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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Farm Service Agency

Commodity Credit Corporation

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

AGENCY: Farm Service Agency and the 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 Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) to request an extension for an information collection currently approved in support of the FSA and CCC Debt Settlement Policies and Procedures regulations. Provisions in the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 and in the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996 have resulted in a decrease in burden hours for information collection under the FSA and CCC Debt Settlement Policies and Procedures program.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received on or before August 18, 1997 to be assured of consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Thomas F. Harris II, Financial Analyst, Financial Management Division, Farm Service Agency, USDA, STOP 0581, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20013-0581, telephone (703) 305-1439.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Debt Settlement Policies and Procedures, 7 CFR Part 792.

OMB Control Number: 0560-0146

Type of Request: Reinstatement and extension of an approved information collection.

Abstract: The information collected under the Office of Management and

Budget (OMB) Number 0560-0146, as indicated above, is needed to enable FSA and CCC to effectively administer the Debt Settlement Policies and Procedures program. Collection of outstanding debts owed to FSA or to the CCC can be effected by installment payments if a debtor furnishes satisfactory evidence of inability to pay a claim in full, and if the debtor specifically requests for an installment agreement. Part of the requirements is that the debtor furnish this request in writing and with a financial statement or other information that would disclose a debtor's assets and liabilities. This information is required in order to evaluate any proposed plan. Such documentation requests furnished by the debtor are also used in other collection tools employed by both FSA and CCC in managing debt settlement policies and procedures. The Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996 requires the head of an agency to take all appropriate steps to collect delinquent debts before discharging such debts. These steps require the employment of these information collection forms and formats which have been successfully used for the past several years and which have become familiar tools for both Agency employees and for the producer. Thus forms and formats already exist and are in use. Having to develop and introduce new forms and formats into the market place would add additional burdens and costs to both the producer and to the Agency in the handling of the claim settlement and collection processes and would create additional burdens not called for under the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated at 30 minutes per response. Each response consists of a letter request, a financial statement, and, if approved, a Promissory Note (CCC-279).

Respondents: Producers participating in FSA and CCC programs.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 250.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondents: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 125 hours.

Topics for comment include but are not limited to the following: (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 to be collected; or (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 regarding this information collection requirement may be directed to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs of OMB, Attention: Desk Officer for USDA, Washington, DC 20503, and to Thomas F. Harris II. 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.

OMB is required to make a decision concerning the collection(s) of information contained in these proposed regulations between 30 and 60 days after publication of this document in the **Federal Register**. Therefore, a comment to OMB is best assured of having its full effect if OMB receives it within 30 days of publication.

Signed at Washington, DC, on June 11, 1997.

Bruce R. Weber,

Acting Administrator, Farm Service Agency and Acting Executive Vice President, Commodity Credit Corporation.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

City of Albany, KY, Cagle Water Expansion Project; Final Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of availability of final environmental impact statement

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Rural Utilities Service (RUS), pursuant to its responsibility as Lead Agency, and in conjunction with its cooperating agencies, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban