

Notices

Federal Register

Vol. 62, No. 134

Monday, July 14, 1997

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

Research, Education, and Economics

Notice of Strategic Planning Task Force Meeting

AGENCY: Research, Education, and Economics, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The United States Department of Agriculture announces a meeting of the Strategic Planning Task Force on Research Facilities.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Strategic Planning Task Force on Research Facilities which consists of 15 members, have scheduled to meet for the second of eight planned meetings. The meeting is scheduled to be held at the Holiday Inn-University Park in Ft. Collins, Colorado, beginning at 1 p.m. on August 25 and concluding at 4 p.m. on August 27. The meeting will focus on what has transpired since the initial meeting on May 28–30, 1997, in Ames, Iowa, and what has been accomplished since. One day of the meeting will be spent touring various ARS, FS, and APHIS research facilities. At the first meeting, a draft agenda on ways to implement the charge of the Secretary was introduced and a format for subsequent meetings established.

TIMES AND DATES: August 25, 1997, 1 p.m.—8 p.m.; August 26, 1997, 8 a.m.—8 p.m.; and August 27, 1997, 8 a.m.—4 p.m.

PLACE: Holiday Inn—University Park, 425 W. Prospect Avenue, Ft. Collins, CO 80526.

TYPE OF MEETING: Open to the public.

COMMENTS: The public may file written comments before or after the meeting with the contact person listed below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mitch Geasler, Project Director, Strategic Planning Task Force on Research Facilities, Room 212–W, Jamie L. Whitten Building, USDA, 1400

Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250. Telephone (202) 720–3803.

Done at Washington, D.C. this 8th day of July 1997.

Catherine E. Woteki,

Acting Under Secretary, Research, Education, and Economics.

[FR Doc. 97–18384 Filed 7–11–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service

Notice of Intent to Extend a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104–13) and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations at 5 CFR Part 1320 (60 FR 44977, August 29, 1995), this notice announces the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service's (CSREES) intention to request an extension for three years for a currently approved information collection in support of programs administered by CSREES's Higher Education Programs (HEP) unit. **DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received by September 17, 1997 to be assured of consideration.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS: Contact Sally J. Rockey, Deputy Administrator, Competitive Research Grants and Awards Management, CSREES, USDA, STOP 2240, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250–2240; Telephone: (202) 401–1766; E-mail: OEP@reusda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: CSREES/Higher Education Grants Program.

OMB Number: 0524–0030.

Expiration Date of Current Approval: September 30, 1997.

Type of Request: Intent to extend a currently approved information collection for three years.

Abstract: The HEP unit of USDA/CSREES administers several

competitive, peer-reviewed research and teaching programs, under which grants of a high-priority nature are awarded. These programs are authorized pursuant to the authorities contained in the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977, as amended (7 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.), section 1417(b)(1) for the Challenge Grants Program (7 U.S.C. 3152), section 1417(b)(4) for the Capacity Building Grants Program (7 U.S.C. 3152), section 1455 for the Hispanic-Serving Institutions Education Grants Program (7 U.S.C. 3241), and the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 et seq.) for the Tribal Colleges Education Equity Grants Program.

The Challenge Grants Program is intended to assist colleges and universities in the United States in providing high quality educational programs in the food and agricultural sciences. The Capacity Building Grants Program is intended to strengthen the teaching and research capabilities of the sixteen 1890 historically black Land-Grant Institutions and Tuskegee University. The Hispanic-Serving Institutions Education Grants Program is intended to promote and strengthen the ability of Hispanic-Serving Institutions to carry out educational programs. The Tribal Colleges Education Equity Grants Program is intended to support projects that strengthen academic programs at the 1994 Land-Grant Institutions. All of these programs will, in turn, attract outstanding students and produce graduates capable of strengthening the Nation's food and agricultural scientific and professional work force.

Before awards can be made, certain information is required from applicants as part of an overall proposal package. In addition to project summaries, descriptions of the research or teaching efforts, literature reviews, curricula vitae of principal investigators, and other, relevant technical aspects of the proposed project, supporting documentation of an administrative and budgetary nature also must be provided. Because of the nature of the competitive, peer-reviewed process, it is important that information from applicants be available in a standardized format to ensure equitable treatment.

Each year, HEP solicitations are issued requesting proposals for various

research and teaching areas targeted for support. Applicants submit proposals for these targeted research and teaching areas following the format outlined in the proposal application guidelines accompanying each solicitation. These proposals are evaluated by peer review panels and awarded on a competitive basis.

