

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

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

June 17, 1998.

The Department of Agriculture has submitted the following information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. Comments regarding (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; (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 would be addressed to: Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Washington, D.C. 20503 and to Departmental Clearance Office, USDA, OCIO, Mail Stop 7602, Washington, D.C. 20250-7602. Comments regarding these information collections are best assured of having their full effect if received within 30 days of this notification. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling (202) 720-6746.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number and the agency informs potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information that such persons are not required to respond to the collection of information unless it

displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Food and Nutrition Service

Title: WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) Annual Financial Report, FMNP Recipient Report and FMNP.

OMB Control Number: 0584-0447.

Summary of Collection: The WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) is authorized by Public Law 102-314, enacted on July 2, 1992. The purpose of the FMNP is to provide resources to women, infants, and children who are nutritionally at risk, in the form of fresh, nutritious, unprepared foods (such as fruits and vegetables) from farmers' markets; to expand the awareness and use of farmers' markets; and, to increase sales at such markets. The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) will collect information from each state that receives a grant under the FMNP program in conjunction with the preparation of annual financial and recipient reports.

Need and Use of the Information: FNS will collect information from state agency administering the FMNP to develop an annual financial report on the number and type of recipients served by both Federal and non-Federal benefits under the program. The information is necessary for reporting to Congress in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements to State and Local Governments and for program planning purposes.

Description of Respondents: State, Local, or Tribal Government; Individuals or households; Business or other for-profit.

Number of Respondents: 1,283.

Frequency of Responses:

Recordkeeping; Reporting: Annually.

Total Burden Hours: 4,086.

Economic Research Service

Title: Food Security Supplement to the Current Population Survey.

OMB Control Number: 0536-New.

Summary of Collection: The Food Security Supplement is sponsored by the Economic Research Service (ERS) as a research and evaluation activity authorized under Section 17 of the Food Stamp Act of 1977. ERS is collaborating with the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) and the Bureau of Census to continue this program of research and development. The Food Stamp Program

(FSP) is currently the primary source of nutrition assistance for low-income Americans enabling households to improve their diet by increasing their food purchasing power. As the nation's primary public program for ensuring food security and alleviating hunger, USDA needs to regularly monitor these conditions among its target population. The Food Security Supplement will be administered as a set of questions appended to the Current Population Survey (CPS) managed by the Bureau of Census.

Need and Use of the Information: ERS will collect information from the Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement to routinely obtain reliable data from a large, representative national sample in order to develop a measure that can be used to track the prevalence of food insecurity and hunger within the U.S. population, as a whole, and by important population subgroups. The data collection will partially fulfill the requirements of the Congressionally mandated 10-Year Plan for the National Nutrition Monitoring and Related Research Program (NNMRRP). It will also contribute to provisions of the Government Performance Review Act (GPRA) by allowing FNS to quantify the effects and accomplishments of the Food Stamp Program.

Description of Respondents: Individuals or households.

Number of Respondents: 50,000.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 6,667.

Agricultural Marketing Service

Title: Poultry Market News Report.

OMB Control Number: 0581-0033.

Summary of Collection: The Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, legislates that USDA shall " * * * collect" and "disseminate marketing information * * * and" * * * collect, tabulate, and disseminate statistics on marketing agricultural products, including, but not restricted to statistics on marketing supplies, storage, stocks, quantity, quality, and condition of such products in various positions in the marketing channel, use of such products, and shipments and unloads thereof." The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), on behalf of the Secretary of Agriculture, is directed and authorized to collect and disseminate marketing information, including

adequate outlook information on a market-area basis, for the purpose of anticipating and meeting consumer requirements, aiding in the maintenance of farm income, and bringing about a balance between production and utilization of agricultural products. Information is collected from trade members covering 86 markets and 64 poultry commodity items to prepare the monthly report.

