

2. Opportunity for Designation.

Interested persons, including Lincoln, Memphis, Omaha, Jamestown, Sioux City, and Tischer, are hereby given the opportunity to apply for designation to provide official services in the geographic areas specified above under the provisions of Section 7(f) of the Act and section 800.196(d) of the regulations issued thereunder. Persons wishing to apply for designation should contact the Compliance Division at the address listed above for forms and information.

DESIGNATION TERMS

Lincoln, Memphis, and Omaha	05/01/2000–03/31/2003
Jamestown, Sioux City, and Tischer	07/01/2000–03/31/2003

3. Request for Comments

GIPSA also is publishing this notice to provide interested persons the opportunity to present comments on the Lincoln, Memphis, Omaha, Jamestown, Sioux City, and Tischer official agencies. Commenters are encouraged to submit pertinent data concerning the Lincoln, Memphis, Omaha, Jamestown, Sioux City, and Tischer official agencies including information on the timeliness, cost, quality, and scope of services provided. All comments must be submitted to the Compliance Division at the above address.

Applications, comments, and other available information will be considered in determining which applicant will be designated.

Authority: Pub. L. 94–582, 90 Stat. 2867, as amended (7 U.S.C. 71 *et seq.*).

Dated: September 22, 1999.

Neil E. Porter,

Director, Compliance Division.

[FR Doc. 99–25360 Filed 9–30–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–EN–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

National Agricultural Statistics Service

Notice of Intent To Extend and Revise 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. No. 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 for and revision to a currently approved information collection, the Agricultural Surveys Program.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by December 6, 1999 to be assured for 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: Agricultural Surveys Program.

OMB Number: 0535–0213.

Expiration Date of Approval: November 30, 2000.

Type of Request: Intent to extend and revise a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: The National Agricultural Statistics Service is responsible for collecting and issuing state and national estimates of crop and livestock production, grain stocks, farm numbers, land values, on-farm pesticide usage, and pest crop management practices.

The Agricultural Surveys Program contains a series of surveys that obtains basic agricultural data from farmers and ranchers throughout the Nation for preparing agricultural estimates and forecasts of crop acreages, yield, and production; stocks of grains and soybeans; hog and pig numbers; sheep inventory and lamb crop; cattle inventory; and cattle on feed. Grazing fees, land values, pesticide usage, and pest management practices data are also collected.

Uses of the statistical information are extensive and varied. Producers, farm organizations, agribusinesses, state and national farm policy makers, and government agencies are important users of these statistics. Agricultural statistics are used to plan and administer other related Federal and state programs in such areas as consumer protection, conservation, foreign trade, education and recreation.

One important part of this program, the Quarterly Hog Survey, is being revised to discontinue collecting and publishing the market hog inventory by weight groups. Currently, the Quarterly Hog Survey collects information on the inventory of total hogs, breeding hogs, market hogs by weight groups, (under 60 pounds, 60 to 119 pounds, 120–179 pounds, and over 180 pounds); monthly and quarterly sows farrowing and pig

crops; and sows farrowing intentions for the coming 6 months in 3-month intervals.

Hog producers have requested that NASS discontinue asking the questions on market hogs by weight groups since it is difficult for them to accurately provide the information. Responses to the weight group questions are often the producers' best estimates since their record keeping systems generally do not readily provide the information. Plans are for the Quarterly Hog Survey to continue to provide information on total market hogs, and monthly and quarterly pig crops. Data users can utilize monthly pig crop data in lieu of marketing hog weight group data to get an indication of hog supplies coming to market over the next six months. Publication of the market hog weight groups will be discontinued starting with the June 23, 2000 Hog Report.

A second revision to the program is the addition of questions regarding sheep and goat losses to predators and non-predators, methods being used to reduce these losses, and the cost of these preventative measures. These additional questions will be asked only in January 2000. Aggregated totals will be provided to the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service action agency, Wildlife Services. These data will be used by Wildlife Services to help identify the causes of livestock losses.

The third revision is the addition of three questions to the Fall Area and January Cattle Surveys and one question to the January Sheep and Goat Survey. These questions will be asked annually in selected states. The cattle questions will provide additional detail regarding the expected calf crop and animal slaughter practices. The additional goat question will help differentiate the breeding goals of Angora goat producers between meat and wool production.

The Agricultural Surveys Program has approval from OMB for a 3-year period. NASS intends to request that the program be approved for another 3 years.

These data are collected under the authority of 7 U.S.C. 2204(a). Individually identifiable data collected under this authority are governed by Section 1770 of the Food Security Act of 1985, 7 U.S.C. 2276, which requires USDA to afford strict confidentiality to non-aggregated data provided by respondents.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 15 minutes per response.

Respondents: Farms.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 547,000.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 139,000 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 Avenue SW, Room 4162 South Building, Washington, D.C. 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, D.C., September 13, 1999.

Rich Allen,

Associate Administrator, National Agricultural Statistics Service.

[FR Doc. 99-25515 Filed 9-30-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-20-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Notice of Request for Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA.

ACTION: Proposed collection; comments requested.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Rural Business-Cooperative Service's intention to request an extension for a currently approved information collection in support of the Business and Industry Guaranteed Loan Program.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by November 30, 1999, to be assured of consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rick Bonnet, Senior Commercial Loan Specialist, Business Programs Processing Division, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, STOP 3221, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250-3221, Telephone (202) 720-1804, E-mail "rbonnet@urdev.usda.gov".

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Guaranteed Loanmaking—Business and Industry Loans.

OMB Number: 0570-0017.

Expiration Date of Approval: September 30, 1999.

Type of Request: Extension of Currently Approved Information Collection.

Abstract: The purpose of the program is to improve, develop, or finance businesses, industries, and employment and improve the economic and environmental climate in rural communities. This purpose is achieved through bolstering the existing private credit structure through the guaranteeing of quality loans made by lending institutions, thereby providing lasting community benefits. This subpart contains requirements applicable to Business and Industry Loan Program loans administered by the Agency.

Information being collected from lenders on guaranteed loan borrowers is typically collected by lenders. There are no new data collection requirements contained in the renewal notice. In contrast to the burden package approved in 1996, the estimates no longer include burden hours for customary and usual business practices. However, the total burden hours are higher because of a significant increase in the program funding level.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting for this collection of information is estimated to average 3.4 hours per response.

Respondent: Business or other for-profit; State, Local or Tribal Government.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 6,350.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Number of Responses: 6,350.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 21,385 hours.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Cheryl Thompson, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, at (202) 692-0043.

Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information

is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of RBS, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of RBS'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 Cheryl Thompson, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, STOP 0742, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20250-0742. 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: September 15, 1999.

William F. Hagy III,

Acting Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service.

[FR Doc. 99-25552 Filed 9-30-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-XY-P

COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED

Procurement List; Proposed Deletion

AGENCY: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled.

ACTION: Proposed deletion from Procurement List.

SUMMARY: The Committee has received a proposal to delete a commodity previously furnished by nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities.

COMMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED ON OR BEFORE: November 1, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, Crystal Gateway 3, Suite 310, 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22202-4302.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Beverly Milkman (703) 603-7740.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I certify that the following action will not have a significant impact on a substantial number of small entities. The major factors considered for this certification were: