

(4) An Advisory Committee Membership Background Information form (Form AD-755) for each nominee.

This action is taken to carry out section 759 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 for the establishment of a National Sheep Industry Improvement Center.

DATES: The closing date for acceptance of nominations is September 22, 1999. Nominations must be received by, or postmarked, on or before, this date.

ADDRESSES: Submit nominations and statements on qualifications to Cooperative Services, RBS, USDA, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Stop 3252, Room 4204, Washington, DC 20250-3252, Attn.: National Sheep Improvement Center, Nominations.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Thomas H. Stafford, Director, Cooperative Marketing Division, Cooperative Services, RBS, USDA, 1400 Independence Ave, SW, Stop 3252, Washington, DC 20250-3252, telephone (202) 690-0368, (This is not a toll free number.) FAX 202-690-2723, or e-mail thomas.stafford@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996, known as the 1996 Farm Bill, established a National Sheep Industry Improvement Center. The Center shall (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 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 or goat industry. The Center has a Revolving Fund established in the Treasury to carry out the purposes of the Center. Management of the Center is vested in a Board of Directors, which has hired an Executive Director and other staff to operate the Center.

The Board of Directors is composed of seven voting members of whom four are active producers of sheep or goats in the United States, two have expertise in finance and management, and one has

expertise in lamb, wool, goat or goat product marketing. Two of the open positions are for the voting members who have expertise in finance and management. One of the open positions is for a producer seat. The Board also includes two non-voting members, the Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development and the Under Secretary of Agriculture for Research, Education, and Economics. Board members will not receive compensation for serving on the Board of Directors, but shall be reimbursed for travel, subsistence, and other necessary expenses.

The Secretary of Agriculture shall appoint the voting members from the submitted nominations. Members term of office shall be three years. Voting members are limited to two terms. The three positions for which nominees are sought are currently held by members serving their first term, thus are eligible to be re-nominated. The Board shall meet not less than once each fiscal year, but are likely to meet at least quarterly.

The statement of qualifications of the individual nominees is being obtained by using Form AD-755, "Advisory Committee Membership Background Information." The requirements of this form are incorporated under OMB number 0505-0001.

Dated: May 17, 1999.

Dayton J. Watkins,

Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Housing Service

Notice of Request for Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Rural Housing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Proposed collection; comments requested.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Rural Housing Service's intention to request an extension for a currently approved information collection in support of the program for the Housing Preservation Grant Program.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by July 26, 1999 to be assured of consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tracee L. Lilly, Senior Loan Specialist, RHS, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Stop 0781, Washington, D.C. 20250, Telephone (202)720-1604.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: RHS/Housing Preservation Grant Program.

OMB Number: 0575-0115.

Expiration Date of Approval: September 30, 1999.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: The primary purpose of the Housing Preservation Grant Program is to repair or rehabilitate individual housing, rental properties, or co-ops owned or occupied by very low- and low-income rural persons. Grantees will provide eligible homeowners, owners of rental properties and owners of co-ops with financial assistance through loans, grants, interest reduction payments or other comparable financial assistance for necessary repairs and rehabilitation of dwellings to bring them up to code or minimum property standards. Where repair and rehabilitation assistance is not economically feasible or practical the replacement of existing, individual owner occupied housing is available.

These grants were established by Public Law 98-181, the Housing Urban-Rural Recovery Act of 1983, which amended the Housing Act of 1979 (Pub. L. 93-383) by adding section 533, 42 U.S.C. S 2490(m), Housing Preservation Grants (HPG). In addition, the Secretary of Agriculture has authority to prescribe rules and regulations to implement HPG and other programs under 42 U.S.C. S 1480(j).

Section 533(d) is prescriptive about the information applicants are to submit to RHS as part of their application and in the assessments and criteria RHS is to use in selecting grantees. An applicant is to submit a "statement of activity" describing its proposed program, including the specific activities it will undertake, and its schedule. RHS is required in turn to evaluate proposals on a set of prescribed criteria, for which the applicant will also have to provide information, such as: (1) very low- and low-income persons proposed to be served by the repair and rehabilitation activities; (2) participation by other public and private organizations to leverage funds and lower the cost to the HPG program; (3) the area to be served in terms of population and need; (4) cost data to assure greatest degree of assistance at lowest cost; (5) administrative capacity of the applicant to carry out the program. The information collected will be the minimum required by law and by necessity for RHS to assure that it funds responsible grantees proposing feasible projects in areas of greatest need. Most data are taken from a localized area, although some are derived from census

reports of city, county and Federal governments showing population and housing characteristics.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .96 hour per response.