Need and Use of the Information: Government agencies such as the Foreign Agricultural Service, Economic Research Service, and the National Agricultural Statistics Service use market news data. Market News Reports are an aid to these government agencies in tracking prices, wages, and productivity or as indicators of economic activity. Market news information is contained in published reports distributed by other government agencies; for example, the "Situation and Outlook" reports by the Economic Research Service. The poultry and egg industry uses the data to help determine future production and marketing projections. Additionally, educational institutions, specifically, agricultural colleges and universities use market news information. The absence of these data would deny primary and secondary users' information that otherwise would be available to aid them in their production and marketing decisions, analyses, research and knowledge of current market conditions. The omission of these data could adversely affect prices, supply, and demand.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit.

Number of Respondents: 1,720.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Weekly; Monthly.

Total Burden Hours: 17,657.

Agricultural Marketing Service

Title: Seed Service Testing Program.

OMB Control Number: 0581-0140.

Summary of Collection: The Agricultural Marketing Act (AMA) of 1946 and regulations 7 CFR 75, thereunder provide for the inspection and certification of the quality of agricultural and vegetable seeds in order to bring about efficient orderly marketing and to assist the development of new or expanding markets. Under the voluntary program, samples of agricultural and vegetable seeds submitted to the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) are tested for certain quality factors such as purity, germination, and noxious-weed seed content. The items for which the seed is tested are designated by the applicant for the service. The Testing Section of the Seed Regulatory and Testing Branch

of AMS which tests the seed and issues the certificates is the only Federal seed testing facility which can issue the Federal Seed Analysis Certificate.

Need and Use of the Information: Generally, applicants are seed firms who use the seed analysis certificates to represent the quality of seed lots to foreign customers according to the terms specified in contracts of trade. Applicants must provide information such as the kind and quantity of seed, tests to be performed, and seed treatment if present, along with a sample of seed in order for AMS to provide the service. The information provided by the applicant is included on the seed analysis certificate, often to satisfy requirements of importing countries or letters of credit. If the pertinent information is not collected AMS would not know which tests to conduct or would not be able to relate the test results with a specific lot of seed. The information must be provided for each sample the applicant submits for test. Without the AMS program, applicants would have to obtain tests from state or commercial laboratories.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit; Farms; State, Local, or Tribal Government.

Number of Respondents: 92.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 389.

Farm Service Agency

Title: Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation Certification Requirements, 7 CFR Part 12.

OMB Control Number: 0560-NEW.

Summary of Collection: The Food Security Act of 1985 as amended by the Federal Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act of 1990 and the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 provides that any person who produces an agricultural commodity on a field that is predominately highly erodible, converts wetland, or plants an agricultural commodity on converted wetland shall be ineligible for certain program benefits. These provisions are an attempt to preserve the nation's wetlands and to reduce the rate at which the conversion of highly erodible land occurs. In order to ensure that persons who request benefits subject to the conservation restrictions get technical assistance needed and are informed regarding the compliance requirements on their land, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) collects information from producers with regard to their intended activities on their land that could affect their eligibility for requested USDA benefits.

Need and Use of the Information: Information must be collected from producers to certify that they intend to comply with the conservation requirements on their land to maintain their eligibility. Additionally, information may be collected if producers request that certain activities be exempt from provisions of the statute in order to evaluate whether the exempted conditions will be met. The collection of information allows the FSA county employees to perform the necessary compliance checks and fulfill USDA's objectives towards preserving wetlands and reducing erosion.

Description of Respondents: Farms; Individuals or households.

Number of Respondents: 400,000.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 109,477.

Food and Nutrition Service

Title: Coordination Best Practices Handbook project.

OMB Control Number: 0584-NEW.

Summary of Collection: The special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) was established in 1972 through an amendment to the Federal Child Nutrition Act. Its purpose is to provide low-income pregnant, breastfeeding, and postpartum women, infants and children up to age 5 with supplemental foods, nutrition education, and health care referrals to counteract the adverse effects of poverty on their nutrition and health status. The FNS is planning to conduct two consecutive information collections to determine best practices in coordinating WIC services with primary care services. From this information, a Best Practices Handbook will be prepared. The information will be collected through telephone screening and in-depth interviews with key informants.

