

from the government landowner to apply the conservation practices. Land that is federally recognized Tribal, BIA allotted, or Indian trust land may be considered for enrollment in SWCA.

Applicants must submit an application (CCC—1200 form) to CCC to be considered for participation in SWCA. Any producer who has eligible land may obtain and submit an application for participation in SWCA at an USDA service center. Producers who are members of a joint operation shall file a single application for the joint operation. A NRCS conservationist will work with the applicant to collect the information necessary to evaluate the application using the ranking criteria.

Conservation Plan Requirement

A conservation plan is required for the area to be included in the SWCA cost-share agreement and becomes the basis for developing the cost share agreement. The conservation plan must be acceptable to NRCS; be approved by the local conservation district; be signed by the participant, designated conservationist, and the conservation district; and clearly identify the conservation practices that will be cost shared with SWCA funds and the non-cost-shared practices needed in the conservation plan.

Cost-Share Agreement Requirements

Participants will enter into a cost-share agreement to implement eligible conservation practices. A SWCA cost share agreement will cover, as a minimum, the eligible land that influences, or is influenced by, the conservation practices being installed, and be for a duration of 5 to 10 years.

Cost-share agreements will incorporate all provisions as required by law or statute, including requirements to not conduct any practices on the farm or ranch unit of concern that would tend to defeat the purposes of the cost-share agreement; refund to CCC any SWCA payments received, with interest, and forfeit any future payments under SWCA on the violation of a term or condition of the cost-share agreement; refund all SWCA payments received on the transfer of the right and interest of the producer in land subject to the cost-share agreement, unless the transferee of the right and interest agrees to assume all obligations of the cost-share agreement; and supply information as required by CCC to determine compliance with the cost-share agreement and requirements of SWCA. The participant and NRCS must certify that a conservation practice is completed in accordance with the cost-

share agreement before CCC will approve any cost-share payments.

With respect to land under a SWCA cost-share agreement which is inherited during the cost share agreement period, the \$50,000 limitation per participant will not apply to the extent that the payments from any cost-share agreements on the inherited land cause an heir, who was party to a SWCA cost-share agreement on other lands prior to the inheritance, to exceed the limit.

With regard to cost-share agreements on tribal land, Indian trust land, or BIA allotted land, payments exceeding the \$50,000 limitation may be made to the tribal venture if an official of the BIA or tribal official certifies in writing that no one participant directly or indirectly will receive more than the limitation.

Conservation Practice Operation and Maintenance

The cost-share agreement will provide for the operation and maintenance of the conservation practices applied under the cost-share agreement. The participant will operate and maintain the conservation practices for their intended purposes as agreed-to as part of the cost-share agreement, and form CCC—1245, Practice Approval and Payment Application.

Additional Requirements and Information

Additional requirements and information pertaining to SWCA cost-share agreements, administrative requirements, and other matters can be found on form CCC—1200, Conservation Program Contract, and the appendix to form CCC—1200, both of which are available at local USDA service centers.

Civil Rights

NRCS and CCC have collected civil rights data on farmers/ranchers participating in conservation programs. Based on past participation, it is estimated that the funding being made available with this notice will not negatively or disproportionately affect minorities, women, or persons with disabilities who are program beneficiaries or applicants for program benefits in NRCS or CCC assisted programs.

Environmental Evaluation

This assistance, administered by NRCS, will be funded at a level for 2001 as determined by the Secretary. Depending on the level of funding, and based on the participation in existing soil and water conservation programs, it is estimated that this assistance could result in approximately 1000 cost-share agreements. On each farm or ranch,

during the conservation planning process, the environmental effects of any proposed actions are evaluated on a case-by-case basis. That evaluation is used to determine whether further environmental analysis is required. Accordingly, neither an Environmental Assessment nor an Environmental Impact Statement has been prepared for this notice.

Signed in Washington, D.C., on, May 23, 2001.

Thomas A. Weber,

Deputy Chief for Programs, Natural Resources Conservation Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Farm Service Agency

Public Meetings of Advisory Committee on Beginning Farmers and Ranchers

AGENCY: Farm Service Agency, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The Farm Service Agency (FSA) is issuing this notice to advise the public that meetings of the Advisory Committee on Beginning Farmers and Ranchers (Committee) will be held to discuss the Secretary's responses to recommendations drafted at previous meetings and to formulate additional recommendations.

DATES: The public meetings will be held June 19–20, 2001, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Radisson Barcelo Hotel Washington, 2121 P Street NW., Washington, DC, telephone 202-293-3100. All times noted are Eastern Standard Time (EST).