Respondents: A public body or a public or private nonprofit corporation.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1,850.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 6.5.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 11,614 hours.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Barbara Williams, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, at (202) 692-0045.

Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of [Agency], including whether the information will have

practical utility; (b) the accuracy of [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 Barbara Williams, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, STOP 0742, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20250. 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.

Dated: May 13, 1999.

Eileen Fitzgerald,

Acting Administrator, Rural Development.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Economic Development Administration

Notice of Petitions by Producing Firms for Determination of Eligibility To Apply for Trade Adjustment Assistance

AGENCY: Economic Development Administration (EDA), Commerce.

ACTION: To Give Firms an Opportunity to Comment.

Petitions have been accepted for filing on the dates indicated from the firms listed below.

LIST OF PETITION ACTION BY TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE FOR PERIOD 4/16/99-5/17/99

Firm name	Address	Date petition accepted	Product
Art-Craft Optical Co., Inc.	89 Allen Street, Rochester, NY 14608.	04/21/99	Eyeglass frames of metal and plastic.
Warner Jewelry Cast Co., Inc.	1002 Southwest Ard, Lawton, OK 73505.	04/21/99	Jewelry display cases.
Beehler Corporation	1401 Industrial Park Drive, Mountain Gr., MO 65711.	04/27/99	Luggage clasps, case brackets, hinges and tent stakes.
Nambe Mills, Inc.	2891 Cooks Road, Sante Fe, NM 87505.	04/27/99	Metal tableware and accessories.
North Alaska Fisheries, Inc.	1304 Laona Drive, Anchorage, AK 99509.	04/27/99	Salmon and halibut.
Braswell Precision, Inc.	2406 Peppermill Drive, Glen Bernie, MD 21061.	04/28/99	Machined parts used in radar and ground navigational systems.
Johnson Cheese Equipment, Inc.	6391 Lake Road, Windwor, WI 53598.	04/29/99	Cheese manufacturing equipment.
Warwood Tool Company	164 North 19th Street, Wheeling, WV 26003.	05/03/99	Carbon and alloy steel heavy handled hand tools.
Tuckaseigee Mills, Inc.	414 Black Hill Road, Bryson City, NC 28713.	05/03/99	Comforters, bedspreads, pillows, shams, dustruffles and drapes of man-made fiber.
Robus Leather Corporation	4201 Wilson Avenue, Madison, IN 47250.	05/03/99	Bonded leather in sheets or rolls.
South Bay Circuits, Inc.	210 Hillsdale, San Jose, CA 95136	05/04/99	Printed circuit boards.
Validyne Engineering Sales Corp.	8525 Wilbur Avenue, Northridge, CA 91324.	05/04/99	Pressure transducers and transmitters.
Measurement Systems Int'l.	14240 Interurban Ave. S., Seattle, WA 98168.	05/07/99	Scales and weighing devices, electric and battery operated.
Needleworks, Inc.	241 South Oak, Pecos, TX 79772	05/11/99	Ladies dresses and dress accessories.
Armstrong Acquisition Co., Inc., dba Armstrong Glass Co.	359 Hood Road, Jasper, GA 30143	05/11/99	Stained/colored art glass for the lighting and hobbyist/artist industries.
B&W Oilfield Manufacturing, Inc.	1333 S.E. 25th Street, Oklahoma City, OK 78129.	05/13/99	Flanges and flange support parts.
Weinschel Associates	42 Cessna Court, Gaithersburg, MD 20879.	05/18/99	Integrated passive microwave capacitors.

The petitions were submitted pursuant to Section 251 of the Trade Act

of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2341). Consequently, the United States Department of

Commerce has initiated separate investigations to determine whether