Need and Use of the Information: FNS will use the information gathered in the study to develop a Best Practices Handbook. The handbook will provide information about collocation, collaboration and integration efforts, which will be distributed to state and local WIC, Community/Migrant Health Centers, and Indian Health Service directors. It is designed to motivate agency directors to move ahead with concrete plans that will result in improved coordination between their collective programs, thereby increasing access for women and children to the benefits available from all three programs.

Description of Respondents: State, Local, or Tribal Government; Not-for-profit institutions; Federal Government.

Number of Respondents: 270.
Frequency of Responses: Reporting:
 Other (One time).
Total Burden Hours: 195.

Food and Nutrition Service

Title: Case Study Data Collection for Tracking State Food Stamp choices and Implementation Strategies Under Welfare Reform.

OMB Control Number: 0584-NEW.

Summary of Collection: The Food Stamp Program, administered by the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), is a major component of the nation's nutrition security strategy and a central element of America's antipoverty efforts. With the enactment of the new Federal welfare reform law, States have been given many more policy options in the way they administer the Food Stamp Program. FNS is conducting a two-part study to collect information regarding innovative local implementation of State Food Stamp Program choices. The first phase of this study was completed in December 1997. This proposed collection represents the second phase where information will be collected through qualitative interviews with State and local food stamp officials in up to 10 states. Information will be gathered on changes in State food stamp policy decisions, how these changes are being implemented, and, if available, the number of food stamp participants affected by individual provisions.

Need and Use of the Information: The information collected should help FNS understand more about how States make choices regarding implementation strategies and how successful the implementation policies have been in helping clients move from welfare to work. FNS also hopes to gain insight into how various State policy choices have been translated into changes in local office practices and where and how the Food Stamp Program most succeeds in embodying the goals of welfare reform.

Description of Respondents: State, Local, or Tribal Government; Not-for-profit institutions.

Number of Respondents: 285.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting:
 Other (One time).

Total Burden Hours: 350.

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Title: Virus-Serum-Toxin Act and Regulations in 9 CFR, Subchapter E, Parts 101-124.

OMB Control Number: 0579-0013.

Summary of Collection: To fulfill its mission of preventing the importation, preparation, sale, or shipment of harmful veterinary biological products,

the Veterinary Biologics Division of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) issues licenses to qualified establishments that produce biological products, and issues permits to importers seeking to import such products into the United States. In order to effectively implement the licensing, production, labeling, importation, and other requirements, APHIS employs a number of information gathering tools such as establishment license applications, product license applications, product permit applications, product and test report forms, and field study summaries.

Need and Use of the Information: APHIS uses the information collected as a primary basis for the approval or acceptance of issuing licenses or permits to ensure veterinary biological products that are used in the United States are pure, safe, potent, and effective. Also APHIS uses the information to monitor the serials for purity, safety, potency and efficacy that are produced by licensed manufacturers prior to their release for marketing.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit; State, Local or Tribal Government.

Number of Respondents: 115.

Frequency of Responses:

Recordkeeping, Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 71,547.

Agricultural Marketing Service

Title: Federal Seed Act Program.

OMB Control Number: 0581-0026.

Summary of Collection: The Federal Seed Act (FSA) (7 U.S.C. 1551-1611) regulates agricultural and vegetable seeds in interstate commerce. Agricultural and vegetable seeds shipped in interstate commerce are required to be labeled with certain quality information such as the name of the seed, the purity, the germination, and the noxious-weed seeds of the state into which the seed is being shipped. State seed regulatory agencies refer to the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) complaints involving seed found to be mislabeled and to have moved in interstate commerce. AMS investigates the alleged violations and if the violation is substantiated, takes regulatory action ranging from letters of warning to monetary penalties. AMS will collect information from records of each lot of seed and make them available for inspection by agents of the Secretary.

Need and Use of the Information: The information collected consists of records pertaining to interstate shipments of seed which have been alleged to be in violation of the FSA. The shipper's

records pertaining to a complaint are examined by AMS program specialists and are used to determine if a violation of the FSA occurred. The records are also used to determine the precautions taken by the shipper to assure that the seed was accurately labeled. The FSA program would be ineffective without the ability to examine pertinent records as necessary to resolve complaints of violations.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit; Farm; State, Local or Tribal Government.

