

4. In evaluating applications, CCC will accord a higher priority to applications that encourage the use of cost-effective conservation practices and address national conservation priorities.

5. The limitation on the size of livestock operations eligible to receive financial assistance has been removed. All livestock operations are now eligible to receive financial and technical assistance as long as all other eligibility criteria are met. The 2002 Act also increased from 50 percent to 60 percent the total amount of funding to be obligated nationally for livestock practices. Thus the regulatory provisions found at 7 CFR 1466.4(e), 1466.7(b), and related limitations will not apply to new contracts entered into or modified under the 2002 Act.

6. CCC is now authorized to make incentive payments to producers to develop comprehensive nutrient management plans for confined livestock feed operations. In the case of a confined livestock feeding operation, to be eligible to receive cost-share payments or incentives payments for animal waste management under EQIP, a producer must submit a plan of operations that provides for developing and implementing a comprehensive nutrient management plan.

7. An EQIP contract must extend at least one year after the implementation of the last practice, but not exceed a total of 10 years in duration. Additionally, a producer may now receive payment during the first year of the contract period.

8. Participants are now subject to different payment limitation requirements. An individual or entity may not receive, directly or indirectly, on the aggregate, \$450,000 for all EQIP contracts entered into by the individual or entity during the period of FY 02 through FY 07. Therefore, the current contract and payment limitations found at 7 CFR 1466.23(b) through (e) will not apply to new contracts entered into or modified under the 2002 Act. For a producer who inherits land under an EQIP contract during the contract period, the \$450,000 individual or entity payment limitation will not apply to the extent that the payments from any contract on the inherited land causes any heir who was party to an EQIP contract on other lands prior to the inheritance to exceed the annual limit.

With regard to EQIP contracts on Tribal land, Indian trust land, or Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) allotted land, payments exceeding the \$450,000 individual or entity payment limitation may be made to the Tribal venture if an official of the BIA or Tribal official certifies in writing that no one person

directly or indirectly will receive more than the \$450,000 payment during the period of FY 02 through FY 07. BIA or Tribal officials will be required to submit a listing of individuals that are receiving any of the EQIP funding and identify how much each individual has received.

A broad purpose for EQIP continues to be assisting producers comply voluntarily with local, State, and national environmental quality regulatory requirements concerning soil, water, and air quality; wildlife habitat; and surface and ground water conservation.

Application Process

CCC will consider for funding under this notice applications received throughout FY 02. The State Conservationist, working with the State Technical Committee, will widely distribute information on the availability of assistance, State and local goals, and the information needed to submit applications.

The applicants must meet the definition of "person" as set out in Section 1001(5) of the 1985 Act, as amended, 7 U.S.C. 1308(5), as determined by the Farm Service Agency (FSA). Any cooperative association of producers that markets commodities for producers shall not be considered to be a person eligible for payment.

Applicants must submit an application (CCC-1200 form) to CCC to be considered for participation in EQIP. Any producer who has eligible land may obtain and submit by mail, fax, or electronically an application for participation in EQIP to a USDA Service Center. Producers who are members of a joint operation must file a single application for the joint operation. An NRCS conservationist will be available to work with the applicant to collect the information necessary to evaluate the application using the current State or locally developed ranking criteria.

Additional requirements and information pertaining to the EQIP program relating to contracts, administrative requirements, and other matters can be found on CCC form CCC-1200, the Conservation Program Contract, and the appendix to form CCC-1200, both of which are available at local USDA service centers. Information is also available on the World Wide Web (WWW) at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/farmbill/2002>.

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

The Secretary of Agriculture will determine the actual level of funding for FY 02 from funds made available under the 1985 Act, as amended by the 2002 Act. While the actual level of funding is unknown at this time, based on the participation in existing soil and water conservation programs, it is estimated that this assistance could result in approximately 25,000 contracts. The environmental effects of any proposed actions under the EQIP contracts will be evaluated on an individual basis. Such individual evaluation is used to determine whether further environmental analysis is required. An Environmental Assessment was prepared for EQIP in 1996 and it is anticipated that the effects from EQIP activities authorized in FY 02 will not be significantly different than those identified in that assessment. Accordingly, neither an Environmental Assessment nor an Environmental Impact Statement has been prepared for this notice.

