

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

Commodity Credit Corporation

Notice of Request for Extension and Revision of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Commodity Credit Corporation, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the intention of the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) and the Farm Service Agency (FSA) intent to request extensions for and revisions to a currently approved collection of crop and land use information in support of programs administered by FSA as authorized by the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938, as amended by the Food Security Act of 1985, and as amended by the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (1996 Act).

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received on or before March 24, 1997 to be assured consideration.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS: Contact David M. Nix, Agricultural Program Specialist, Compliance and Production Adjustment Division, USDA, FSA, STOP 0517, P.O. Box 2415, Washington, D.C. 20250-2415, (202) 690-4091.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Report of Acreage.

OMB Number: 0560-0004.

Expiration Date: June 30, 1997.

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

Abstract: Crop and acreage information is collected from producers to determine eligibility for benefits under a variety of programs administered by FSA. Crop and acreage information is collected once for each crop during established acreage

reporting cycles. This single collection supports all FSA requirements. FSA's approach to collecting this information is to collect only the information needed to support program eligibility and compliance requirements. The majority of the information collected is used to support multiple program requirements such as the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), price support loan programs, and the Production Flexibility Contract Program in Title 1 of the 1996 Act. The 1996 Act changed the requirements of previously approved information collections. Specifically, FSA will require acreage data collection for farms with Production Flexibility Contracts only if a fruit or vegetable was planted for harvest. FSA does not require data to be submitted when producers did not plant fruits and vegetables. As a result of the 1996 Act, CCC provided instructions to FSA county offices on the information collection requirements for those crops that need verification of compliance, loan eligibility, or crop loss. As directed by CCC, FSA provided producers information through news releases, newsletters, radio, television, and public meetings on the information required to maintain eligibility for: CRP payments; marketing assistance loans; price support loans; and loan deficiency payments (LDP); and NAP benefits.

In contrast, prior to the enactment of the 1996 Act, FSA required producers to report acreage information for all program crops. The 1995 acreage data collected from producers for all programs used the farm number, tract number, and optional field number to establish the location of the crop. The crop information collected consisted of the crop and variety (if applicable), irrigation practice, intended use of the crop, crop status, land use code, and planting pattern, for applicable crops. Crop acreage, producer identification and producer's percent share in the crop were collected to calculate payments based on acreage. Additional information was also collected for those crops that were eligible for benefits under NAP in those cases where the information was not otherwise collected for another purpose. Consequently, crop and acreage information needed to support eligibility requirements for NAP were not included in the previous OMB approval for collecting this information.

These requirements are being included in this revised information collection package.

With respect to loan and LDP eligibility for wheat, corn, grain sorghum, rice, upland cotton, oats, barley, soybeans, ELS cotton, and oilseeds, FSA only requires acreage information from those producers requesting such benefits.

With respect to CRP, the data collected is the acreage enrolled or requested to be enrolled for new CRP contracts. The data collected is utilized in verification that the farm has correctly maintained the CRP acreage and producer identification and percent share is correct.

Acreage report data is not only used for verifying compliance with program provisions in the field offices. Historical and projected plantings are also used for the following:

(1) Supply and demand projections released in the monthly World Agriculture Supply and Demand Estimates publication, (2) the semi-annual long-term supply and demand forecasts released in the President's Budget and Mid-session Review, (3) analyzing supply, demand, outlay, and income impacts of options for implementing CRP provisions, (4) analyzing legislative proposals.

The acreage report data obtained at the farm level is used to examine the planting of crops on individual farms and how these plantings change in response to prices and farm program provisions. The data is also used to forecast plantings on farms with expiring CRP contracts.

The Agency cost estimates are \$2.44/ per acreage report for data collection. Identification of crops on acreage reports allows FSA to use 35mm slides for aerial compliance to determine crop acreage. Failure to obtain acreage reports would raise the cost of compliance per farm because FSA would require additional field visits to identify crops.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .25 hours per response.

Respondents: Individual producers.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1,239,500.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 3.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 309,875 hours.

Proposed topics for comment include:

(a) Whether the 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 burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information collected; or (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of the 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 should be sent to the Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, D.C. 20503 and to David M. Nix, Agricultural Program Specialist, USDA, Farm Service Agency, Compliance and Production Adjustment Division, STOP 0517, PO Box 2415, Washington, D.C. 20250-2415, (202) 690-4091.

Signed at Washington, DC, on January 9, 1997.

Grant Buntrock,

Executive Vice President, Commodity Credit Corporation.

