

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the intention of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) to seek approval to conduct a new information collection to gather data related to the use of agroforestry practices.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by August 2, 2021 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by docket number 0535-NEW, by any of the following methods:

- *Email:* ombofficer@nass.usda.gov. Include docket number above in the subject line of the message.
- *E-fax:* (855) 838-6382.
- *Mail:* Mail any paper, disk, or CD-ROM submissions to: David Hancock, NASS Clearance Officer, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 5336 South Building, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250-2024.

- *Hand Delivery/Courier:* Hand deliver to: David Hancock, NASS Clearance Officer, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 5336 South Building, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250-2024.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Kevin L. Barnes, Associate Administrator, National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, (202) 720-2707. Copies of this information collection and related instructions can be obtained without charge from David Hancock, NASS—OMB Clearance Officer, at (202) 690-2388 or at ombofficer@nass.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: National Agroforestry Survey.

OMB Control Number: 0535-NEW.

Type of Request: Intent to seek approval to create a new information collection for a period of three years.

Abstract: The survey will collect data whether the operator uses any of five agroforestry practices typically used for conservation: Windbreaks, Silvopasture, Riparian Forest Buffers, Alley Cropping, as well as Forest Farming & Multi-story Cropping.

Windbreaks are linear plantings of trees and shrubs designed to provide economic, environmental and community benefits. The primary purpose of most windbreaks is to slow the wind which creates a more beneficial condition for soils, crops, livestock, wildlife and people.

Silvopasture is the deliberate integration of trees and grazing livestock operations on the same land. These systems are intensively managed for both forest products and forage,

providing both short- and long-term income sources.

A riparian forest buffer is an area adjacent to a stream, lake, or wetland that contains a combination of trees, shrubs, and/or other perennial plants and is managed differently from the surrounding landscape, primarily to provide conservation benefits.

Forest farming is the cultivation of high-value crops under the protection of a managed tree canopy. In some parts of the world, this is called multi-story cropping and when used on a small scale in the tropics it is sometimes called home gardening.

Alley cropping is defined as the planting of rows of trees and/or shrubs to create alleys within which agricultural or horticultural crops are produced. The trees may include valuable hardwood veneer or lumber species; fruit, nut or other specialty crop trees/shrubs; or desirable softwood species for wood fiber production.

NASS would plan and conduct the survey and deliver access to a dataset or responses to approved staff from USDA-Forestry Service, who will publish the results of the survey. This project is conducted as a cooperative effort with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forestry Service—National Agroforestry Center. Funding for this survey is being provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forestry Service—National Agroforestry Center.

Authority: These data will be collected under authority of 7 U.S.C. 2204(a). Individually identifiable data collected under this authority are governed by Section 1770 of the Food Security Act of 1985 as amended, 7 U.S.C. 2276, which requires USDA to afford strict confidentiality to non-aggregated data provided by respondents. This Notice is submitted in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-113, 44 U.S.C. 3501, *et seq.*) and Office of Management and Budget regulations at 5 CFR part 1320.

NASS also complies with OMB Implementation Guidance, "Implementation Guidance for Title V of the E-Government Act, Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2002 (CIPSEA)," **Federal Register**, Vol. 72, No. 115, June 15, 2007, p. 33362.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 50 minutes per response. NASS plans to mail out publicity materials with the questionnaires to inform respondents of the importance of this survey. NASS will also use a single mailing and internet data collection tools, followed

up with phone and limited personal enumeration of non-respondents to increase response rates and to minimize data collection costs.

Respondents: Farmers and Ranchers who reported using agroforestry practices on the 2017 Census of Agriculture.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 11,800.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 9,500 hours.

Comments: Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed 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 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, through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, technological, or other forms of information technology collection methods.

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

Signed at Washington, DC, May 20, 2021.

Kevin L. Barnes,

Associate Administrator.

[FR Doc. 2021-11537 Filed 6-1-21; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-20-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement

Advisory Committee on Minority Farmers; Meeting

AGENCY: Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of conference call meeting.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the Department of Agriculture and the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), that a public teleconference of the Advisory Committee on Minority Farmers (ACMF) will be held to discuss USDA outreach, technical assistance, and capacity building for and with minority farmers; the implementation of the Socially Disadvantaged and Veteran Farmer and Rancher Grant Program (2501 Program); and methods of

maximizing the participation of minority farmers and ranchers in the U.S. Department of Agriculture; and to plan mechanisms for best providing advice to the Secretary on the issues outlined above.

DATES: The public portion of the conference call will be held on Wednesday, June 9, 2021 at 3:00–3:45 p.m. Central Standard Time (CST).

Public Call-In Information

The conference begins at 1:00 p.m. Central Time on June 9, 2021; you may join the conference 10 minutes prior.

