

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

Federal Crop Insurance Corporation

Notice of Request for Revision of a Currently Approved Information Collection; Common Crop Insurance Regulations; Basic Provisions

AGENCY: Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. chapter 35), this notice announces Federal Crop Insurance Corporation's (FCIC) intent to request a revision to a currently approved information collection for its Common Crop Insurance Policy; Basic Provisions (Basic Provisions) (7 CFR part 457) effective for the 1999 and succeeding crop years for all crops with contract change dates after the effective date of the final rule, and for the 2000 or 2001 and succeeding crop years for all crops with contract change dates prior to the effective date of the final rule.

DATES: Written comments and opinions on this notice must be received by November 24, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nancy Conway, Insurance Management Specialist, Research and Development, Product Development Division, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, at the Kansas City, MO, address listed above, telephone (816) 927-7730.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995

This notice announces FCIC's intent to revise the information collection requirements previously approved by OMB under OMB control number 0563-0053 through October 31, 2000. The program changes provide a prevented planting payment if at least 20 acres or 20 percent of the acreage in the unit is prevented from being timely planted,

regardless of whether or not the acreage is contiguous, if all other criteria are met. Information will need to be collected with respect to the number of acres prevented from being planted in order to calculate a prevented planting payment. All of the forms cleared under OMB control number 0563-0053 represent the minimum information necessary to determine eligibility and losses qualifying for a payment due to prevented planting or loss of production.

Revised reporting estimates and requirements for usage of OMB control number 0563-0053 have been submitted to OMB for approval under the provisions of 44 U.S.C. chapter 35.

The FCIC is seeking comments on the following information collection request (ICR). *Title:* Multiple Peril Crop Insurance.

Respondents/Affected Entities: Parties affected by the information collection requirements included in this notice are all producers with multiple peril crop insurance coverage.

Abstract: The program changes improve the existing Common Crop Insurance Policy; Basic Provisions, by clarifying certain provisions, adding definitions and provisions to allow enterprise and whole farm units, allowing the use of a written agreement to insure acreage that has not been planted and harvested in one of the three previous crop years, and amending the prevented planting provisions that currently require that at least one contiguous block of prevented planting acreage must constitute at least 20 acres or 20 percent of the insurable crop acreage in the unit before a prevented planting payment may be made.

Estimate of Burden: The public reporting burden for the collection of information on all forms for multiple peril crop insurance is estimated at 49.6 minutes per participant because of the high degree of automaton associated with the data collection.

Respondents: Producers with multiple peril crop insurance coverage.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1,322,903.

Estimated Number of Responses Per Respondent: 2.5.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 1,092,835 hours.

FCIC is requesting comments on the following: (a) Whether the proposed

collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information has practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (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 respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information gathering technology.

Comments regarding paperwork reduction should be submitted to the Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503.

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) is required to make a decision concerning the collections of information contained in this rule between 30 and 60 days after submission to OMB. Therefore, a comment to OMB is best assured of having full effect if OMB receives it within 30 days of publication.

Signed in Washington, D.C., on September 21, 1998.

John Zirschky,

Acting Manager, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation.

[FR Doc. 98-25720 Filed 9-24-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-08-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Federal Crop Insurance Corporation

Notice of Request for Revision of a Currently Approved Information Collection; Common Crop Insurance Regulations; Cotton and ELS Cotton Crop Insurance Provisions

AGENCY: Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C., chapter 35), this notice announces Federal Crop Insurance Corporation's (FCIC) intent to request a revision to a currently approved information collection for its Cotton Crop Insurance Provisions and the Extra Long Staple (ELS) Cotton Crop

Insurance Provisions for the 1999 and succeeding crop years.

DATES: Written comments and opinions on this notice must be received by October 26, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nancy Conway, Insurance Management Specialist, Research and Development, Product Development Division, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, at the Kansas City, MO, address listed above, telephone (816) 926-7730.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995

This notice announces FCIC's intent to revise the information collection requirements previously approved by OMB under OMB control number 0563-0053 through October 31, 2000. The program changes provide a replant payment if the insured crop is damaged by excess moisture, hail, or blowing sand or soil and is replanted. Information will need to be collected with respect to the number of acres replanted in order to calculate a replant payment. In addition, the program changes revise the provision used to determine the amount of production to count for cotton and ELS cotton that is eligible for quality adjustment, and proposed a prevented planting coverage of 50 percent for cotton and ELS cotton for 1999 and subsequent crop years. All of the forms cleared under OMB control number 0563-0053 present the minimum information necessary to a determine eligibility and losses qualifying for a payment due to cotton and ELS cotton coverage.

Revised reporting estimates and requirements for usage of OMB control number 0563-0053 have been submitted to OMB for approval under the provisions of 44 U.S.C., chapter 35. The comment period for information collections under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 continues through November 24, 1998.

The FCIC is seeking comments on the following information collection request (ICR). *Title:* Multiple Peril Crop Insurance.

Respondents/Affected Entities: Parties affected by the information collection requirements included in this notice are cotton and ELS cotton producers.

Abstract: This program changes improve the existing cotton and ELS cotton policy by adding coverage for replanting of the insured crop if damaged by excess moisture, hail, or blowing sand or soil; increasing the price used to calculate quality adjustment from 75 percent of the price quotation for the applicable growth area, adjusted according to the specifications

in the Special Provisions, for cotton or ELS cotton in the area to 100 percent of the price quotation for such cotton; and increasing the amount of prevented planting coverage for cotton and ELS cotton to 50 percent. FCIC believes the program changes will provide better crop insurance coverage to cotton and ELS cotton producers.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for the collection of information on all forms for the insurance of cotton and ELS cotton is estimated at 55.8 minutes per participant because of the high degree of automation associated with the data collection.

Respondents: Cotton and ELS cotton producers.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 60,795.

Estimated Number of Responses Per Respondent: 2.8.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 56,496 hours.

FCIC is requesting comments on the following: (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information has practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (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 respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information gathering technology.

Comments regarding paperwork reduction should be submitted to the Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503.

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) is required to make a decision concerning the collections of information contained in this rule between 30 and 60 days after submission to OMB. Therefore, a comment to OMB is best assured of having full effect if OMB receives it within 30 days of publication.

Signed in Washington, D.C., on September 21, 1998.

John Zirschky,

Acting Manager, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation.

[FR Doc. 98-25721 Filed 9-24-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-8-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Olympic Provincial Interagency Executive Committee (PIEC), Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Meeting.

SUMMARY: The Olympic PIEC Advisory Committee will meet on October 9, 1998 at the Montesano City Hall, 112 N. Main Street, Montesano, Washington. The meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m. and continue until 3:00 p.m. Agenda items to be covered include: (1) Review of 1998 watershed restoration project accomplishments and 1999 Watershed Restoration program for the Olympic Forest; (2) Review of priority setting process for watershed restoration project selection; (3) Update from Effectiveness Monitoring sub-committee on Soleduck Pilot Project; (4) Review of PAC costs, rechartering and attendance; (5) Update on Quinault Range District projects and activities. Olympic Province Committee meetings are open to the public. Interested citizens are encouraged to attend.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Direct questions regarding this meeting to Kathy Snow, Province Liaison, USDA, Quilcene Ranger District, P.O. Box 280, Quilcene, WA 98376. (360)765-2211.

Dated: September 21, 1998.

Claire Lavendel,

Acting Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 98-25671 Filed 9-24-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

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)