

# 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

### Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

April 17, 1998.

The Department of Agriculture has submitted the following information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. Comments regarding (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; (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 should be addressed to: Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Washington, D.C. 20503 and to Departmental Clearance Office, USDA, OCIO, Mail Stop 7602, Washington, D.C. 20250-7602. Comments regarding these information collections are best assured of having their full effect if received within 30 days of this notification. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling (202) 720-6746.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number and the agency informs potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information that such persons are not required to respond to the collection of information unless it

displays a currently valid OMB control number.

### Rural Business-Cooperative Service

*Title:* Research on Rural Cooperative Opportunities and Problems.

*OMB Control Number:* 0570-New.

*Summary of Collection:* The mission of the Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS) is to improve the quality of life in rural America by financing community facilities and businesses, providing technical assistance and creating effective strategies for rural development. Approximately \$1.9 million in competitive cooperative agreement funds have been allocated for RBS to award to public or private colleges or universities, research foundations maintained by a college or university, or private nonprofit organizations to encourage research on critical issues vital to the development and sustainability of cooperatives as a means of improving the quality of life in America's rural communities. Information required from applicants applying for these funds will include written proposals and forms describing the proposed research project and the individual or organization's profile and legal authority to apply for funds. If selected, the funding recipient, will be required to submit quarterly progress reports and maintain financial records and supporting documentation for three years.

*Need and Use of the Information:* The application information to be collected will be used by RBS to evaluate (1) eligibility; (2) the specific purpose for which the funds will be utilized; (3) time frames or dates by which activities surrounding the use of funds will be accomplished; (4) feasibility of the project; (5) applicants' experience in managing similar activities; and (6) the effectiveness and innovation used to address critical issues vital to the development and sustainability of cooperatives as a means of improving the quality of life in America's rural communities. Progress reports from funding recipients will be used to monitor the actual accomplishments to established objectives and compliance with funding requirements. Recordkeeping requirements are imposed by regulation to support audit activities.

*Description of Respondents:* Not-for-profit institutions.

*Number of Respondents:* 100.

*Frequency of Responses:*

Recordkeeping; Reporting: On occasion; Quarterly.

*Total Burden Hours:* 2,280.

### Food and Nutrition Service

*Title:* Food Stamp Program

Regulations, Quality control—Part 275.

*OMB Control Number:* 0584-0303.

*Summary of Collection:* The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), as administrator of the Food Stamp Program, requires each State agency implementing a quality control system to provide a basis for determining each State agency's error rates through review of a sample of Food Stamp cases. Each State agency is responsible for the design and selection of the quality control samples and must submit a quality control sampling plan for approval to FNS. Additionally, State agencies are required to maintain case records for three years to ensure compliance with provisions of the Food Stamp Act.

*Need and Use of the Information:* The quality control sampling plan is necessary for FNS to monitor State operations and is essential to the determination of a State agency's error rate and corresponding entitlement to increased Federal share of its administrative costs or liability for sanctions.

*Description of Respondents:* State, Local, or Tribal Government; Federal Government.

*Number of Respondents:* 53.

*Frequency of Responses:*

Recordkeeping; Reporting: On occasion; Annually.

*Total Burden Hours:* 3,830.

### Rural Business-Cooperative Service

*Title:* Revolving Loan Funds Capitalized by USDA Rural Development.

*OMB Control Number:* 0570-New.

*Summary of Collection:* The Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS), an agency within the Rural Development mission areas of USDA, operates several programs that provide funds to organizations to be used for loans to third-party recipients. RBS currently has little information about the ultimate recipients of these programs. Accordingly, RBS has entered into a cooperative agreement with Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (VA Tech) to develop an automated data base of information on

ultimate recipients of loans. Collection of information will be accomplished through the use of a form that may be completed manually or electronically.

**Need and Use of the Information:** The information collected will include data about the ultimate recipients of loans made by intermediaries (i.e., organizations which receive loans or grants directly from the Federal government). This information will improve measurement of program impacts in accordance with the National Performance and Results Act and provide information necessary for an analysis of the potential for secondary market sales of the loans held by the intermediaries.

**Description of Respondents:** Not-for-profit institutions; Business or other for-profit; Federal Government; State, Local or Tribal Government.

