

**Responsible Official**

Jerry E. Schmidt, Forest Supervisor;  
Medicine Bow—Routt National Forest;  
2468 Jackson Street, Laramie, WY 82070  
is the Responsible Official. As the  
Responsible Official, I will decide  
which, if any of the alternatives to be  
described in the draft Environmental  
Impact Statement will be implemented.  
I will document the decision and the  
reasons for my selection of the decision  
in the Record of Decision.

Dated: January 14, 1998.

**Jerry E. Schmidt,**

*Forest Supervisor.*

[FR Doc. 98-1324 Filed 1-20-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-GM-M

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE****National Agricultural Statistics Service****Notice of Intent To Request an Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection**

**AGENCY:** National Agricultural Statistics 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 44978, August 29, 1995), this notice announces the National Agricultural Statistics Service's (NASS) intention to request an extension of a currently approved information collection, the Agricultural Prices that expires May 31, 1998.

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received by March 27, 1998 to be assured of consideration.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS:** Contact Rich Allen, Associate Administrator, National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Room 4117 South Building, Washington, DC 20250-2000, (202) 720-4333.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title:* Agricultural Prices.

*OMB Number:* 0535-0003.

*Expiration Date of Approval:* May 31, 1998.

*Type of Request:* To extend a currently approved information collection.

*Abstract:* The primary objective of the National Agricultural Statistics Service is to prepare and issue state and national estimates of crop and livestock production and prices. The Agricultural

Prices surveys provide estimates of prices received by farmers and prices paid for production goods and services needed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. These price estimates are used to compute Parity Prices in accordance with requirements of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 as amended (Title III, Subtitle A, Section 301a). In addition, price data are used to administer target price provisions (deficiency payments) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990. The Agricultural Prices Surveys has approval from OMB for a 3-year period. NASS intends to request that the survey be approved for another 3 years.

*Estimate of Burden:* Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 11 minutes per response.

*Respondents:* Individual Job Applicants.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 81,800.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 15,000 hours.

Copies of this information collection and related instructions can be obtained without charge from Larry Gambrell, the Agency OMB Clearance Officer, at (202) 720-5778.

**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, such as through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to: Larry Gambrell, Agency OMB Clearance Officer, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Room 4162 South Building, Washington, DC, 20250-2000. All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Signed at Washington, DC, January 14, 1998.

**Rich Allen,**

*Acting Administrator, National Agricultural Statistics Service.*

[FR Doc. 98-1301 Filed 1-20-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-20-P

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE****National Agricultural Statistics Service****Notice of Intent To Request an Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection**

**AGENCY:** National Agricultural Statistics 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 44978, August 29, 1995), this notice announces the National Agricultural Statistics Service's (NASS) intention to request an extension of a currently approved information collection, the Fruits, Nuts, and Specialty Crops that expires May 31, 1998.

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received by March 27, 1998 to be assured of consideration.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS:** Contact Rich Allen, Associate Administrator, National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Room 4117, South Building, Washington, D.C. 20250-2000, (202) 720-4333.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title:* Fruits, Nuts, and Specialty Crops.

*OMB Number:* 0535-0039.

*Expiration Date of Approval:* May 31, 1998.

*Type of Request:* To extend a currently approved information collection.

*Abstract:* The primary objective of the National Agricultural Statistics Service is to prepare and issue state and national estimates of crop and livestock production. The Fruits, Nuts, and Specialty Crops survey program collects information on acreage, yield, production, and value of non-citrus fruits and nuts and other specialty crops in states with significant commercial production. The program provides data needed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and other government agencies to administer programs and to

set trade quotas and tariffs. State universities and agriculture departments also use data from this survey. The Fruits, Nuts, and Specialty Crops program has approval from OMB for a 3-year period. NASS intends to request that the survey be approved for another 3 years.

*Estimate of Burden:* Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 17 minutes per response.

*Respondents:* Individual Job Applicants.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 53,000.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 15,000 hours.

