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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 a New Information Collection

AGENCY: Commodity Credit Corporation, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) is seeking approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for the information collection activities necessary to provide vendors with an interactive web site they can use to track United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) domestic commodity shipments. The new procedure will be more reliable and more efficient than the current procedure.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received on or before November 20, 2000 to be assured consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gregory Borchert, Chief, Planning and Analysis Division, Kansas City Commodity Office (KCCO), 6501 Beacon Drive, Kansas City, Missouri 64131-4676, telephone (816) 926-6509 or fax (816) 926-6767.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Domestic Commodity Tracking System (DCTS).

OMB Control Number: 0560-New.

Type of Request: Approval of a new information collection.

Abstract: The Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) purchases agricultural commodities to meet program needs and other objectives. CCC issues invitations to purchase agricultural commodities at various times during the year. Vendors respond by making offers on the contracts. After contracts are awarded, the current process of tracking shipments requires manual documentation with data gathering provided by telephone and

facsimile. The Farm Service Agency (FSA), Kansas City Commodity Office (KCCO) has developed information technology to assist in tracking of shipments of transported agricultural commodities. The DCTS is a customer service endeavor which has emphasis on improved service to all customers and increased efficiency in the shipping/delivery operations. An interactive web site is designed to provide our customers with an efficient, user friendly method for inquiring on the status of shipments. Recipients and other agencies may utilize this service to determine if commodities have been purchased, the target delivery date, and date shipment was made. Accurate tracking will provide timely shipment information allowing recipients to effectively schedule their workforce. DCTS will reduce or eliminate: paperwork, document handling, mail and telephone time, postage, facsimile, and telephone expenses. The users will include: commodity vendors; transportation carriers; State Distributing Agencies; FSA, Dairy & Domestic Operations Division; Traffic Management Branch; Agricultural Marketing Service; and the Food and Nutrition Service. The equipment required to access DCTS is a personal computer, an internet service provider, and a netscape browser 4.0 or higher. Vendors will submit shipment and late delivery data electronically versus the current process of sending a hard copy.

Estimate of Burden: 3 minutes per response.

Respondents: Businesses and other for profit.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 67.

Estimated Number of Annual Responses per Respondent: 220.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 737 hours.

Proposed topics for comments 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; or (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 regarding this information collection requirement should be directed to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Attention: Desk Officer for Agriculture, Washington, DC 20503, and to Gregory Borchert, Chief, Planning and Analysis Division, Kansas City Commodity Office, 6501 Beacon Drive, Kansas City, Missouri 64131-4676, telephone (816) 926-6509 or fax (816) 926-6767.

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

Signed at Washington, DC, on September 13, 2000.

Keith Kelly,

Executive Vice President, Commodity Credit Corporation.

[FR Doc. 00-24086 Filed 9-20-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-05-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service

Notice of Intent To Revise and Request an Extension of 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 and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) implementing regulations this notice announces the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service's (CSREES) intention to revise and extend a currently approved information collection, 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"

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by November 27, 2000 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Address all comments concerning this notice to Dr. Sally J. Rockey, Deputy Administrator; Competitive Research Grants and Awards Management; Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service; U.S. Department of Agriculture; STOP 2240; 1400 Independence Avenue, SW; Washington, DC 20250-2240. E-mail: rfp-oep@reusda.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Contact Sally J. Rockey, (202) 401-1761.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Titles: Assurance Statement(s), Current and Pending Support, Summary Vita—Teaching Proposal, Summary Vita—Research Proposal, Intent to Submit a Proposal, Higher Education Proposal Cover Page, and Higher Education Budget.

OMB Number: 0524-0030.

Expiration Date of Current Approval: December 31, 2000.

Type of Request: Revise and extend a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: The Higher Education Program (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 Higher Education Challenge Grants Program (7 U.S.C. 3152), section 1417(b)(4) for the 1890 Institution Capacity Building Grants Program (7 U.S.C. 3152), section 1417(j) for the Secondary Agriculture Education Challenge 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 note) for the Tribal Colleges Education Equity Grants Program and Tribal Colleges Research Grants Program. The Higher Education 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 1890 Institution 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 Secondary Agriculture Education Challenge Grants Program is intended to promote and strengthen

secondary education in agriscience and agribusiness and increasing the number of young Americans pursuing baccalaureate or higher degrees in the food and agricultural sciences. 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. The Tribal Colleges Research Grants Program is intended to assist the Tribal Colleges to conduct agricultural research that addresses high priority concerns of tribal, national, or multistate significance. 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 may 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.

Since several programs use these forms the number of copies requested by CSREES varies. The number required is either five or seven. The number required depends on the size of the peer review panel of the program. Multiple copies are requested as a result of a desire to minimize delays in beginning the review process that would be caused if CSREES were required to make the copies in-house, and minimization of the risk of proposals becoming separated, incorrectly organized, or misplaced during a high volume, minimally-staffed, time-driven photocopying process.

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. By signing this form the grant recipient assures CSREES that it is in compliance with the pertinent regulations regarding these issues.