Signed in Washington, DC, on July 10, 2002.

Bruce I. Knight,

Vice President, Commodity Credit Corporation and Chief, Natural Resources Conservation Service.

[FR Doc. 02-18660 Filed 7-23-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-16-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service

Notice of Intent To Revise a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13) and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations at 5 CFR part 1320 (60 FR 44977, August 29, 1995), this notice announces the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service's (CSREES)

intention to revise a currently approved information collection entitled, "Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service Application Kit for Research and Extension Programs."

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by September 27, 2002, to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Written comments concerning this notice may be mailed to Louise Ebaugh, Deputy Administrator; Office of Extramural Programs; Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service; U.S. Department of Agriculture; STOP 2299; 1400 Independence Avenue, SW.; Washington, DC 20250-2299 or sent electronically to: rfp-oep@reeusda.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request a copy of the information collection, contact Louise Ebaugh, (202) 720-9181.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service Application Kit for Research and Extension Programs.

OMB Number: 0524-0039.

Expiration Date of Current Approval: March 31, 2004.

Type of Request: Revise a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: The Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) sponsors ongoing agricultural research, extension, and education programs under which competitive, special, and other awards of a high-priority nature are made. Before awards can be made, certain information is required from applicants as part of an overall proposal package. In addition to project summaries, descriptions of the research, extension, or education efforts, literature reviews, curricula vitae of project directors, and other, relevant technical aspects of the proposed project, supporting documentation of an administrative and budgetary nature also must be provided.

Because of the nature of the competitive, peer-reviewed process, it is important that information from applicants be available in a standardized format to ensure equitable treatment. Each year, solicitations are issued requesting proposals for various research, education, and extension areas targeted for support. Applicants submit proposals for these targeted areas following formats outlined in the proposal application guidelines accompanying each program's solicitation. These proposals are evaluated by peer review panels and awarded on a competitive basis. Forms CSREES-2002, "Proposal Cover Page;" CSREES-2003, "Project Summary;"

CSREES-2004, "Proposal Budget;" CSREES-2005, "Current and Pending Support;" CSREES-2006, "National Environmental Policy Act Exclusions;" CSREES-2007, "Identification of Conflicts of Interest;" CSREES-2008, "Assurance Statement(s);" and the Proposal Summary/Proposal Narrative (no assigned form number) are mainly used for proposal evaluation and administration purposes. While some of the information is used to respond to inquiries from Congress and other government agencies, the forms are not designed to be statistical surveys or data collection instruments. Their completion by potential recipients is a normal part of the application to agencies which support basic and applied science. The following information is collected:

Form CSREES-2002—Proposal Cover Page: Provides names, mailing and electronic addresses, and telephone numbers of project directors and authorized agents of applicant institutions and general information regarding the proposals.

Form CSREES-2003—Project Summary: Lists the Project Director(s) and their institution(s), project title and key words, and a project summary which allows for quick screening and assignment of proposals to peer reviewers.

Form CSREES-2004—Proposal Budget: Provides a breakdown of the purposes for which funds will be spent in the event of an award.

Form CSREES-2005—Current and Pending Support: Provides information for active and pending projects.

Form CSREES-2006—National Environmental Policy Act Exclusions: Allows identification of whether or not the proposal fits one of the exclusions listed for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (7 CFR Part 3407). This information is used in determining whether or not further action is needed to meet the requirements of this Act.

Form CSREES-2007—Identification of Conflicts of Interest: Lists the person(s) who are in conflict of interest with the applicant(s). This is used when selecting peer review panels to assure objective reviews.

Form CSREES-2008—Assurance Statement(s): Provides required assurances of compliance with regulations involving the protection of human subjects, animal welfare, and recombinant DNA research. This form is be used for competitive, special, and formula-funded projects.

Proposal Summary/Proposal Narrative: Provides a description of the proposed activity for which support is

requested including objectives, plan of operation, and the project's significance to higher education in the food and agricultural sciences.

New Form CSREES-2010—

Fellowships/Scholarships Entry/Exit Form: This form will only apply to recipients of a CSREES fellowship or scholarship. The form will be used to document fellowship appointments and scholarships, pertinent demographic data on the fellows/scholars, and documentation of the progress of the fellows/scholars under the program.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 24.75.