Number of Respondents: 3,208.

Frequency of Responses:

Recordkeeping; Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 36,793.

Agricultural Marketing Service

Title: Reporting Requirements Under the Regulations Governing the Inspection and Grading Services of Manufactured or Processed Dairy Products.

OMB Control Number: 0581-0126.

Summary of Collection: The Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1621-1627), Title II, Section 202 states, "The Congress hereby declares that a sound, efficient, and privately operated system for distributing and marketing agricultural products is essential to a prosperous agriculture and is indispensable to the maintenance of full employment and to the welfare, prosperity, and health of the nation. The Government, industry, and the consumer will be well served if the Government can help insure that dairy products are produced under sanitary conditions and that buyers have the choice of purchasing the quality of the product they desire. The dairy grading program is a voluntary user fee program. In order for a voluntary inspection program to perform satisfactorily with a minimum of confusion, information must be collected to determine what services are being requested.

Need and Use of the Information: The information requested is used to identify the product offered for grading, to identify and contact the party responsible for payment of the grading fee and expense, to identify persons who are responsible for payment of the grading fee and expense, and to identify persons who are responsible for administering the grade label program. Only information essential to provide service is requested. AMS uses several forms to collect information that is essential to carrying out and administering the inspection and grading program.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit.

Number of Respondents: 131.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 383.

Agricultural Marketing Service

Title: Cotton Classification and Market News Service.

OMB Control Number: 0581-0009.

Summary of Collection: The Cotton Statistics and Estimates Act, 7 U.S.C. 471-476, authorizes and directs the Secretary of Agriculture and Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), to collect and publish annually, statistics or estimates concerning the grades and staple length of stocks of cotton, known as the carryover, on hand on the 1st of August of each year in warehouses and other establishments of every character in the continental U.S.; and following such publication each year, to publish at intervals, in his/her discretion, his/her estimate of the grades and staple length of cotton of the then current crop (7 U.S.C. 471). Additionally, AMS collects, authenticates, publishes, and distributes by telegraph, radio, mail, and otherwise, timely information of the market supply, demand, location, and market prices for cotton (7 U.S.C. 473B).

Need and Use of the Information: AMS will collect information on the quality of cotton in the carryover stocks along with the size or volume of the carryover. This is information that is needed and used by all segments of the cotton industry. Growers use this information in making decisions relative to marketing their present crop and planning for the next one; cotton merchants use the information in marketing decisions; and the mills that provide the data also use the combined data in planning their future purchase to cover their needs. Importers of U.S. cotton use the data in making their plans for purchases of U.S. cotton. In addition, other USDA agencies use the information on carryover stocks for calculating accurate projections and estimates used in policy decisions.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit.

Number of Respondents: 495.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion; weekly; annually.

Total Burden Hours: 218.

Farm Service Agency

Title: Servicing Cases Where Unauthorized Loan or Other Financial Assistance Was Received—7 CFR Part 1951.

OMB Control Number: 0560-0160.

Summary of Collection: The Farm Service Agency (FSA) farm loan programs are administered under the provisions of the Consolidated Farm

and Rural Development Act (CONACT) [P.L. 87-128]. Occasionally, FSA encounters cases where unauthorized assistance was received by a borrower. This assistance may be a loan where the recipient did not meet the eligibility requirements set forth in program regulations or where the borrower qualified for loan assistance but a subsidized interest was charged on the loan, resulting in receipt of unauthorized interest subsidy benefits. The assistance may also be loan servicing where a borrower received an excessive write down or write-off of their debt. The information collected under the provisions of this regulation is provided on a voluntary basis by the borrower, although failure to cooperate to correct loan accounts may result in liquidation of the loan.

