Estimated Number of Respondents: 55,542.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.00.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 143,059.

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 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; or (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical or other technological collections techniques or other forms of information technology.

These 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 Gail Wargo, USDA, FSA, Farm Loan Programs, Program Development and Economic Enhancement Division, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., STOP 0521, Washington, DC 20250-0521. Copies of the information collection may be obtained from Gail Wargo at the above address. Comments regarding paperwork burden 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 April 7, 2004.

Verle E. Lanier,

Acting Administrator, Farm Service Agency.

[FR Doc. 04-8615 Filed 4-15-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-05-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Farm Service Agency

Notice of Funds Availability: Tree Assistance Program for New York Fruit Tree Losses Due to Ice Storm

AGENCY: Farm Service Agency, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the availability of \$5,000,000 to provide assistance under the Tree Assistance Program (TAP) to compensate tree-fruit growers in a federally-declared disaster area in the State of New York who suffered tree losses in 2003 as the result of an April 4-6, 2003, ice storm.

DATES: Applications by eligible persons may be submitted any time before the ending date announced by the Deputy Administrator for Farm Programs, Farm Service Agency. That date, unless adjusted by the Deputy Administrator, shall be May 14, 2004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Eloise Taylor, Chief, Compliance Branch, Production, Emergencies and Compliance Divisions, FSA/USDA, Stop 0517, 1400 Independence Avenue SW.,

Washington, DC 20250-0517; telephone (202) 720-9882; e-mail:

Eloise.Taylor@wdc.usda.gov. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of regulatory information, (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.), should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

TAP was authorized, but not funded, by section 10201 *et seq.* of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Pub. L. 107-171) (7 U.S.C. 8201 *et seq.*) to provide assistance to eligible orchardists to replant trees, bushes and vines that were grown for the production of an annual crop and were lost due to a natural disaster. This notice sets out a special program within TAP for certain fruit tree losses due to an ice storm in New York. Section 756(a) of Division A of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2004 (Pub. L. 108-199) provided that the Secretary of Agriculture shall use \$5,000,000 of the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation to provide assistance under TAP to compensate tree-fruit growers in a federally-declared disaster area in the State of New York who suffered tree losses in 2003 as the result of an April 4-6, 2003, ice storm. Assistance will be provided subject to regulations and restrictions governing the TAP provided for in the 2002 Act. Those regulations were published March 2, 2004 (69 FR 9744) and are found at 7 CFR part 783. Also, the restrictions of the statute apply. Those include a requirement of replanting, a limitation on payments by "person," a limitation on acres for which relief can be claimed, a requirement that the loss be tied to a natural disaster, and others. If, after the claims filed during the allowed period set out in this notice are received and the available funds are less than the eligible claims, a proration will be made. Claims are limited to the lesser of the established practice rates or 75 percent of the actual costs for eligible replantings after adjusting for normal mortality. In addition, the reimbursement for those plantings cannot exceed the reasonable cost of those replantings as determined by FSA. There are other statutory restrictions. Under current law, no "person" as defined by reference to program regulations can receive, cumulatively, for all TAP claims for all commodities over the life of the program as administered pursuant to the general authority of the 2002 Act, a total of \$75,000. Also, and cumulatively, no

person, for all TAP claims for all commodities over the life of the administration of the program, can, under current law, receive benefits for losses on more than 500 acres. All other restrictions of the TAP regulations and statute apply as well. Other requirements may also apply.

Applications

Applications may be accepted at any time before the ending date set by the Deputy Administrator for Farm Programs, FSA. That date, unless modified by the Deputy Administrator, shall be May 14, 2004. Only producers with losses in federally-declared disaster counties may file an application. The counties are Cayuga, Chenango, Livingston, Madison, Monroe, Oneida, Onondaga, Ontario, Orleans, Oswego, Otsego, Schenectady, Seneca, Wayne, and Yates.

Application forms are available for TAP at FSA county offices or on the Internet at *www.fsa.usda.gov*. A complete application for TAP benefits and related supporting documentation must be submitted to the county office before the deadline.

A complete application will include all of the following:

- (1) A form provided by FSA;
- (2) A written estimate of the number of fruit trees lost or damaged which is prepared by the owner or someone who is a qualified expert, as determined by the FSA county committee;
- (3) The number of acres on which the loss was suffered;
- (4) Sufficient evidence of the loss to allow the county committee to calculate whether an eligible loss occurred; and
- (5) Other information as requested or required by regulation.

Signed at Washington, DC, on March 25, 2004.

James R. Little,

Administrator, Farm Service Agency.

[FR Doc. 04-8648 Filed 4-15-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-05-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Olympic Peninsula Resource Advisory Committee (RAC)

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Olympic Peninsula Resource Advisory Committee will hold its next meeting on May 13, 2004. The meeting will be held at Mason County's Public Utility Department auditorium at 307 West Cota Street, Shelton,

Washington. The meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m. and end at approximately 3:30 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to: Approve minutes of previous meeting; consider modifications to By-laws; review process for making nominations for RAC membership for fiscal years 2005-2007; review status of prior year Title III projects; review status of prior year Title II projects; present project proposals for FY 2005; select projects and priorities to recommend to Designated Federal Official for approval; and receive public comments.

DATE: The meeting will be held May 13, 2004 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held in Mason County's Public Utility Department auditorium at 307 West Cota Street, Shelton, Washington.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ken Eldredge, RAC Liaison, USDA, Olympic National Forest Headquarters, 1835 Black Lake Blvd., Olympia, WA 98512-5623, (360) 956-2323 or Dale Hom, Forest Supervisor and Designated Federal Official, at (360) 956-2301.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: All Resource Advisory Committee meetings are open to the public and interested citizens are encouraged to attend. Committee discussion is limited to committee members, Forest Service representatives and project sponsors. However, persons who wish to comment on meeting proceedings and project proposals will be given time during the public comment time. Individuals who would like time on the agenda must sign-in before the start of the meeting, stating they would like to comment. Comments must be brief, less than 5 minutes and to the point.

Dated: April 12, 2004.

Dale Hom,

Forest Supervisor, Olympic National Forest.

[FR Doc. 04-8642 Filed 4-15-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Grays Harbor Resource Advisory Committee (RAC)

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Grays Harbor Resource Advisory Committee will hold its next meeting on May 13, 2004. The meeting will be held at Hoquiam Library at 420 Seventh Street, Hoquiam, Washington. The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. and end at approximately 8:30 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to: approve