

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Cooperative State Research,
Education, and Extension Service****Notice of Intent to Seek Approval to
Extend and Revise a Current
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 approval to revise and extend a current information collection from applicants for Federal financial assistance.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by April 3, 1998 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, (202) 401-1761. E-mail: OEP@reeusda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Application Kit for Research, Education, and Extension Projects.

OMB Number: 0524-0022.

Expiration Date of Current Approval: May 31, 1998.

Type of Request: Intent to seek approval to revise and extend an information collection for three years.

Abstract: USDA/CSREES sponsors ongoing agricultural research, education, and extension programs under which competitive, special, and other awards of a high-priority nature are made. These programs are authorized pursuant to the authorities contained in the Act of August 4, 1965, Pub. L. 89-106, as amended (7 U.S.C. 450i); Section 1414 of Pub. L. 95-113, "National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977" (7 U.S.C. 450i(b)); Sections 1417(b)(1), 1417(b)(4), 1419, 1458A, 1472, 1473D, 1475, and 1480 of Pub. L. 95-113, as amended (7 U.S.C. 3154); Section 9 of Pub. L. 95-592, as amended, 7 U.S.C. 5821, "Native Latex Commercialization and Economic Development Act of 1978," (7 U.S.C. 178); Research and Marketing Act of 1946, as amended (7 U.S.C. 427i, 1624);

section 1433 of Pub. L. 97-98, "National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act Amendments of 1981"; Section 632 of the Foreign Assistance Act (22 U.S.C. 2392(a)); Pub. L. 100-460; Section 1668 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5921); Section 1455 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977, as amended by Section 815 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act (FAIR Act) of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 3241); 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 Small Business Development Act of 1982, Pub. L. 97-219, as amended (15 U.S.C. 638); Section 25 of the Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended by Section 401(h) of the FAIR Act of 1996 (Pub. L. 104-127) (7 U.S.C. 2034); Section 793 of the FAIR Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 2204(f)).

In addition, formula-funded programs administered by CSREES use one form to provide assurances about their programs. These programs are authorized by the Hatch Act of 1887, as amended (7 U.S.C. 361a-i); the Evans-Allen Cooperative Agricultural Program, Section 1445 of Pub. L. 95-113, the Food and Agriculture Act of 1977, as amended (7 U.S.C. 3222); Section 1433 of Subtitle E (Section 1429-1439), Title XIV of Pub. L. 95-113 (7 U.S.C. 3191-3201, as amended; and the McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Research Act of October 10, 1962 (16 U.S.C. 582a-582a-7).

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, extension, or education efforts, literature reviews, curricula vitae of principal investigators/project directors, 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, solicitations are issued requesting proposals for various research, education, and extension areas targeted for support. Applicants submit proposals for these targeted areas following formats outlined in the proposal application guidelines accompanying each program's solicitation. These proposals are

evaluated by peer review panels and awarded on a competitive basis.

These programs use forms approved in prior OMB-approved collection of information packages (OMB Nos. 0524-0022 and 0524-0024).

Forms CSREES-661, "Proposal Cover Page;" CSREES-55, "Proposal Budget;" CSREES-662, "Assurance Statement(s)," CSREES-663, "Current and Pending Support;" and CSREES-1234, "National Environmental Policy Act Exclusions" are mainly used for proposal evaluation and administration purposes. The CSREES-1234 has been approved under a separate CSREES collection (OMB Number 0524-0033 contains the burden hours for all CSREES programs) and is included in the Application Kit so an applicant can provide pertinent information regarding the possible environmental impacts of a proposed project. 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 science.

The following information will continue to be collected:

Form CSREES-661—*Proposal Cover Page*: Provides names, mailing and electronic addresses, and telephone numbers of principal investigators/project directors and authorized agents of applicant institutions and general information regarding the proposals.

Form CSREES-55—*Proposal Budget*: Provides a breakdown of the purposes for which funds will be spent in the event of an award.

Form CSREES-662—*Assurance Statement(s)*: Provides required assurances of compliance with regulations involving the protection of human subjects, animal welfare, and recombinant DNA research. This form is used for competitive, special, and formula-funded projects.

