

Henderson/Madison County line; then north along the Henderson/Madison County line to the point of beginning.

*Lawrence County.* The entire county.

*Lewis County.* That portion of the county bounded by a line beginning at the intersection of the Lewis/Perry County line and State Highway 48; then east along State Highway 48 to State Highway 20; then southeast along State Highway 20 to the Lewis/Lawrence County line; then west along the Lewis/Lawrence County line to the Lewis/Wayne County line; then north along the Lewis/Wayne County line to the Lewis/Perry County line; then north along the Lewis/Perry County line to the point of beginning.

*Lincoln County.* That portion of the county bounded by a line beginning at the intersection of the Lincoln/Marshall County line and State Highway 50; then east along State Highway 50 to the Lincoln/Moore County line; then south along the Lincoln/Moore County line to the Lincoln/Franklin County line; then south along the Lincoln/Franklin County line to the Tennessee/Alabama State Line; then west along the Tennessee/Alabama State line to the Lincoln/Giles County line; then north along the Lincoln/Giles County line to the point of beginning.

*Madison County.* The entire county.

*Marion County.* The entire county.

*Marshall County.* That portion of the county bounded by a line beginning at the intersection of the Marshall/Giles County line and State Highway 129; then east along State Highway 129 to U.S. Highway Alternate 31; then north along U.S. Highway Alternate 31 to State Highway 50; then southeast along State Highway 50 to the Marshall/Lincoln County line; then west along the Marshall/Lincoln County line to the Marshall/Giles County line; then north along the Marshall/Giles County line to the point of beginning.

*McMinn County.* The entire county.

\* \* \* \* \*

*Meigs County.* The entire county.

*Monroe County.* That portion of the county bounded by a line beginning at the intersection of the Monroe/McMinn County line and State Highway 68 (including the entire city limits of Tellico Plains); then south along State Highway 68 to the Monroe/Polk County line; then west along the Monroe/Polk County line to the Monroe/McMinn County line; then north along the Monroe/McMinn County line to the point of beginning.

*Moore County.* That portion of the county bounded by a line beginning at the intersection of the Moore/Lincoln County line and State Highway 50; then

east along State Highway 50 to the Moore/Franklin County line; then south along the Moore/Franklin County line to the Moore/Lincoln County line; then west and north along the Moore/Lincoln County line to the point of beginning.

*Perry County.* That portion of the county lying south of latitude 35°45'.

\* \* \* \* \*

*Rhea County.* The entire county.

*Shelby County.* The entire county.

\* \* \* \* \*

3. In part 301, Subpart—Imported Fire Ant (§§ 301.81–301.81–10), the appendix is amended as follows:

a. By revising the title of the appendix and removing footnote 8.

b. Under III. A., by revising the first paragraph.

c. Under III. C. 4. *Exclusion, Bifenthrin*, by revising paragraph (b).

d. Under III. C. 4. *Enforcement*, by revising the second, third, and sixth paragraphs.

**Appendix to Subpart “Imported Fire Ant”**

III. Regulatory Procedures

A. *Instructions to Inspectors.* Inspectors must know and follow instructions in the PPQ Treatment Manual, the pesticide label, and exemptions (Section 18 or 24 (c) of FIFRA) for the treatment or other procedures used to authorize the movement of regulated articles. These will serve as a basis for explaining such procedures to persons interested in moving articles affected by the quarantine. Inspectors shall furnish completed information to anyone interested in moving regulated articles.

\* \* \* \* \*

C. *Approved Treatments.*

\* \* \* \* \*

4. Imported-Fire-Ant-Free Nursery—Containerized Plants Only

\* \* \* \* \*

*Exclusion*

*Bifenthrin*

\* \* \* \* \*

(b) Treated with bifenthrin drench upon delivery in accordance with this appendix (III.C.3.b), and within 180 days be either:

\* \* \* \* \*

*Enforcement*

\* \* \* \* \*

If imported fire ants are detected in nursery stock during an inspection by a Federal or State inspector, issuance of certificates for movement shall be suspended until necessary treatments are applied and the plants and nursery premises are determined to be free of the imported fire ant. A Federal or State inspector may declare a nursery to be free of the imported fire ant upon reinspection of the premises. This inspection must be conducted no sooner than 30 days after treatment to ensure its effectiveness. During this period, certification may be based

upon the drench or immersion treatment provided in paragraph III.C.3. of this appendix, titled “Plants—Balled or in Containers.”