**Number of Respondents:** 550.

**Frequency of Responses:** Reporting: Annually.

**Total Burden Hours:** 2,750.

#### **Agricultural Marketing Service**

**Title:** Marketing Agreement No. 146, Regulating the Quality of Domestically Produced Peanuts (7 CFR Part 998).

**OMB Control Number:** 0581-0067.

**Summary of Collection:** The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), through the authorities emanating from the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937 and marketing agreement No. 146 (covering peanuts grown in the U.S.), regulates certain agricultural commodities for the purpose of providing orderly marketing conditions in interstate commerce and improving returns to producers. The required information relating to peanut supplies, shipments, inspection, disposition, and other inventory information is collected through the use of standardized forms and written letters.

**Need and Use of the Information:** The information collected falls into two categories: (1) Information from peanut handlers nominated, and subsequently selected, to serve on the Peanut Administrative Committee, and (2) information about peanut stocks—quantity purchased and milled, and monthly expenses. The information related to the first category is used by the Secretary of Agriculture to determine whether nominees are eligible to serve in the positions for which they were nominated. Information in the second category is necessary to implement regulations and provide oversight of the marketing agreement.

**Description of Respondents:** Business or other for-profit; Farms.

**Number of Respondents:** 29.

**Frequency of Responses:** Recordkeeping; Reporting: On occasion; Monthly; Annually.

**Total Burden Hours:** 126.

#### **Rural Housing Service**

**Title:** Form RD 1940-59, Settlement Statement.

**OMB Control Number:** 0575-0088.

**Summary of Collection:** The Rural Housing (RHS) and the Farm Service Agency (FSA) are requesting an extension of the OMB clearance for Form RD 1940-59, "Settlement Statement." The Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act (RESPA), as amended, requires the disclosure of real estate settlement costs to real estate buyers and sellers. Disclosure of the nature and costs of a mortgage transaction enables the borrower to be a more informed customer and protects the public from unnecessarily high settlement charges.

**Need and Use of the Information:** Form RD 1940-59 is completed by Settlement Agents, Closing Attorneys, and Title Insurance Companies performing the closing of RHS loans and credit sales used to purchase or refinance Section 502 Housing, Rural Rental Housing, and Farm Laboring Housing. The information is collected to provide the buyer and the seller with a statement detailing the actual costs of the settlement services involved in certain Agency financed real estate transactions. Failure to collect the information and disclose the information would be a violation of the RESPA.

**Description of Respondents:** Business or other for-profit.

**Number of Respondents:** 17,000.

**Frequency of Responses:** Reporting: On occasion.

**Total Burden Hours:** 20,500.

#### **Farm Service Agency**

**Title:** Potato Diversion Program—7 CFR Part 80.

**OMB Control Number:** 0560-0145.

**Summary of Collection:** The Potato Diversion Program is administered under the general direction of and supervision of the Agricultural Marketing Service, and in the field will be carried out by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) through State or County Committees. The Potato Diversion Program is authorized by the Act of August 24, 1935, Section 32. The objectives of the Potato Diversion Program are to make payment to producers for the diversion of potatoes subject to the terms and condition set forth, to charitable institutions, for use as livestock feed, or for compost. Information must be collected in order to determine the amount paid to each

producer for the quantity of potatoes diverted by the producer under the Potato Diversion Program.

**Need and Use of the Information:** Information will be collected from producers of eligible potatoes on Forms FSA-117, FSA-118, FSA-120 by the County FSA Offices. The information on Form FSA-117 is obtained from producers desiring to participate in this program and establishes the hundredweight of potatoes approved for diversion. The information on Form FSA-118 is obtained from the producer by arranging for inspection so that the inspector can be present to determine the proportion of potatoes in each lot which meet the quality requirements for the program. The information on Form FSA-120 is obtained from the producer after the FSA-117 is approved and the diversion has been completed, but before diversion period has expired for the Potato Diversion Program.

**Description of Respondent:** Farm; Individuals or households; Business or other for-profit.

**Number of Respondent:** 1,500.

**Frequency of Responses:** Reporting: Annually; Other-when authorized.

**Total Burden Hours:** 8,251.

**Nancy Sternberg,**

*Departmental Information Clearance Officer.*

[FR Doc. 98-10800 Filed 4-22-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-01-M

## **DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

### **Foreign Agricultural Service**

#### **Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection**

**AGENCY:** Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Foreign Agricultural Service's intention to request an extension and revision for a currently approved information collection in support of the List of Commodities by Firm Available for Exporting (U.S. Supplier Listing) based on re-estimates.

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received by June 22, 1998 to be assured of consideration.

**REQUESTS FOR COMMENTS:** Send comments regarding (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