Need and Use of the Information: The information to be collected by FSA will primarily be financial data such as amount of income, farm operating expenses, crop yields, etc. The borrower will provide written records or other information to refute FSA's finding when it is determined through audit or by other means that a borrower has received financial assistance to which he or she was not entitled. If the borrower is unsuccessful in having the FSA change its determination of unauthorized assistance, the borrower may appeal the FSA decision. Otherwise, the unauthorized loan recipient may pay the loan in full, apply for a loan under a different program, convey the loan security to the government, enter into an accelerated repayment agreement, or sell the security in lieu of forced liquidation.

Description of Respondents: Farms; Individuals or households; Business or other for-profit.

Number of Respondents: 105.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 420.

National Agricultural Statistics Service

Title: Trade Association Survey.

OMB Control Number: 0535-NEW.

Summary of Collection: The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) has been asked by the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to conduct a survey of U.S. agricultural producer and commodity trade associations. This survey is designed to determine the degree that agricultural trade associations and other associations and organizations who support agriculture and the broader food and fiber economy participate in or facilitate international marketing, foreign direct investment, agricultural

research and development, and food safety related activities. NASS will collect information using a survey.

Need and Use of the Information: NASS will ask for information about steps the organizations have taken, are taking, or may be thinking of taking to help their organization members become more competitive in the emerging global economy. The data collected are vital to helping USAID formulate programs to foster agricultural trade that is mutually beneficial to agricultural producers and consumers in the U.S. and in the rest of the world. The USAID/Economic Research Service will analyze the data to determine the extent that the trade associations encourage international trade and the extent to which they use U.S. government information in determining trading partners and investment opportunities.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit.

Number of Respondents: 706.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Other (One-time).

Total Burden Hours: 165.

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Title: Certificate for Poultry and Hatching Eggs for Export.

OMB Control Number: 0579-0048.

Summary of Collection: Certificate for Poultry and Hatching Eggs for Export is authorized by 21 U.S.C. 112 and 113. The regulation that implements this law is found in part 91 of Title 9, Code of Federal Regulations. The export of agricultural commodities, including poultry and hatching eggs, is a major business in the United States and contributes to a favorable balance of trade. As part of its mission to facilitate the export of U.S. poultry and poultry products, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services, maintains information regarding the import health requirements of other countries for poultry and hatching eggs exported from the U.S. Most countries require a certification that our poultry and hatching eggs are disease free. APHIS will collect information on the quantity and type of poultry and hatching eggs designated for export, using form 17-6, Certificate for Poultry & Hatching Eggs for Export.

Need and Use of the Information: The information collected prevents unhealthy poultry or disease-carrying hatching eggs from being exported from the United States, thereby preventing the international dissemination of poultry diseases. The collection of

information also is necessary to satisfy the import requirements of the receiving countries, thereby protecting and encouraging trade with the United States.

Description of Respondents: Farms; Individuals or households; Business or other for-profit; Federal Government; State, Local or Tribal Government.

Number of Respondents: 300.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 10,500.

Economic Research Service

Title: Family Child Care Homes Legislative Changes Study.

OMB Control Number: 0536-NEW.

Summary of Collection: The Family Child Care Homes (FCHs) Legislative Changes Study is designed to study the effects of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, Public Law 104-193, on the family child care component of USDA's Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). The study was mandated by Congress to provide information on the impact of the legislative changes on the characteristics and operations of family child care home (FCCH) sponsors and providers, and to assess the effects of the legislation on targeting low-income families for participation. Information collected will come from information received from the study.

Need and Use of the Information: Information collected will be on the effect of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act on the family child care component of CACFP. The study will examine the effects of the legislative changes on the sponsors, providers, and families served by the program.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit; Individuals or households; Not-for-profit institutions.

Number of Respondents: 3,676.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 4,521.

Farm Service Agency

Title: Authorization Agreement for Peanut Handlers Automatic Marketing Assessment Payments.

OMB Control Number: 0560-NEW.