Upon notification by the department of agriculture in any State of destination that a confirmed imported fire ant infestation was found on a shipment from a nursery considered free of the imported fire ant, the department of agriculture in the State of origin shall cease its certification of shipments from that nursery. An investigation by Federal or State inspectors will commence immediately to determine the probable source of the problem and to ensure that the problem is resolved. If the problem is an infestation, issuance of certification for movement on the basis of imported-fire-ant-free premises will be suspended until treatment and elimination of the infestation is completed. Reinstatement into the program will be granted upon determination that the nursery premises are free of the imported fire ant, and that all other provisions of this subpart are being followed.

\* \* \* \* \*

This imported-fire-ant-free nursery program is not mandatory for movement of regulated articles. Plants, balled or in containers, may otherwise be certified for movement using the chlorpyrifos, bifenthrin, or tefluthrin treatments described in paragraph III.C.3 of this appendix, titled “Plants, Balled or in Containers.” However, certification for movement under the imported-fire-ant-free nursery program will be granted only if all of the provisions of this subpart are followed.

\* \* \* \* \*

Done in Washington, DC, this 4th day of May 2000.

**Bobby R. Acord,**

*Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.*

[FR Doc. 00–11830 Filed 5–10–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–34–U

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**Agricultural Marketing Service**

**7 CFR Part 985**

[Docket No. FV–00–985–2 FR]

**Marketing Order Regulating the Handling of Spearmint Oil Produced in the Far West; Revision of Administrative Rules and Regulations Governing Issuance of Additional Allotment Base to New Producers**

**AGENCY:** Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** This rule reduces the number of regions established for issuing additional allotment base to new producers from three regions to two regions and revises the procedure used for determining the distribution of

additional allotment base to new producers. The Spearmint Oil Administrative Committee (Committee), the agency responsible for local administration of the marketing order for spearmint oil produced in the Far West, recommended this rule to provide a more equitable distribution of allotment base to new producers.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** May 12, 2000.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Robert J. Curry, Northwest Marketing Field Office, Marketing Order Administration Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, AMS, USDA, 1220 SW Third Avenue, room 369, Portland, Oregon 97204; telephone: (503) 326-2724, Fax: (503) 326-7440; or George Kelhart, Technical Advisor, Marketing Order Administration Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, AMS, USDA, room 2525-S, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456; telephone: (202) 720-2491, Fax: (202) 720-5698.

Small businesses may request information on complying with this regulation by contacting Jay Guerber, Marketing Order Administration Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, AMS, USDA, P.O. Box 96456, room 2525-S, Washington, DC 20090-6456; telephone (202) 720-2491, Fax: (202) 720-5698, or E-mail: Jay.Guerber@usda.gov.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This final rule is issued under Marketing Order No. 985 (7 CFR Part 985), as amended, regulating the handling of spearmint oil produced in the Far West (Washington, Idaho, Oregon, and designated parts of Nevada and Utah), hereinafter referred to as the "order." This order is effective under the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, as amended (7 U.S.C. 601-674), hereinafter referred to as the "Act."

The Department of Agriculture (Department) is issuing this rule in conformance with Executive Order 12866.

This final rule has been reviewed under Executive Order 12988, Civil Justice Reform. This rule is not intended to have retroactive effect. This rule will not preempt any State or local laws, regulations, or policies, unless they present an irreconcilable conflict with this rule.

The Act provides that administrative proceedings must be exhausted before parties may file suit in court. Under section 608c(15)(A) of the Act, any handler subject to an order may file with the Secretary a petition stating that the order, any provision of the order, or any obligation imposed in connection with the order is not in accordance with law and request a modification of the

order or to be exempted therefrom. A handler is afforded the opportunity for a hearing on the petition. After the hearing the Secretary would rule on the petition. The Act provides that the district court of the United States in any district in which the handler is an inhabitant, or has his or her principal place of business, has jurisdiction to review the Secretary's ruling on the petition, provided an action is filed not later than 20 days after the date of the entry of the ruling.