Step 1: Dial into the conference.

Dial-in: 888–251–2949 or 215–861–0694.

Access Code: 5416488#.

Need an international dial-in number?

Step 2: Join the conference on your computer.

Entry Link: <https://ems8.intellor.com/login/838969>.

When you access the entry link above, you will be provided a choice—to install the WebEx plug-in for your preferred browser or to join the web conference using a temporary path. Either option is acceptable.

Need technical assistance?

Audio Connection: 1–888–796–6118.

WebEx Connection: 1–888–793–6118.

Public Comments: Written comments for the Committee's consideration may be submitted to email: ACMF@usda.gov. Written comments must be received by June 8th, 2021.

Availability of Materials for the Meeting: General information about the ACMF as well as any updates concerning the meeting announced in this notice, may be found on the ACMF website at <https://www.usda.gov/partnerships/advisory-committee-on-minority-farmers>.

Accessibility: USDA is committed to ensuring that all persons are included in our programs and events. If you are a person with a disability and require reasonable accommodations to participate in this meeting Please contact Eston Williams at Eston.Williams@usda.gov or (202) 596–0226.

Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1–800–877–8339 between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

General information about the committee can also be found at <https://www.usda.gov/partnerships/advisory-committee-on-minority-farmers>. Any member of the public wishing to obtain

information concerning this public meeting may contact Eston Williams, Designated Federal Officer (DFO), at Eston.Williams@usda.gov or at (202) 596–0226.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background: The Committee was established in the U.S. Department of Agriculture pursuant to section 14008 of the Food Conservation and Energy Act of 2008, Public Law 110–246, 122 Stat. 1651, 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2279).

The Committee works in the interest of the public to ensure socially disadvantaged farmers have equal access to USDA programs. The Committee advises the Secretary on the implementation of section 2501 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990; methods of maximizing the participation of minority farmers and ranchers in U.S. Department of Agriculture programs; and civil rights activities within the Department, as such activities relate to participants in such programs.

Dated: May 25, 2021.

Cikena Reid,

USDA Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 2021–11595 Filed 6–1–21; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3412–88–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Risk Management Agency

Notice of Funding Availability; Pandemic Cover Crop Program

AGENCY: Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, and Risk Management Agency, USDA.

ACTION: Notification of funding availability.

SUMMARY: The Risk Management Agency (RMA), on behalf of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC), is announcing the availability of funding under the Pandemic Cover Crop Program (PCCP) to help agricultural producers impacted by the effects of the COVID–19 outbreak. Given cover crop cultivation requires sustained, long-term investments to improve soil health and gain other agronomic benefits, the economic challenges due to the pandemic made maintaining cover cropping systems financially challenging for many producers. For the 2021 crop year, PCCP premium support is available to eligible producers for eligible insured acres on a spring crop insurance policy on which the producer planted a qualifying cover crop during the 2021 crop year.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

David Zanon, Senior Underwriter, david.zanon@usda.gov, 816–926–6142.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

This notice of funding availability specifies the terms and conditions of PCCP. PCCP provides premium support to eligible producers who planted and reported to Farm Service Agency (FSA) a qualifying cover crop on acreage insured under a spring crop insurance policy during the 2021 crop year. Funds from Division N of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, (Pub. L. 116–260) will be used for this notice of funding availability.

Definitions

Approved Insurance Provider (AIP) means a legal entity that has entered into a reinsurance agreement with FCIC for the applicable reinsurance year and is authorized to sell and service policies or plans of insurance under the Federal Crop Insurance Act.

Crop insurance policy means an insurance policy reinsured by FCIC under the provisions of the Federal Crop Insurance Act, as amended. It does not include private plans of insurance.

Crop year means the period within which the insured crop is normally grown and is designated by the calendar year in which the insured crop is normally harvested.

Eligible insured acres means insured acres on which the producer planted a qualifying cover crop during the 2021 crop year, as reported on the CLU(s) to FSA via a completed and signed Form 578-Report of Acreage on or before June 15, 2021, which may be prior to FSA's acreage reporting date, and reported the same CLU(s) on their crop insurance acreage report by the applicable Federal crop insurance acreage reporting date for a 2021 crop year spring crop insurance policy.

Eligible producer means a producer meeting all of the eligibility requirements for PCCP.

FCIC means the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, a wholly owned Government Corporation of USDA that administers the Federal crop insurance program.

FSA means the Farm Service Agency, USDA.

FSA Common Land Unit (CLU) means the smallest unit of land that has a permanent, contiguous boundary, common land cover and land management, common owner, and common producer association.

Insured crop means a crop for which the participant has purchased a crop insurance policy from an AIP.