Copies of this information collection and related instructions can be obtained without charge from Larry Gambrell, the Agency OMB Clearance Officer, at (202) 720-5778.

### 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, such as through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to: Larry Gambrell, Agency OMB Clearance Officer, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Room 4162 South Building, Washington, DC 20250-2000. All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Signed at Washington, DC, January 14, 1998.

**Rich Allen,**

*Acting Administrator, National Agricultural Statistics Service.*

[FR Doc. 98-1302 Filed 1-20-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Rural Business-Cooperative Service

#### National Sheep Industry Improvement Center; Notice of Annual Board of Directors Meeting

**AGENCY:** Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of annual board meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Board of Directors of the National Sheep Industry Improvement Center announces that it will hold its annual Board of Directors meeting. The meeting will be held over 2 days in the Washington, DC area.

**DATES:** The meeting dates are:

1. February 11, 1998, 7:00 p.m. to 10 p.m., Arlington, VA.
2. February 12, 1998, 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 pm, Washington, DC.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting locations are:

1. Arlington, VA—Holiday Inn Westpark, 1900 N. Ft. Meyer Drive, Arlington, VA (Call hotel, 703/807-2000, for conference room number).
2. Washington, DC—USDA South Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC, Room 3107.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Thomas Stafford, Director, Cooperative Marketing Division, Cooperative Services, RBS, USDA, Stop 3252, Room 4204, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250-3252, telephone (202) 690-0368. (This is not a toll free number.) E-mail: thomas.stafford@usda.gov. The Federal Information Relay service on 1-800-877-8339 may be used by TDD users.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This board meeting will serve as the National Sheep Industry Improvement Center's annual meeting.

### Background

In response to challenges facing the sheep and goat industries, the 1996 Farm Bill established the National Sheep Industry Improvement Center to assist and strengthen the U.S. sheep and goat industries through projects and assistance financed through the Center's revolving fund. The Center will manage a revolving fund of up to \$50 million in Federal funds to facilitate the production and marketing of sheep and goats, and their products.

Treasury has deposited the initial \$20 million into the Center's fund. This fund is capped at \$50 million Federal funds—where authorization was provided for an additional \$30 million in appropriated funds. After 10 years or upon receipt of \$50 million in Federal funds to the revolving fund, the Center and its activities shall be privatized and

no additional Federal funds shall be used to carry out the activities of the Center.

The Center is managed by a nine member (7 voting and 2 nonvoting members), non-compensated board. The seven voting members were chosen by the Secretary of Agriculture from the sheep and goat industries and the two non-voting members from the USDA are the Under Secretary for Rural Development and the Under Secretary for Research, Education and Economics. The Board of Directors may use the monies in the fund to make grants, and intermediate and long-term loans, contracts, cooperative repayable agreements, or cooperative agreements in accordance with an annual strategic plan submitted to the Secretary of Agriculture. Funds may be used to participate with Federal and State agencies, other public and private funding sources, and in regional efforts. Funding activities include providing security for, or making principal or interest payments on, revenue or general obligation bond issues, accruing interest, guaranteeing or purchasing insurance for local obligations, and selling acquired assets or loans.

### Purposes of the Center

The purposes of the Center are to:

(1) Promote strategic development activities and collaborative efforts by private and State entities to maximize the impact of Federal assistance to strengthen and enhance production and marketing of sheep or goat products in the United States;

(2) Optimize the use of available human capital and resources within the sheep or goat industries;

(3) Provide assistance to meet the needs of the sheep or goat industry for infrastructure development, business development, production, resource development, and market and environmental research;

(4) Advance activities that empower and build the capacity of the United States sheep or goat industry to design unique responses to the special needs of the sheep or goat industries on both a regional and national basis; and

(5) Adopt flexible and innovative approaches to solving the long-term needs of the United States sheep and goat industries.

### Board Meetings

The Board meetings are open to the public.

**Authority:** 7 U.S.C. 2008j, Pub.L. 104-130.