Summary of Collection: The Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 requires that the Secretary and the Farm Service Agency (FSA) provide for a non-refundable Peanut Marketing Assessment (PMA) for peanuts. The regulations found at 7 CFR Part 729.316(c)(1) provide that the peanut handler must remit the PMA required in the regulations to the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) in

a manner specified by the Secretary. For 1991 through 1996 crop years, peanut handlers were required to remit their PMA checks to lockboxes. However, for the 1997 and subsequent crop years, the Tobacco and Peanuts Division, in conjunction with the lockbox bank, NationsBank, is providing peanut handlers with a PMA payment alternative, the DirectPay debit authorization service. Form CCC-1047, Authorization Agreement for Peanut Handler's Automatic Marketing Assessment Payments, will be used to collect information to enroll peanut handlers in the NationsBank DirectPay service for the 1998 and subsequent crop years.

Need and Use of the Information: Information collected will include the peanut handler's address, accounting contact, depository name, branch, address and checking account information to be forwarded to NationsBank to enroll the peanut handler in the DirectPay Service. The new payment alternative will allow peanut handlers to make automated PMA payments to CCC.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit; Federal Government.

Number of Respondents: 30.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Annually.

Total Burden Hours: 5.

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Title: Animal Welfare, 9 CFR, Part 3, Marine Mammals.

OMB Control Number: 0579-0115.

Summary of Collection: The Laboratory Animal Welfare Act (AWA) requires the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to regulate the humane care and handling of most warmblooded animals including marine mammals, used for research or exhibition purposes, sold as pets, or transported in commerce. The purpose of the AWA is to insure that animals intended for use in research facilities or exhibition purposes or for use as pets are provided humane care and treatment and to ensure the humane treatment of animals during transportation in commerce; and to protect the owners of animals from the theft of their animals by preventing the sale or use of animals which have been stolen. Records and reports will be used to collect information on the care and maintenance of marine mammals.

Need and Use of the Information: APHIS will collect information from records and reports on facilities construction, veterinary care, personnel, feeding, water quality, sanitation space

requirements, transportation enclosures, and handling and care in transit. The records and reports provide APHIS with the data necessary for review and evaluation of program compliance by regulated facilities, and provide a workable enforcement system to carry out the requirements of the AWA, and the intent of Congress, on a practical daily basis without resorting to more detailed and stringent regulations and standards which could be more burdensome to regulated facilities.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit; not for-profit institutions.

Number of Respondents: 812.

Frequency of Responses: Recordkeeping; Reporting: On occasion; Weekly; Semi-annually.

Total Burden Hours: 9,555.

Emergency approval for this information collection has been requested by June 26, 1998.

Farm Service Agency

Title: Operating Loans, Policies, Procedures and Authorizations—7 CFR Part 1941.

OMB Control Number: 0560-0162.

Summary of Collection: The Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1941) (CONACT) authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture and the Farm Service Agency (FSA) to make (1) direct loans to eligible farmers and ranchers for farm operating loans, and (2) youth loans to enable them to operate enterprises in connection with 4-H Clubs, Future Farmers of America, and similar organizations. The basic objective of the farm operating loan program is to provide credit management assistance to farmers and ranchers to become operators of family sized farms, or continue such operations when credit is not available elsewhere. The assistance enables family farm operators to use their land, labor, and other resources and to improve their living and financial conditions so that they can eventually obtain credit elsewhere. Information must be collected in order for FSA officials to determine a loan applicant's eligibility to qualify for a loan and repayment ability.

Need and Use of the Information: FSA will collect the information through the use of the following forms: FmHA 441-10, Non-disturbance Agreement; FmHA 441-13, Division of Income and Non-disturbance Agreement; FmHA 1940-51, "Crop-share-Cash Farm Lease," FmHA 1940-53, "Cash Farm Lease," FmHA 1940-55, "Livestock Share Farm Lease," FmHA 1940-56, "Annual Supplement to Farm Lease; FmHA 441-8, "Assignment of Proceeds from the

Sale of Products"; FmHA 441-18, "Consent to Payment of Proceeds from Sale of Farm Products"; FmHA 441-25, "Assignment of Proceeds from the Sale of Dairy Products and Release of Security Interest". The FSA loan approval official must determine that adequate security and repayment ability exists before a loan is granted and that funds are used only for those purposes authorized by law.

Description of Respondents: Farm; individuals or households; business or other for-profit.

Number of Respondents: 52,210.