The spearmint oil order is a volume control program that authorizes the regulation of spearmint oil produced in the Far West through annual allotment percentages and salable quantities for Class 1 (Scotch) and Class 3 (Native) spearmint oils. The salable quantity limits the quantity of each class of spearmint oil that may be marketed from each season's crop. Each producer is allotted a share of the salable quantity by applying the allotment percentage to that producer's allotment base for the applicable class of spearmint oil. Handlers may not purchase spearmint oil in excess of a producer's annual allotment, or from producers who have not been issued an allotment base under the order.

Section 985.53(d)(1) requires the Committee to annually make additional allotment base available in an amount not greater than 1 percent of the total allotment base for each class of spearmint oil. The order specifies that 50 percent of the additional allotment base be made available for new producers and 50 percent be made available for existing producers. A new producer is any person who has never been issued allotment base for a class of oil, and an existing producer is any person who has been issued allotment base for a class of oil. Provision is made in the order for new producers to apply to the Committee for the annually available additional allotment base, which in turn is issued to applicants in each oil class by lottery. The additional allotment base being made available to existing producers is distributed equally among all existing producers who apply.

Section 985.53(d)(3) of the order provides authority for the establishment of rules governing the annual distribution of additional allotment base. Accordingly, on October 6, 1999, the Committee unanimously recommended revising § 985.153 of the order's rules and regulations to provide a more equitable distribution of allotment base to new producers. Section 985.153 provides regulations for the issuance of additional allotment base to new and existing producers.

This final rule: (1) Reduces the number of regions established for issuing additional allotment base to new producers from three regions to two regions; and (2) revises the procedure used for determining the distribution of additional allotment base to new producers to take into account the reduced number of regions.

Currently, § 985.153(c) establishes the regions for issuing additional allotment base as follows:

(A) Region 1—The State of Oregon and those portions of Utah and Nevada included in the production area.

(B) Region 2—The State of Idaho.

(C) Region 3—The State of Washington.

Under the current provisions, the names of all eligible new producers were placed in separate lots per class of oil and region. Names are then drawn based on the amount of additional allotment base available and the Committee's determination of the minimum economic enterprise required to produce each class of oil. These procedures result in three new Scotch spearmint oil producers (one from each region) receiving approximately 3,100 pounds of allotment base each, and three new Native spearmint oil producers (one from each region) receiving approximately 3,400 pounds of allotment base each.

This rule replaces the three regions with the following two regions:

(A) Region A—The State of Washington.

(B) Region B—All areas of the production area outside the State of Washington.

Additionally, this rule modifies the method used to draw names by specifying that the names of all eligible new producers are placed in separate lots based on two regions rather than three regions. For each class of oil, separate drawings will be held from a list of all applicants from Region A, from a list of all applicants from Region B, and from a list of all remaining applicants from Regions A and B combined. If, in any marketing year, there are no requests in a class of oil from eligible new producers in a region, such unused allotment base will be issued to two eligible new producers whose names are selected by drawing from a lot containing the names of all remaining eligible new producers from the other region for that class of oil. Thus, depending upon the amount of additional base available and the minimum economic enterprise needed for oil production, three new producers of each class of oil will receive equal portions of the additional base made available each year.

The Committee made this recommendation after its analysis of statistics relating to current spearmint oil production and the number of

requests received each year for additional allotment base from the various States included in the production area. The following tables

show the number of actual applications for additional Scotch and Native spearmint oil base over the most recent ten-year period:

#### APPLICATIONS FOR ADDITIONAL SCOTCH SPEARMINT OIL BASE

	WA	ID	OR	UT	NV
1991 .....	99	42	17	3	0
1992 .....	90	47	16	3	0
1993 .....	40	21	4	1	0
1994 .....	27	22	5	1	0
1995 .....	42	21	3	0	0
1996 .....	31	19	3	0	0
1997 .....	35	16	2	0	0
1998 .....	32	26	1	0	0
1999 .....	25	22	0	1	0
2000 .....	21	9	0	0	0