Form CSREES-663—Current and Pending Support: Provides information for key personnel's active and pending projects an applicant may have. This form is used by CSREES to ensure that a project is not being funded more than once by any Federal governmental agency, and to ensure that a principal investigator is not overextending their workload by committing more than 100% of their time to all of their funded projects.

Form CSREES-708—Teaching Credentials: Identifies key personnel contributing substantially to the conduct of a teaching project and provides pertinent information concerning their backgrounds. This form is used by CSREES to ensure that the key personnel involved in the project have the necessary knowledge and skills to carry out the work for the project.

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 programs using this form are the 1890 Institution Capacity Building Grants Program and the Tribal Colleges Research Grants Program. This

form is used by CSREES to ensure that the key personnel involved in the project have the necessary knowledge and skills to carry out the work for the project.

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. The submission of this form gives the program manager an idea of how many and the substance of proposals that will possibly be submitted. This allows the program manager to make preparations for setting up panels and other administrative details.

Form CSREES-712—Proposal Cover Page: Provides names, addresses, and phone numbers of project directors and authorized agents of applicant institutions and general information regarding the proposals. This form provides CSREES with the necessary information for making an award.

Form CSREES-713—Budget: Provides a breakdown of the purposes for which funds will be spent in the event of a grant award. This form is used by CSREES to determine how grant funds will be expended and if the proposed costs are allowable.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .75 hour for Form CSREES-662, 2.5 hours for Form CSREES-663, 2.5 hours for Form CSREES-708, 2.0 hours for Form CSREES-710, 1.25 hours for Form CSREES-711, 1.2 hours for Form CSREES-712, and 5 hours for Form CSREES-713. This average was based on a survey of grantees who had recently been approved for awards. They were asked to give an estimate of time it took them to complete each form. This estimate was to include such things as: (1) Reviewing the instructions; (2) Searching existing data sources; (3) Gathering and maintaining the data needed; and (4) Actual completion of the forms. The average time it took each respondent was calculated from their responses.

Respondents: Non-profit institutions, or organizations and State and local governments.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 320 for Form CSREES-708; 130 for Form CSREES-710; 50 for Form CSREES-711; and 450 each for Forms CSREES-662, CSREES-663, CSREES-712 and CSREES-713.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 5,376 hours, broken down by: 338 hours for Form CSREES-662

(.75 hour per response times 450 respondents); 1,125 hours for Form CSREES-663 (2.5 hours per response times 450 respondents); 800 hours for Form CSREES-708 (2.5 hours per response times 320 respondents); 260 hours for Form CSREES-710 (2.0 hours per response times 130 respondents); 63 hours for Form CSREES-711 (1.25 hour per response times 50 respondents); 540 hours for Form CSREES-712 (1.2 hours per response times 450 respondents); 2,250 hours for Form CSREES-713 (5 hours per response times 450 respondents).

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Dr. Sally Rockey, Deputy Administrator, at (202) 401-1761. 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 should be sent to the address stated in the preamble.

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, DC, this 14 day of September, 2000.

Charles W. Laughlin,

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

[FR Doc. 00-24218 Filed 9-20-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Information Collection; Request for Comments; Small Business Timber Sale Set-Aside Program; Appeal Procedures on Recomputation of Shares

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Forest Service announces its intention

to reinstate an information collection. The collected information will help the Forest Service fairly consider administrative appeals from timber companies appealing small business timber sale set-aside recomputations.

DATES: Comments must be received in writing on or before November 20, 2000.

ADDRESSES: All comments should be addressed to Rod Sallee, Forest Management Staff, Mail Stop 1105, Forest Service, USDA, P.O. Box 96090, Washington, DC 20090-6090.

Comments also may be submitted via facsimile to (202) 205-1766 or by email to fm@fs.fed.us.

The public may inspect comments received at the Forest Management Staff Office, room 3NW located at 201 14th Street, SW., at Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC. Visitors should call ahead to facilitate entrance into the building.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Rodney Sallee, Forest Management Staff, at (202) 205-1766.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Forest Service adopted the Small Business Timber Sale Set-Aside Program on July 26, 1990 (55 FR 30485). The agency administers the program in cooperation with the Small Business Administration (SBA) under the authorities of The Small Business Act, the National Forest Management Act of 1976, and SBA's regulations at Part 121 of Title 13 of the Code of Federal Regulations (13 CFR, Part 121). The program is designed to ensure that small business timber purchasers have the opportunity to purchase a fair proportion of National Forest System timber offered for sale.

Under the program, the Forest Service must recompute the shares of timber sales to be set aside for qualifying small businesses every 5 years on the actual volume of sawtimber that has been purchased by small business. Also, shares must be recomputed if there is a change in manufacturing capability, if the purchaser size class changes, or if certain purchasers discontinue operations. Direction to guide administration of the Set-Aside Program is issued in Chapter 2430 of the Forest Service Manual and Chapter 90 of the Forest Service Timber Sale Preparation Handbook.

In 1992, the agency adopted new administrative appeal procedures at Part 215 of Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations in response to new statutory direction. These rules apply to certain National Forest System project-level decisions for which an environmental