Frequency of Responses: Recordkeeping: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 11,012.

Farm Service Agency

Title: Agreement For The Use of Proceeds/Release of Chattel Security.

OMB Control Number: 0560-0171.

Summary of Collection: The Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (CONACT) requires release of normal income security to pay essential household and farm operating expenses of the borrower, until the Farm Service Agency (FSA) accelerates the loans. The FSA agreed in the consent decree to approve a borrower's planned use of proceeds from the disposition of their chattel security, record any changes to planned use, and record the actual disposition of chattel security for the year of operation. FSA will collect information on the actual and planned disposition of chattel security through the use of form FmHA 1962-I.

Need and Use of the Information: Information collected will be from FSA borrowers who may be individual farmers or farming partnerships or corporations. The collection is on an individual-case basis by FSA staff directly from the borrower.

Description of Respondents: Farms; business or other for-profit; individuals or households.

Number of Respondents: 56,075.

Frequency of Responses: Recordkeeping: Annually.

Total Burden Hours: 18,505.

Nancy Sternberg,

Departmental Information Clearance Officer.
[FR Doc. 98-16540 Filed 6-19-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Extension of the Period for Providing Comments Concerning the Proposed Revision of the NRCS Policy for Nutrient Management Technical and Program Assistance Activities

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), U.S. Department of Agriculture.

ACTION: Extension of the period for providing comments concerning the proposed revision of the NRCS policy for nutrient management technical and program assistance activities.

SUMMARY: NRCS advertised a notice of intention to adopt a revised policy for nutrient management related technical and program assistance activities in the **Federal Register** on April 22, 1998 (63FR19889). This notice is located on pages 19889-19892 (Vol 63, Number 77). Published with the notice was draft 10a of the proposed policy. Because of the significant public interest in this proposed policy revision, NRCS has extended the comment period for an additional thirty (30) days.

EFFECTIVE DATES: Comments must be received by July 22, 1998. This revised policy will be adopted after the close of the comment period. It will be issued as either part 503 of the NRCS National Agronomy Manual or in the NRCS General Manual.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Questions or comments about this policy should be directed to the Ecological Sciences Division, NRCS, Washington, DC. Submit questions or comments in writing to Charles H. Lander, Nutrient Management Specialist, NRCS, Post Office Box 2890, Room 6155-S, Washington, DC 20013-2890.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 343 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 requires NRCS to make available for public review and comment proposed revisions to conservation practice standards used to carry out the highly erodible land and wetland provisions of the law. NRCS will receive comments relative to the proposed changes through July 22, 1998. Following that period, a determination will be made by NRCS regarding disposition of those comments, and a final determination of change will be made.

Signed in Washington, DC, on June 10, 1998.

Pearlie S. Reed,

Chief, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Washington, DC.

[FR Doc. 98-16418 Filed 6-19-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-16-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc.; Notice of Intent

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.
ACTION: Notice of intent to hold scoping meeting and prepare an environmental assessment and/or environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Rural Utilities Service (RUS), pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations for Implementing NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and RUS Environmental Policies and Procedures (7 CFR Part 1794) proposes to prepare an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for its Federal action related to a proposal by Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc., to construct a 100 megawatt simple cycle electric generating plant in Southeast Missouri.

Meeting Information

RUS will conduct a scoping meeting in an open house forum on Thursday, July 23, 1998, from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. in the commission courtroom at the Stoddard County Courthouse in Bloomfield Missouri. The courthouse is located at 305 East Court Street.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bob Quigel, Engineering and Environmental Staff, Rural Utility Service, Stop 1571, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-1571, telephone (202) 720-0468. Bob's E-mail address is bquigel@rus.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc., proposes to construct the plant at one of two potential sites. These sites are in the Missouri counties of Butler and Stoddard. The site in Butler County is located on State Highway 51, 1.7 miles north and 1.0 mile east of Fagus and the site in Stoddard County is located 1.2 miles east of Idalia on County Road E.

The proposed project is a nominal 100 megawatt simple cycle combustion turbine. It will be a single fuel gas-fired combustion turbine that will be