#### APPLICATIONS FOR ADDITIONAL NATIVE SPEARMINT OIL BASE

	WA	ID	OR	UT	NV
1991 .....	112	27	16	5	0
1992 .....	100	49	19	5	0
1993 .....	47	28	5	2	0
1994 .....	44	24	8	3	0
1995 .....	56	21	8	2	0
1996 .....	44	19	3	0	0
1997 .....	43	19	2	1	0
1998 .....	39	23	2	0	0
1999 .....	31	23	0	0	1
2000 .....	26	15	2	0	0

As shown in the above tables, there has consistently been few applications received from new producers in the States of Oregon, Utah, and Nevada, while the number of applications from new producers in Washington, followed to a lesser extent by the number of applications from new producers in Idaho, has consistently been much higher. Committee records also show that the number of producers, as well as the amount of allotment base held by those producers, is greatest in Washington followed in decreasing order by Idaho, Oregon, Utah, and Nevada. Therefore, reducing the number of regions from 3 to 2, and changing the procedures used in distributing the base will result in a more equitable distribution of allotment base to new producers. The changes will also make the additional allotment base available to new producers from the States which have historically requested the most base.

Pursuant to requirements set forth in the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA), the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) has considered the economic impact of this action on small entities. Accordingly, the AMS has prepared this final regulatory flexibility analysis.

The purpose of the RFA is to fit regulatory actions to the scale of

business subject to such actions in order that small businesses will not be unduly or disproportionately burdened. Marketing orders issued pursuant to the Act, and rules issued thereunder, are unique in that they are brought about through group action of essentially small entities acting on their own behalf. Thus, both statutes have small entity orientation and compatibility.

There are 7 spearmint oil handlers subject to regulation under the order, and approximately 119 producers of Class 1 (Scotch) spearmint oil and approximately 105 producers of Class 3 (Native) spearmint oil in the regulated production area. Small agricultural service firms are defined by the Small Business Administration (SBA) (13 CFR 121.201) as those having annual receipts of less than \$5,000,000, and small agricultural producers have been defined as those whose annual receipts are less than \$500,000.

Based on the SBA's definition of small entities, the Committee estimates that 2 of the 7 handlers regulated by the order could be considered small entities. Most of the handlers are large corporations involved in the international trading of essential oils and the products of essential oils. In addition, the Committee estimates that 25 of the 119 Scotch spearmint oil

producers and 7 of the 105 Native spearmint oil producers could be classified as small entities under the SBA definition. Thus, a majority of handlers and producers of Far West spearmint oil may not be classified as small entities.

The Far West spearmint oil industry is characterized by producers whose farming operations generally involve more than one commodity, and whose income from farming operations is not exclusively dependent on the production of spearmint oil. Crop rotation is an essential cultural practice in the production of spearmint oil for weed, insect, and disease control. A normal spearmint oil producing operation would have enough acreage for rotation such that the total acreage required to produce the crop would be about one-third spearmint and two-thirds rotational crops. An average spearmint oil producing farm would thus have to have considerably more acreage than would be planted to spearmint during any given season. To remain economically viable with the added costs associated with spearmint oil production, most spearmint oil producing farms would fall into the SBA category of large businesses.

Small spearmint oil producers generally are not extensively diversified

and as such are more at risk to market fluctuations. Such small producers generally need to market their entire annual crop and do not have the luxury of having other crops to cushion seasons with poor spearmint oil returns. Conversely, large diversified producers have the potential to endure one or more seasons of poor spearmint oil markets because incomes from alternate crops could support the operation for a period of time. Being reasonably assured of a stable price and market provides small producing entities with the ability to maintain proper cash flow and to meet annual expenses. Thus, the market and price stability provided by the order potentially benefit the small producer more than such provisions benefit large producers. Even though a majority of handlers and producers of spearmint oil may not be classified as small entities, the volume control feature of this order has small entity orientation. The order has contributed to the stabilization of producer prices.

Section 985.53 of the order provides that each year the Committee make available additional allotment base for each class of oil in the amount of no more than 1 percent of the total allotment base for that class of oil. This affords an orderly method for new spearmint oil producers to enter into business and existing producers the ability to expand their operations as the spearmint oil market and individual conditions warrant. One-half of the 1 percent increase is issued annually by lot to eligible new producers for each class of oil. To be eligible, a producer must never have been issued allotment base for the class of spearmint oil such producer is making application for, and have the ability to produce such spearmint oil. The ability to produce spearmint oil is generally demonstrated when a producer has experience at farming, and owns or rents the equipment and land necessary to successfully produce spearmint oil.

