

# 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

### Farm Service Agency

#### Notice of Request for Extension and Revision of a Currently Approved Information Collection

**AGENCY:** Farm Service Agency, USDA.

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

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Farm Service Agency's intention to request an extension and a revision to an approved information collection in support of the Disaster Assistance Program. The collection requirements have been revised to make clearer the purpose of determining an area eligible to receive emergency loans. The collection requirements have also been revised to amend the total burden hours reflected in the number of requests for Secretarial natural disaster assistance during the 1999 crop year.

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received on or before March 13, 2000, to be assured of consideration.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS:** Comments may be sent to Diane Sharp, Director, Production, Emergencies, and Compliance Division, Farm Service Agency, United States Department of Agriculture, STOP 0517, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-0517, telephone (202) 720-7641, e-mail Diane\_S Sharp@wdc.fsa.usda.gov.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Helen Smith, at the above address and phone number.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title:* Disaster Assistance (General).

*OMB Control Number:* 0560-0170.

*Expiration Date of Approval:*

December 31, 2000.

*Type of Request:* Extension and Revision of Currently Approved Information Collection.

*Abstract:* The information collected under OMB Number 0560-0170, as identified above, is needed for FSA to effectively administer the regulations relating to identifying disaster areas, thereby making qualified farmers and ranchers who have suffered weather-related physical and production losses in such areas, eligible for emergency loans. However, before emergency loans can become available, information needs to be collected to determine if the disaster areas meet the criteria of having a qualifying loss in order to be considered an eligible county. The information collection will be used to determine the county eligibility.

*Estimate of Burden:* Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .4205 hour per response.

*Respondents:* Farmers and ranchers.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 2,454.

*Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* 1.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 1,032.

Comments are sought on these requirements including: (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.

Comments regarding this information collection should be sent to the Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503 and to Diane Sharp, Director, Production, Emergencies, and Compliance Division, Farm Service Agency, United States Department of Agriculture, STOP 0517, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-0517, telephone (202) 720-7641, e-mail Diane\_S Sharp@wdc.fsa.usda.gov.

Comments regarding paperwork burden will be summarized and

included in the request for OMB approval of the information collection.

All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Signed at Washington, DC, on January 4, 2000.

**Keith Kelly,**

*Administrator, FSA.*

[FR Doc. 00-577 Filed 1-10-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-05-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Food and Nutrition Service

#### Food Stamp Program: Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Disaster Food Stamp Assistance

**AGENCY:** Food and Nutrition Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice invites the general public and other public agencies to comment on proposed information collections. This information collection is based on the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act and Section 5(h) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended, which provide the Secretary of Agriculture with the authority to develop an emergency food stamp program to address the needs of families temporarily in need of food assistance after a disaster. The information collection under this notice is required for the establishment and operation of emergency food stamp assistance programs.

**DATES:** Written comments must be received on or before March 13, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** 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 shall 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; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who respond, including through the use of appropriate