

Notices

Federal Register

Vol. 68, No. 92

Tuesday, May 13, 2003

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

Farm Service Agency

Information Collection; Secretarial Disaster Designations

AGENCY: Farm Service Agency, USDA.

ACTION: Notice; request for comment.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Farm Service Agency is seeking comments from all interested individuals and organizations on the extension of a currently approved information collection in support of the Secretarial disaster designation process. The information collection is needed to identify disaster areas and establish eligible FSA counties for the purpose of making emergency loans available to eligible and qualified farmers and ranchers.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before July 14, 2003, to be assured of consideration. Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

ADDRESSES: Comments concerning this notice should be addressed to Diane Sharp, Director, Production, Emergencies and Compliance Division, to Farm Service Agency, USDA, Mail Stop 0517, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-0517 and to the Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503. Comments also may be submitted by e-mail to: Diane.Sharp@wdc.usda.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lynn Tjeerdsma, Branch Chief, (202) 720-6602.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Description of Information Collection

Title: Disaster Assistance Program.
OMB Number: 0560-0170.

Expiration Date of Approval: June 30, 2003.

Type of Request: Extension with no revision.

Abstract: The information collection is necessary for FSA to effectively administer the regulations relating to identifying disaster areas for the purpose of making emergency loans available to qualified and eligible farmers and ranchers who have suffered weather-related physical or production losses or both. Before making emergency loans available to farmers and ranchers, the collected information is used to determine whether the disaster areas meet the qualifying loss criteria in order to be considered as an eligible FSA County.

Estimate of Burden: Average 0.420 hour per response.

Type of Respondents: Farmers and Ranchers.

Estimated Annual Number of Respondents: 2,454.

Estimated Annual Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 1,032.

Comment is invited on: (1) Whether this collection of information is necessary for the stated purposes and the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical or scientific utility; (2) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

All comments received in response to this notice, including names and addresses when provided, will be a matter of public record. Comments will be summarized and included in the submission for Office of Management and Budget approval.

Signed at Washington, DC, on May 6, 2003.

James R. Little,

Administrator, Farm Service Agency.

[FR Doc. 03-11894 Filed 5-12-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-05-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food and Nutrition Service

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request—The Integrity Profile (TIP)

AGENCY: Food and Nutrition Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the intent of the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) to request Office of Management and Budget (OMB) review of The Integrity Profile data collection and reporting system.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received or postmarked by July 14, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Send comments and requests for copies of this information collection to: Patricia N. Daniels, Director, Supplemental Food Programs Division, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, VA 22302.

Pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3507), 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.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Patty Davis, (703) 305-2728.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: The Integrity Profile (TIP).
OMB Number: 0584-0401.

Expiration Date: 6-30-04.

Type of Request: Revisions to the Currently Approved Collection.

Abstract: State agencies administering the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC Program) are required by 7 CFR 246.12(j)(5) to submit to FNS an annual summary of the results of their vendor monitoring efforts in order to provide Congress, senior FNS officials, as well as the general public, assurance that every reasonable effort is being made to ensure integrity in the WIC Program. Since 1989, WIC Program State agencies have been required to submit The Integrity Profile (TIP) data annually. FNS compiles the data to produce a national report, which shows the level of monitoring and investigation conducted by WIC State agencies to detect and eliminate, or substantially reduce, vendor fraud and abuse. Most State agencies download the data from their automated system and transmit it electronically to FNS.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 43.5 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.

Respondents: The Program Director of each WIC State agency, which is generally a State Health Department or an Indian Tribal Organization official.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 88 respondents.

Estimated Number of Responses Per Respondent: One.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 3,827.50 hours.

Dated: April 30, 2003.

Roberto Salazar,

Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service.

[FR Doc. 03-11893 Filed 5-12-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-30-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Eastern Washington Cascades Provincial Advisory Committee and the Yakima Provincial Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Eastern Washington Cascades Provincial Advisory Committee and the Yakima Provincial Advisory Committee will meet on Wednesday, June 11, 2003, at the Best Western Icicle Inn, 505 Highway 2,

Leavenworth, Washington. The meeting will begin at 9 a.m. and continue until 3 p.m. During this meeting we will discuss noxious weed management and prevention, Northwest Forest Plan project monitoring, and updates on implementation of the Northwest Forest Plan. All Eastern Washington Cascades and Yakima Province Advisory Committee meetings are open to the public. Interested citizens are welcome to attend.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Direct questions regarding this meeting to Paul Hart, Designated Federal Official, USDA, Wenatchee National Forest, 215 Melody Lane, Wenatchee, Washington 98801, 509-662-4335.

Dated: May 5, 2003.

Paul Hart,

Designated Federal Official, Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests.

[FR Doc. 03-11876 Filed 5-12-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) Inviting Applications for Rural Cooperative Development Grants

AGENCY: Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS) announces the availability of approximately \$6.5 million in competing Rural Cooperative Development Grant (RCDG) funds for fiscal year (FY) 2003. Of this amount, approximately \$1.5 million will be reserved for applications that focus on assistance to small, minority producers through their cooperative businesses. This action will comply with legislation which authorizes grants for establishing and operating centers for rural cooperative development. The intended effect of this notice is to solicit applications for FY 2003 and award grants before September 1, 2003.

DATES: The deadline for receipt of an application is June 27, 2003. Applications received after that date will not be considered. Applications should be sent to the Rural Development State offices. State offices will forward the applications to the National office by July 14, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Entities wishing to apply for assistance should contact their USDA Rural Development State Office to receive further information and copies of the application package. A list of state

offices is provided at the end of this Notice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Inquiries are directed to the applicable USDA Rural Development State Office. Information is also available on the RBS Web site at www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/coops/rcdg.htm. You may also contact Marc Warman, Program Leader, Cooperative Services, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Stop 3250, Room 4016, South Agriculture Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-3250. Telephone (202) 690-1431.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Paperwork Reduction Act

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the information collection requirements continued in this regulation were previously approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and were assigned OMB control number 0570-0006.

General Information

Rural Cooperative Development Grants (RCDG) are authorized by section 310B(e) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932). Regulations are contained in 7 CFR part 4284, subpart F. The primary objective of the RCDG program is to improve the economic condition of rural areas through cooperative development. The program is administered through USDA Rural Development State Offices acting on behalf of RBS.

Section 310B(e) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act was amended by Public Law 107-171 (Mar 13, 2002) to modify the matching requirement required of RCDG grant applicants that are "1994 Institutions" (as defined in section 532 of the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 note; Pub. L. 103-382). 1994 Institutions are not required to provide non-Federal financial support (matching funds) greater than 5 percent of the grant awarded. In the case of all applicants, preference points will be awarded where applicants commit to providing greater than the minimum 25 percent matching contribution. A current list of 1994 Institutions may be obtained from RBS.

Grant Selection Criteria

Grants will be awarded on a competitive basis to nonprofit corporations and institutions of higher education based on the following selection criteria. The priorities described in this paragraph will be used by RBS to rate applications. RBS review