This rule: (1) Reduces the number of regions established for issuing additional allotment base to new producers from three regions to two regions; and (2) revises the procedure used for determining the distribution of additional allotment base to new producers to take into account the reduced number of regions. The Committee recommended this rule to provide for a more equitable distribution of allotment base to new producers.

During its deliberations, the Committee considered alternatives to their recommendation. The first option discussed would have left § 985.153(c) unchanged. This was rejected because of

the need to develop a more equitable method of issuing additional base given the light application record from some of the States within the production area. The Committee also discussed eliminating the use of different regions in its additional allotment base issuance procedure and having one drawing for the calculated number of recipients per class of oil for the entire production area. This option was also rejected because it would not ensure geographic distribution of the additional base.

The Committee made its recommendation after careful consideration of available information, including the aforementioned alternative recommendations, the minimum economic enterprise required for spearmint oil production, historical statistics relating to the locations of the producers applying for the annual additional allotment base, and other factors such as number of producers by State and the amount of allotment base held by such producers. Based on its review, the Committee believes that the action recommended is the best option available to ensure that the objectives sought will be achieved.

The information collection requirements contained in the section of the order's rules and regulations being amended by this rule have been previously approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under the provisions of 44 U.S.C. chapter 35 and have been assigned OMB No. 0581-0065. This action will not impose any additional reporting or record keeping requirements on either small or large spearmint oil producers and handlers. All reports and forms associated with this program are reviewed periodically to avoid unnecessary and duplicative information collection by industry and public sector agencies. The Department has not identified any relevant Federal rules that duplicate, overlap, or conflict with this rule.

A proposed rule was published in the **Federal Register** on February 17, 2000 (65 FR 8069). A 60-day comment period was provided to allow interested persons the opportunity to respond to the proposal, including any regulatory and informational impacts of this action on small businesses. A copy of the proposed rule was faxed and mailed to the Committee office, which in turn notified Committee members and spearmint oil producers and handlers of the proposed action. In addition, the Committee's meeting was widely publicized throughout the spearmint oil industry and all interested persons were invited to attend and participate on all issues. A copy of the proposal was also made available on the Internet by the

U.S. Government Printing Office. No comments were received. Accordingly, no changes are made to the rule as proposed.

A small business guide on complying with fruit, vegetable, and specialty crop marketing agreements and orders may be viewed at the following web site: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/fv/moab.html>. Any questions about the compliance guide should be sent to Jay Guerber at the previously mentioned address in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section.

After consideration of all relevant matter presented, including the information and recommendation submitted by the Committee and other available information, it is hereby found that this rule, as hereinafter set forth, will tend to effectuate the declared policy of the Act.

#### List of Subjects in 7 CFR Part 985

Marketing agreements, Oils and fats, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Spearmint oil.

For the reasons set forth in the preamble, 7 CFR Part 985 is amended as follows:

#### **PART 985—MARKETING ORDER REGULATING THE HANDLING OF SPEARMINT OIL PRODUCED IN THE FAR WEST**

1. The authority citation for 7 CFR Part 985 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 7 U.S.C. 601-674.

2. In § 985.153, paragraph (c) is revised to read as follows:

#### **§ 985.153 Issuance of additional allotment base to new and existing producers.**

\* \* \* \* \*

(c) *Issuance—(1) New producers.* (i) *Regions:* For the purpose of issuing additional allotment base to new producers, the production area is divided into the following regions:

(A) *Region A.* The State of Washington.

(B) *Region B.* All areas of the production area outside the State of Washington.

(ii) Each year, the Committee shall determine the size of the minimum economic enterprise required to produce each class of oil. The Committee shall thereafter calculate the number of new producers who will receive allotment base under this section for each class of oil. The Committee shall include that information in its announcements to new producers in each region informing them when to submit requests for allotment base. The Committee shall

determine whether the new producers requesting additional base have ability to produce spearmint oil. The names of all eligible new producers from each region shall be placed in separate lots per class of oil. For each class of oil, separate drawings shall be held from a list of all applicants from Region A, from a list of all applicants from Region B, and from a list of all remaining applicants from Regions A and B combined. If, in any marketing year, there are no requests in a class of oil from eligible new producers in a region, such unused allotment base shall be issued to two eligible new producers whose names are selected by drawing from a lot containing the names of all remaining eligible new producers from the other region for that class of oil. The Committee shall immediately notify each new producer whose name was drawn and issue that producer an allotment base in the appropriate amount.

