

# 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

### National Agricultural Statistics Service

#### Notice of Intent To Revise a Currently Approved Information Collection

**AGENCY:** National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. No. 104-13) and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations at 5 CFR Part 1320 (60 FR 44978, August 29, 1995), this notice announces the National Agricultural Statistics Service's (NASS) intention to request a revision to a currently approved information collection, the 1997 Census of Agriculture, to include the Territory of American Samoa.

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received by November 16, 1998 to be assured of consideration.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS:** Contact Rich Allen, Associate Administrator, National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Room 4117 South Building, Washington, D.C. 20250-2000, (202) 720-4333.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Title:* 1997 Census of Agriculture.

*OMB Number:* 0535-0226.

*Expiration Date of Approval:* November 30, 1999.

*Type of Request:* Intent to revise a currently approved information collection.

*Abstract:* The original request for authorization to conduct the 1997 Census of Agriculture, prepared by the Bureau of the Census, provided for data to be collected for farm operations in the 50 States, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, and the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands. The agriculture census in American Samoa

has historically been conducted as an extension of the Decennial Census program, and so was not included in the 1997 Census of Agriculture authorization. The transfer of the agriculture census program from the Bureau of the Census to the National Agricultural Statistics Service has created a void for agriculture data in American Samoa, as the Census Bureau no longer has staff involved in agriculture and will not be collecting agriculture data along with population data in the year 2000. The National Agricultural Statistics Service has recently been asked by the government of American Samoa to conduct an agriculture census there. The data on American Samoa agriculture are important to government officials trying to measure the economic health of the island group and provide crucial benchmarks for disaster relief agencies in times of natural disasters, such as hurricanes. The proposed census will be a joint effort between the National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture; the Office of Insular Affairs, U.S. Department of Interior; and the American Samoa government.

*Estimate of Burden:* Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 30 minutes per response.

*Respondents:* Farms and households.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 2,500.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 1,250 hours.

Copies of this information collection and related instructions can be obtained without charge from Larry Gambrell, the Agency OMB Clearance Officer, at (202) 720-5778.

*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: Larry Gambrell, Agency OMB Clearance Officer, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Room 4162 South Building, Washington, D.C. 20250-2000. 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.

Signed at Washington, D.C., September 2, 1998.

**Rich Allen,**

*Associate Administrator, National Agricultural Statistics Service.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Natural Resources Conservation Service

#### Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program

**AGENCY:** Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service.

**ACTION:** Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare a programmatic environmental impact statement.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announces its intention to prepare a programmatic environmental impact statement (PEIS), pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) for the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program. The draft PEIS will assess the potential environmental impacts of alternatives for administration of the EWP program. This program which provides funding and assistance to localities requesting EWP assistance to address watershed impairments, caused by a natural disaster, which pose an immediate threat to life and property.

A PEIS for the current EWP program was prepared in 1975. NRCS is now conducting a comprehensive review of the program which may result in substantive changes to improve the environmental, economic and technical soundness of activities conducted under the program. This draft PEIS will support management decisions on how best to revise the EWP program to