[FR Doc. 97-1462 Filed 1-21-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-05-P

Food and Consumer Service

The Emergency Food Assistance Program; Availability of Commodities for Fiscal Year 1997

AGENCY: Food and Consumer Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the surplus and purchased commodities that the Department expects to make available for donation to States for use in providing food assistance to the needy under the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) in Fiscal Year (FY) 1997. The commodities made available under this notice shall, at the discretion of the State, be distributed to organizations for use in preparing meals, and/or for distribution to households for home consumption.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lillie Ragan, Assistant Branch Chief, Program Administration Branch, Food Distribution Division, Food and Consumer Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 3101 Park Center Drive,

Alexandria, Virginia 22302-1594 or telephone (703) 305-2662.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background and Need for Action

Surplus Commodities

Surplus commodities donated for distribution under TEFAP are Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) commodities determined to be available for donation by the Secretary of Agriculture under the authority of section 416 of the Agricultural Act of 1949, Public Law 81-439 (hereinafter referred to as section 416) and commodities purchased under the surplus removal authority of section 32 of the Act of August 24, 1935, Public Law 74-320 (hereinafter referred to as section 32), which have been determined by the Secretary to be in excess of the quantities needed to carry out other programs, including CCC sales obligations. The types of commodities available under section 416 include dairy, grains, oils, and peanut products. The types of commodities purchased under section 32 include meat, poultry, fish, vegetables, and fruits. Donations of surplus commodities were initiated in 1981 as part of the Department's efforts to reduce stockpiles of government-owned commodities, such as cheese, flour, butter, and cornmeal, which had been acquired under section 416. These donations responded to concern over the costs to taxpayers of storing large quantities of foods, while at the same time there were persons in need of food assistance. The authority to donate surplus commodities for distribution through TEFAP was codified in Title II of Public Law 98-8, the Emergency Food Assistance Act (EFAA) of 1983 (7 U.S.C. 612c note).

In recent years, the supply of surplus commodities has been drastically reduced. These reductions are the result of changes in the commodity loan programs which have brought supply and demand into better balance, and accelerated donations and sales. As a result, the Department anticipates that there will not be sufficient quantities of commodities available under section 416 to support their donation for distribution through TEFAP in FY 1997. However, the Secretary of Agriculture anticipates that sufficient quantities of dried figs, dried prunes, canned salmon and frozen ground beef will be purchased under section 32 to warrant their donation for distribution through TEFAP during FY 1997. While sufficient quantities of these commodities may be available in FY 1997 to support such donations, the Department would like to point out that commodity purchases

under section 32 are based on changing agricultural market conditions; therefore, such commodities may not be available for donation in FY 1998.

Purchased Commodities

Congress responded to the reduced availability of surplus commodities with section 104 of the Hunger Prevention Act of 1988, Public Law 100-435, which added sections 213 and 214 to the EFAA. Those sections required the Secretary to purchase commodities for distribution to States, in addition to those surplus commodities which otherwise might be provided to States for distribution under TEFAP. The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, Public Law 104-193 (hereinafter referred to as "the Personal Responsibility Act"), signed by President Clinton on August 22, 1996, amended the Food Stamp Act of 1977 to require the Secretary to use \$100 million from the funds made available to carry out the Food Stamp Act of 1977 for each of FYs 1997 through 2002 to purchase a variety of nutritious and useful commodities and distribute the commodities to States for distribution through TEFAP. The Act also amends the EFAA to delete the authorization of appropriations for food purchases under section 214. However, in the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Appropriations Act, 1997 (P.L. 104-180), Congress appropriated funds that can be used for TEFAP commodity purchases in addition to the \$100 million earmarked by the Personal Responsibility Act. The Department has determined that up to \$45 million of the funds appropriated and available to TEFAP under P.L. 104-180 will be used for TEFAP commodity purchases, bringing the maximum amount of funds potentially available to buy TEFAP commodities to \$145 million.

For FY 1997, the Department anticipates purchasing for distribution through TEFAP the following commodities: peanut butter, vegetable oil, rice, macaroni, spaghetti, grits, fortified cereal, roasted peanuts, dehydrated potatoes, dry bagged beans and dried egg mix; canned apple, grapefruit, orange and tomato juices, vegetarian beans, carrots, green beans, tomatoes, tomato sauce, corn, peaches, applesauce, pineapple, pork, salmon, beef, and chicken; and frozen ground beef and turkey, cut-up chicken, and turkey roasts. The amounts of each item purchased will depend on the prices USDA must pay, as well as the quantity of each item requested by the States. Changes in agricultural market