\* \* \* \* \*

Dated: May 5, 2000.

**Robert C. Keeney,**

*Deputy Administrator, Fruit and Vegetable Programs.*

[FR Doc. 00-11836 Filed 5-10-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Commodity Credit Corporation

#### 7 CFR Part 1436

RIN 0560-AG00

#### Farm Storage Facility Loan Program

**AGENCY:** Commodity Credit Corporation, USDA.

**ACTION:** Interim rule.

**SUMMARY:** This rule implements the Commodity Credit Corporation's (CCC's) Farm Storage Facility Loan program utilizing authority in the CCC Charter Act. The program will provide financing for producers to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

**DATES:** This rule is effective May 11, 2000. Comments concerning this rule should be received on or before June 12, 2000 to be assured consideration. Comments on the information collections in this rule must be received by July 10, 2000 to be assured consideration.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments must be submitted to Grady Bilberry, Director, Price Support Division, Farm Service Agency, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., STOP 0512, Washington, DC 20250-0512.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Chris Kyer, (202) 720-7935 or e-mail [chris\\_kyer@wdc.fsa.usda.gov](mailto:chris_kyer@wdc.fsa.usda.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Executive Order 12866

This rule is issued in conformance with Executive Order 12866 and has been determined to be economically significant and has been reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget.

##### Regulatory Flexibility Act

It has been determined that the Regulatory Flexibility Act is not applicable to this rule because the Farm Service Agency is not required by 5 U.S.C. 553 or any other provision of law to publish a notice of proposed rulemaking with respect to the subject matter of this rule.

##### Environmental Evaluation

It has been determined by an Environmental Evaluation that this program, as a whole, will have no significant impact on the quality of the human environment. Therefore, neither an Environmental Assessment nor an Environmental Impact Statement for the program is needed. However, because it is possible that individual projects may have limited impacts on the local environment, environmental evaluations for each project will be conducted to determine the need for environmental assessment and/or mitigation.

##### Executive Order 12988

This rule has been reviewed in accordance with Executive Order 12988. The provisions of this rule preempt State laws to the extent such laws are inconsistent with the provisions of this rule. Before any legal action may be brought regarding determinations of this rule, the administrative appeal provisions set forth at 7 CFR part 780 must be exhausted.

##### Executive Order 12372

This program is not subject to the provisions of Executive Order 12372, which require intergovernmental consultation with State and local officials. See the notice related to 7 CFR part 3014, subpart V, published at 48 FR 29115 (June 24, 1983).

##### The Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995

This rule contains no Federal mandates under the regulatory provisions of Title II of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (UMRA) for State, local, and tribal governments or the private sector. Thus, this rule is

not subject to the requirements of sections 202 and 205 of the UMRA.

##### Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995

A Notice with request for comments on the information collection is part of this proposed rule. An emergency information collection package has been sent to OMB for review.

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Commodity Credit Corporation's (CCC) request for approval of a new information collection in support of the Farm Storage Facility Loan Program.

*Title:* 7 CFR 1436, Farm Storage Facility Loan Program Regulations.

*OMB Control Number:* 0506-NEW.

*Type of Request:* Approval of an information collection.

*Abstract:* This information is needed to administer the CCC's Farm Storage Facility Loan Program. The information will be gathered from producers needing additional on-farm grain storage and handling capacity to determine whether they are eligible for loans.

*Estimate of Burden:* Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 22 minutes per producer.

*Respondents: Eligible producers:* 200,000.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 50,000.

*Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* 2.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 47,250 hours.

Proposed topics for comments are: (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 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, DC 20503 and to Chris Kyer, USDA—Farm Service Agency—Price Support Division, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., STOP 0512, Washington, DC 20250-0512; Telephone (202) 720-7935 or e-mail [chris\\_kyer@wdc.fsa.usda.gov](mailto:chris_kyer@wdc.fsa.usda.gov). Copies