

# 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

### Research, Education, and Economics.

#### Notice of Strategic Planning Task Force Meeting

**AGENCY:** Research, Education, and Economics, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of Meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The United States Department of Agriculture announces a meeting of the Strategic Planning Task Force on Research Facilities.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Strategic Planning Task Force on Research Facilities, currently consisting of 14 members, is scheduled to meet for the FIFTH of eight planned meetings. The meeting is scheduled to be held at the St. Louis Airport Hilton, St. Louis, Missouri, beginning at 1:00 p.m. on August 25 and concluding at noon on August 28. The meeting will be devoted to a review of the Task Force progress in data collection and the afternoon of Thursday, August 27, 1998, to a discussion of private sector agriculture research.

**TIMES AND DATES:** August 25, 1998, 1:00 p.m.–5pm; August 26, 1998, 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.; August 27, 1998, 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.; and August 28, 1998, 8:00 a.m.–noon.

**PLACE:** St. Louis Airport Hilton, St. Louis, Missouri.

**TYPE OF MEETING:** Open to the public.

**COMMENTS:** The public may file written comments before or after the meeting with the contact person listed below.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mitch Geasler, Project Director, Strategic Planning Task force on Research Facilities, Room 344–A Jamie L. Whitten Building, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, D.C. 20250–0113. Telephone 202–720–3803.

Done at Washington, D.C., on this 6th Day of July 1998.

**I. Miley Gonzalez,**

*Under Secretary, Research, Education, and Economics.*

[FR Doc. 98–18451 Filed 7–13–98; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410–22–P**

## 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 Commodity Credit Corporation's (CCC) intention to request an extension for and revision to an information collection currently approved in support of the Sugar Loan Program regulations for sugar beets and sugarcane. New legislation resulted in a decrease in burden hours.

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received on or before September 14, 1998 to be assured consideration.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Merle Strawderman, Agricultural Program Specialist, Price Support Division, Farm Service Agency, USDA, STOP 0512, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20013–0512; telephone (202) 720–9889; e-mail Merle\_Strawderman@wdc.fsa.usda.gov.; or facsimile (202) 690–3307.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Title:* Sugar Program, 7 CFR part 1435.

*OMB Control Number:* 0560–0093.

*Expiration Date:* July 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) Control Number 0560–0093, as identified above, is needed to enable FSA to effectively administer the regulations at 7 CFR part 1435 relating to loans for sugar beets and sugarcane. Changes in the sugar program authority contained in the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996

modified sugar processors' requirements for participating in the sugar loan program. As a result, the collection of information on CCC Forms SU–3, Request for Benefit payment, SU–4, Surety Bond for Sugar Loan Program, SU–5, Claims Waiver, and SU–6, Agreement to Provide Adequate Financial Assurance is no longer necessary. Accordingly, CCC is eliminating these forms and decreasing the burden hours associated with participation in the sugar loan program.

*Estimate of Burden:* Public reporting burden for this information collection is estimated to average 16 minutes per response.

*Respondents:* Sugar processors and producers.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 30.

*Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* 120.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 65 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 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 Merle Strawderman, Program Specialist, Price Support Division, Farm Service Agency, USDA, STOP 0512, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20013–0512; telephone (202) 720–9889. Copies of the information collection may be obtained from Merle Strawderman at the above address.

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.