ADDRESSES: Mark Falcone, Designated Federal Official for the Advisory Committee on Beginning Farmers and Ranchers, Farm Service Agency, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Room 5438-S, STOP 0522, Washington, DC 20250-0522; telephone (202) 720-1632; FAX (202) 690-1117; e-mail mark_falcone@wdc.fsa.usda.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mark Falcone at (202) 720-1632.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 5 of the Agricultural Credit Improvement Act of 1992 (Pub. L. 102-554) required the Secretary of Agriculture to establish the Committee for the purpose of advising the Secretary on the following: (1) The development of a program of coordinated financial assistance to qualified beginning farmers and ranchers required by section 309(i) of

the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (Federal and State beginning farmer programs provide joint financing to beginning farmers and ranchers); (2) methods of maximizing the number of new farming and ranching opportunities created through the program; (3) methods of encouraging States to participate in the program; (4) the administration of the program; and (5) other methods of creating new farming or ranching opportunities.

Departmental Regulation 1042-119 dated November 25, 1998, formally established the Committee and designated FSA to provide support. The Committee meets at least once a year and all meetings are open to the public. The duration of the Committee is indefinite.

The initial meetings of the Committee, held August 31-September 2, 1999, and April 11-12, 2000, provided an opportunity for members to exchange ideas on ways to increase opportunities for beginning farmers and ranchers through Federal-State partnerships and to encourage more State participation. Members discussed various issues and drafted numerous recommendations, which were provided to the Secretary. During the June meetings, members will discuss the Secretary's responses and will formulate additional recommendations.

Attendance is open to all interested persons but limited to space available. Anyone wishing to make an oral statement should submit their request in writing (letter, fax, or e-mail) to Mark Falcone at the above address. Statements should be received no later than June 15, 2001. Requests should include the name and affiliation of the individual who will make the presentation and an outline of the issues to be addressed. The floor will be open to oral presentations beginning at 1:00 p.m. EST on June 19, 2001. Comments will be limited to 5 minutes, and presenters will be approved on a first-come, first-served basis.

Persons with disabilities who require special accommodations to attend or participate in the meetings should contact Mark Falcone by June 15, 2001.

Signed in Washington, DC, on June 1, 2001.

James R. Little,

Acting Administrator, Farm Service Agency.
[FR Doc. 01-14301 Filed 6-4-01; 9:36 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food and Nutrition Service

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request—Repayment Demand and Program Disqualification

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 Notice of Proposed Information Collection announces the intent of the Food and Nutrition Service to extend the information collection requirements associated with initiating collection actions against households who have received an overissuance in the Food Stamp Program. In addition, this Notice announces the Food and Nutrition Service's intent to extend the information collection requirements associated with intentional Program violation determinations.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before August 6, 2001 to be assured consideration.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to Barbara Hallman, Chief, State Administration Branch, Food and Nutrition Service, USDA, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 820, Alexandria, Virginia, 22302.

Pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3507), 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.

All comments will be summarized and included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval of the information collection. All comments will become a matter of public record.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For initiating collection action, contact Susan Beard. For intentional Program

violation (IPV) determination, contact Greg Fortine. Both may be reached at (703) 305-2383.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Repayment Demand and Program Disqualification.

OMB Number: 0584-0492.

Form Number: None.

Expiration Date: August 31, 2001.

Type of Request: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: Section 13(b) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended, (7 U.S.C. 2022(b)) and Food Stamp Program (FSP) regulations at 7 CFR 273.18 require State agencies to initiate collection action against households that have been overissued benefits. To initiate collection action, State agencies need to provide an affected household with written notification informing the household of the claim and demanding repayment. This process is automated in most State agencies. For initiating collection action on an overissuance, we are reducing the estimated annual reporting and recordkeeping burden for State agencies and households from 148,846 hours to 116,400 hours. The reason for the decline is to reflect the lower number of claims that were established in fiscal year (FY) 2000.

Note that, for recipient claims, this **Federal Register** Notice only covers the reporting and recordkeeping burden for initiating collection action. The burden associated with reporting collections and other claims management information on the FNS-209 report is covered under currently approved OMB number 0584-0069. The burden associated with referring delinquent claims and receiving collections through the Treasury Offset Program is covered under currently approved OMB number 0584-0446.

FSP regulations at 7 CFR 273.16 require State agencies to investigate any case of suspected fraud, and, where applicable, make an IPV determination either administratively or judicially. Notifications and activity involved in the IPV process include:

- The State agency providing written notification informing an individual suspected of committing an IPV of an impending administrative disqualification hearing or court action.
- An individual opting to accept the disqualification and waiving the right to an administrative disqualification hearing or court action by signing either a waiver to an administrative disqualification hearing or a disqualification consent agreement in cases of deferred adjudication.
- Once a determination is made regarding an IPV, the State agency sends