

other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments should reference OMB No. 0581-0167 and be mailed to Docket Clerk, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, AMS, USDA, P.O. Box 96456, Room 2525-S, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456; Fax (202) 720-5698; or E-mail: moabdocket—clerk@usda.gov.

Comments should reference the docket number and the date and page number of this issue of the **Federal Register**. All comments received will be available for public inspection in the Office of the Docket Clerk during regular USDA business hours at 14th and Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C., room 2525-S.

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: September 7, 1999

Robert C. Keeney

Deputy Administrator, *Fruit and Vegetable Programs*

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BILLING CODE 3410-02-p

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Federal Crop Insurance Corporation

Notice and Request for Public Comment on the Watermelon Pilot Crop Insurance Program

AGENCY: Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, USDA.

ACTION: Notice with request for comments.

SUMMARY: This notice announces that the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC) is hereby suspending the current watermelon pilot crop insurance program for the 2000 crop year. FCIC will continue to work with producers, industry representatives, and others to develop a revised watermelon insurance program that may better meet the needs of producers. The intended effect of this action is to advise all interested parties of FCIC's suspension of the current watermelon program for the 2000 crop year and to solicit comments regarding a revised watermelon pilot crop insurance program.

DATES: Written comments and opinions on suggested improvements for the insurance of watermelons will be accepted until close of business November 12, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments to the Director, Research and Evaluation Division, Federal Crop Insurance

Corporation, United States Department of Agriculture, 9435 Holmes Road, Kansas City, MO 64131. Comments may also be sent via the Internet to DIRECTORPDD@RM.FCIC.USDA.GOV. A copy of each response will be available for public inspection and copying from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., CDT, Monday through Friday except holidays, at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kathy Tiefel, Insurance Management Specialist, Research and Development Division, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, at the Kansas City, MO, address listed above, telephone (816) 926-6343.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The current watermelon pilot crop insurance program was implemented for the 1999 crop year in the following fifteen counties in eight States: Geneva County in Alabama; Sussex County in Delaware; Alachua, Jackson, and Manatee Counties in Florida; Crisp, Tift, Turner, and Worth Counties in Georgia; Wicomico County in Maryland; Chowan and Sampson Counties in North Carolina; and Duval, Frio, and Hidalgo Counties in Texas. The selected pilot program counties accounted for approximately 19 percent of the national watermelon planted acreage. The pilot program utilized an actual production history (APH) plan of insurance. As a result of complaints received regarding the watermelon pilot crop insurance program concerning excess watermelon production and determination of market prices, FCIC is suspending the current program for the 2000 crop year. FCIC will continue to work with producers, industry representatives, and others to develop a watermelon insurance program that may better meet the needs of producers.

Notice

FCIC is hereby suspending the current watermelon pilot crop insurance program for the 2000 crop year. Producers with existing watermelon policies will have those policies canceled by the cancellation date in accordance with the terms of the policy. FCIC will continue to work with producers, industry representatives, and others to develop a watermelon insurance program that may better meet the needs of producers. Plans of insurance other than the APH plan will be considered. FCIC is soliciting comments regarding a revised watermelon pilot crop insurance program.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 1506(l), 1506(p).

Signed in Washington, DC, on September 7, 1999.

Kenneth D. Ackerman,

Manager, *Federal Crop Insurance Corporation*.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Notice of Proposed Changes in NCRS National Handbook of Conservation Practices for Review and Comment

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), DOA.

ACTION: Notice of proposed changes in the NRCS National Handbook of Conservation Practices for review and comment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of the intention of NRCS to issue a series of new or revised conservation practice standards in its National Handbook of Conservation Practices. These standards include Closure of Waste Impoundments, Conservation Cover, Contour Farming, Cover Crop, Contour Stripcropping, Grassed Waterway, and Irrigation System—Microirrigation.

NRCS State Conservationists who choose to adopt these practices for use within their States will incorporate them into Section IV of their Field Office Technical Guide. These practices may be used in conservation systems that treat highly erodible land or on land determined to be wetland.

EFFECTIVE DATES: Comments will be received on or before November 12, 1999. This series of new or revised conservation practice standards will be adopted after the close of the 60-day period.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Single copies of these standards are available from NRCS-CED in Washington, DC. Submit individual inquiries and return any comments in writing to William Hughey, National Agricultural Engineer, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Post Office Box 2890, Room 6139-S, Washington, DC 20013-2890. Telephone Number 202-720-5023. The standards are also available and can be downloaded from the Internet at: http://www.ftw.nrcs.usda.gov/practice_stds.html.

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