These programs have been using forms that have been approved in an OMB-approved collection of information package (OMB No. 0524-0030).

Forms CSREES-662, "Assurance Statement(s);" CSREES-663, "Current and Pending Support;" CSREES-708, "Summary Vita—Teaching Proposal;" CSREES-710, "Summary Vita—Research Proposal;" CSREES-711, "Intent to Submit a Proposal;" CSREES-712, "Higher Education Proposal Cover Page;" and CSREES-713, "Higher Education Budget" are mainly used for proposal evaluation and administration purposes. While some of the information will be used to respond to inquiries from Congress and other government agencies, the forms are not designed to be statistical surveys or data collection instruments. Their completion by potential recipients is a normal part of the application to Federal agencies which support basic and applied scientific research.

The following information has been collected and will continue to be collected:

Form CSREES-662—*Assurances*: Provides required assurances of compliance with regulations involving the protection of human subjects, animal welfare, and recombinant DNA research.

Form CSREES-663—*Current and Pending Support*: Provides information for active and pending projects an applicant may have.

Form CSREES-708—*Teaching Credentials*: Identifies key personnel contributing substantially to the conduct of a teaching project and provides pertinent information concerning their backgrounds.

Form CSREES-710—*Research Credentials*: Identifies key personnel contributing substantially to the conduct of a research project and provides pertinent information concerning their backgrounds. Currently, the only program using this form is the Capacity Building Grants Program.

Form CSREES-711—*Intent to Submit*: Provides names, addresses, and phone numbers of project directors and authorized agents of applicant institutions and general information regarding potential proposals.

Form CSREES-712—*Proposal Identification*: Provides names, addresses, and phone numbers of project directors and authorized agents of applicant institutions and general information regarding the proposals.

Form CSREES-713—*Budget*: Provides a breakdown of the purposes for which funds will be spent in the event of a grant award.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 6.75 hours per response.

Respondents: Non-profit institutions, individuals, businesses, Federal Government, and State, Local, or Tribal Governments.

Estimated Number of Responses per Form: 200 for Form CSREES-710; 400 for Form CSREES-708; and 600 each for Forms CSREES-662, CSREES-663, CSREES-711, CSREES-712 and CSREES-713.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 3,450 hours, broken down by: 150 hours for Form CSREES-662 (one-quarter hour per 600 respondents); 150 hours for Form CSREES-663 (one-quarter hour per 600 respondents); 400 hours for Form CSREES-708 (one hour per 400 respondents); 200 hours for Form CSREES-710 (one hour per 200 respondents); 150 hours for Form CSREES-711 (one-quarter hour per 600 respondents); 1,800 hours for Form CSREES-712 (3 hours per 600 respondents); 600 hours for Form CSREES-713 (one hour per 600 respondents).

Frequency of Responses: Annually.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Suzanne Plimpton, Policy and Program Liaison Staff, CSREES; Telephone: (202) 401-1302; E-mail: OEP@reeusda.gov.

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, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to: Sally J. Rockey, Deputy Administrator, Competitive Research Grants and Awards Management, CSREES, USDA,

STOP 2240, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-2240; Telephone: (202) 401-1766; E-mail: OEP@reeusda.gov. Comments also may be submitted directly to OMB and should be addressed to: Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, D.C. 20502.

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

Done at Washington, D.C., this 8th day of July, 1997.

B.H. Robinson,

Administrator, Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service.

[FR Doc. 97-18299 Filed 7-11-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Foreign Agricultural Service

Foreign Market Development Cooperator Program—FY 1998 Program Announcement

AGENCY: Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the availability of funds for the Fiscal Year 1998 Foreign Market Development Cooperator (Cooperator) Program.

DATES: All applications must be received by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Savings Time, August 13, 1997.

ADDRESSES: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Foreign Agricultural Service, Marketing Operations Staff, STOP 1042, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-1042.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The Marketing Operations Staff at (202) 720-4327.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Introduction

The Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) announces that applications are being accepted for participation in the Fiscal Year 1998 Cooperator Program. The Program is intended to create, expand and maintain foreign markets for United States agricultural commodities and products. The Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) administers the Cooperator Program and provides cost share assistance to eligible trade organizations to carry out approved market development activities. Financial assistance under this program will be made available on a competitive