

Notices

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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

Rural Housing Service

Rural Business—Cooperative Service

Rural Utilities Service

Farm Service Agency

Notice of Request for Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Farm Service Agency (FSA), USDA.

ACTION: Proposed collection; request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Agency's intention to request an extension for a currently approved information collection in support of the program for Guaranteed Loans—General.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by December 1, 1997 to be assured of consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Steven Ford, Senior Loan Officer, Farm Credit Programs, Farm Service Agency, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Stop 0522, Washington, DC 20250, (202) 720-3889.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: 7 CFR 1980, Subpart A, Guaranteed Loans—General.

OMB Number: 0575-0024.

Expiration Date of Approval: January 31, 1998.

Type of Request: Extension and Revision of a Currently Approved Information Collection.

Abstract: The information collected under Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Number 0575-0024, as identified above, is needed to enable FSA to effectively administer the guaranteed loan program under the CONACT.

The Agency requires some of the information it collects to be reported in

a standard manner. Although lending institutions generally require and collect information similar to that requested by FSA, there is a wide diversity in reporting practices. The Agency requires some information to be reported on standard forms in order to facilitate an effective and efficient decision-making process.

Respondents generally consist of farm operators applying for loans and lenders. Compliance with local, state, and Federal laws is required; and evidence of compliance with these laws may be required. Evidence of compliance with zoning ordinances, environmental standards, equal opportunity standards, historic preservation requirements, etc., may be required when warranted.

The information collection required by this rule will be used by the Agency to approve or determine the need for loans and subordination in accordance with this rule. The Agency considers the information collected to be essential to prudent loan making decisions. Failure to make sound loans would jeopardize the Government's loan portfolio, result in large losses to both the borrower and the Government, and weaken the overall agricultural economy.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this information collection is estimated to average 1.16 hours per response.

Respondents: State or Federally chartered banks, Farm Credit System Institutions, and other lending institutions as well as farm operators and business owners. Also, individuals or households and businesses or other for profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 3750 (3000 lenders; 750 loan applicants).

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 26.85.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 117,066.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from the Barbara Williams, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, at (202) 720-9734.

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 Barbara Williams, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Stop 0743, 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: September 24, 1997.

Bruce R. Weber,

Administrator, Farm Service Agency.

Dated: September 25, 1997.

Jan Shadburn,

Administrator, Rural Housing Service.

[FR Doc. 97-26030 Filed 9-30-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

Opportunity for Designation in the Little Rock (AR) Area

AGENCY: Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA), USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The United States Grain Standards Act, as amended (Act), provides that official agency designations will end not later than triennially and may be renewed. The designation of Arkansas Grain Inspection Service (Arkansas) will end October 31, 1997, according to the Act. GIPSA has determined that Arkansas will not be redesignated. GIPSA is asking persons interested in providing official services in the Little Rock area to submit an application for designation. **DATE:** Applications must be postmarked or sent by telecopier (FAX) on or before October 30, 1997.