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

Form CSREES-1234—*National Environmental Policy Act Exclusions*: Allows identification of whether or not the proposal fits one of the exclusions listed for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (7 CFR Part 3407). This information has been and will continue to be used in determinations as to whether or not further action is needed to meet the requirements of this Act.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information

is estimated to average five and three-quarter (5¾) hours per response (including one-quarter hour for the CSREES-1234).

Respondents: Non-profit institutions, individuals, business, Federal government, and State, local, or Tribal governments.

Estimated Number of Responses per Form: 8,900. 6,600 complete the entire collection; 2,300 complete only the CSREES-662.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 37,450 hours, broken down by: 19,800 hours for Form CSREES-661 (three hours per 6,600 respondents); 6,600 hours for Form CSREES-55 (one hour per 6,600 respondents); 4,450 hours for Form CSREES-662 (one-half hour per 8,900 respondents); and 6,600 hours for Form CSREES-663 (one hour per 6,600 respondents).

Frequency of Responses: Annually.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Suzanne Plimpton, Policy and Program Liaison Staff, CSREES, (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. Rocky, Deputy Administrator, Competitive Research Grants and Awards Management, CSREES, USDA, STOP 2240, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-2240, (202) 401-1761. *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 day of 21st day of January 1998.

B.H. Robinson,

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

[FR Doc. 98-1979 Filed 1-27-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Farm Service Agency

Rural Housing Service

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Notice of Request for Extension of Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCIES: Farm Service Agency, Rural Housing Service, and Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA.

ACTION: Proposed Collection; comments request.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the intent of the Farm Service Agency (FSA), Rural Housing Service (RHS), and the Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS) to request an extension of currently approved information collections for four regulations and a form used in support of the FSA Farm Loan Program (FLP) (formerly Farmer Programs of the Farmers Home Administration (FmHA)), two regulations used in support of the RHS Multi-family Housing (MFH) and Community Facilities (CF) loan programs, and one regulation used in support of the RBS Direct Business and Industry loan program. These rules do not involve the loans of the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) administered by FSA or the Single Family Housing (SFH) loans of RHS. This renewal does not involve any revisions to the program rules.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received on or before March 30, 1998 to be assured consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For additional information contact Phillip Elder, Senior Loan Officer, USDA, Farm Service Agency, Farm Loan Programs, Loan Servicing Division, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., STOP 0523, Washington, DC 20013-0523; Telephone (202) 690-4012; Electronic mail: pelder@wdc.fsa.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Form FmHA 1962-1, Agreement for the Use of Proceeds/Release of Chattel Security.

OMB Control Number: 0560-0171.

Expiration Date of Approval: March 31, 1998.

Type of Request: Extension of Currently Approved Information Collection.

Abstract: The collection of information on Form FmHA 1962-1 is required by a consent decree executed in relation to Coleman V. Block, 663 F. Supp 1315 (D.N.D. 1987). The former Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) agreed in the consent decree to approve a borrower's planned use of proceeds from the disposition of their chattel security, record any changes to planned use, and record the actual disposition of chattel security for the year of operation. Also, this form is needed to implement Section 335(f) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (Act) (7 U.S.C. 1985(f)), which requires release of normal income security to pay essential household and farm operating expenses of the borrower, until the Agency accelerates the loan. Form FmHA 1962-1 provides a uniform method for local Agency loan officers to approve these actions.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 20 minutes per response.

Respondents: Individuals or households, businesses or other for profit and farms.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 56,075.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 18,505 hours.

Title: 7 CFR 1806-A, Real Property Insurance.

OMB Control Number: 0575-0087.

Expiration Date: March 31, 1998.

Type of Request: Extension of Currently Approved Information Collection.

Abstract: This regulation is currently shared by FSA and the MFH programs of RHS. This regulation governs the servicing of property insurance on buildings and land securing the interest of RHS or FSA in connection with an FSA FLP Loan or RHS MFH loan. This regulation does not apply to the CF and SFH programs of RHS. The information collections pertain primarily to the verification of insurance on property securing Agency loans. This information collection is submitted by FSA or RHS borrowers to Agency offices. It is necessary to protect the government from losses due to weather, natural disasters, or fire and ensure that the Act's loan making requirements of hazard insurance are met by loan applicants. See §§ 303(c), 312(c), and 321(b) of the Act.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information