Respondents: Non-profit institutions, and State, local, or Tribal governments.

Estimated Number of Respondents: For applicants: 7,150 each for the Proposal Summary/Proposal Narrative and Forms CSREES-2002, -2003, -2004, -2005, -2006, and -2007 and 9,450 for Form CSREES-2008. For grantees: 50 for Form CSREES-2010.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 156,813 hours broken down by: 21,450 hours for Form CSREES-2002, "Proposal Cover Page," (three hours per response); 3,575 hours for Form CSREES-2003, "Project Summary," (one-half hour per response); 7,150 hours for Form CSREES-2004, "Proposal Budget," (one hour per response); 7,150 hours for Form CSREES-2005, "Current and Pending Support," (one hour per response); 1,788 hours for Form CSREES-2006, "National Environmental Policy Act Exclusions," (one-quarter hour per response); 3,575 hours for Form CSREES-2007, "Identification of Conflicts of Interest," (one-half hour per response); 4,725 hours for Form CSREES-2008, "Assurance Statement," (one-half hour per response); 107,250 for the "Proposal Summary/Proposal Narrative," (an average of 15 hours per response); and 150 hours for Form CSREES-2010, "Fellowships/Scholarships Entry/Exit Form," (three hours per response).

Frequency of Respondents: Annually.

Comments: 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. Comments should be sent to the address stated in the preamble.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments also will become a matter of public record.

Done at Washington, DC, this 16th day of July, 2002.

Joseph J. Jen,

Under Secretary, Research, Education, and Economics.

[FR Doc. 02-18647 Filed 7-23-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service; Notice of Intent To Establish an Information Collection

AGENCY: Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13) and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations at 5 CFR Part 1320 (60 FR 44977, August 29, 1995), this notice announces the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service's (CSREES) intention to request approval to establish an information collection for reviewers of proposals for Federal financial assistance.

DATES: Written comments on this notice must be received by September 27, 2002, to be assured of consideration. Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS: Contact Robert C. MacDonald, Grants Policy Program Leader, Information Systems and Technology Management, CSREES, USDA, STOP 2216, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-2216. Telephone (202) 205-5967. E-mail: rmacdonald@reeusda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Questionnaire for Potential Reviewers.

OMB Number: 0524-NEW.

Expiration Date of Current Approval: Not applicable.

Type of Request: Intent to seek approval to establish an information collection for three years.

Abstract: CSREES administers competitive, peer-reviewed agricultural

research, education, and extension programs, under which awards of a high-priority nature are made. These programs are authorized pursuant to the authorities contained in the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977, as amended (7 U.S.C. 3101), the Smith-Lever Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 341 *et seq.*), and other legislative authorities.

CSREES receives approximately 6,000 agricultural research, education, and extension proposals per year, of which approximately 2,000 are awarded. The majority of these proposals are subjected to a rigorous peer-review process involving technical experts (e.g., scientists, educators, farmers, engineers, extension specialists) located worldwide. Given the highly technical nature of many of these proposals, the quality of the peer-review greatly depends on the appropriate matching of the proposal subject matter with the technical expertise of the reviewer. As a result, a single database of technical experts is an invaluable tool for CSREES in accomplishing a suitable marriage of proposal content with reviewer expertise.

A single database of technical experts will serve as the central location for CSREES to determine which individuals would be most suitable to review proposals and to seek the individuals participation in the peer-review process. It will also enable CSREES to consider the characteristics of a possible peer-review panel. CSREES strives to have balanced panels of discipline, geography, institutional affiliation, rank, and women and minorities.

To populate and update the database with accurate information, CSREES is seeking clearance to conduct an annual survey. The survey will be in the form of a questionnaire sent to individuals who have the technical expertise as determined through their professional affiliation or some other means. The survey will be sent via e-mail, hard copy, or other appropriate mechanism. The survey will request the individual provide/update data including geographical and expertise information and their willingness to serve as a CSREES peer reviewer.

The database will be the source of information for CSREES to arrange the review of proposals by qualified personnel. The results of the review process extend into the CSREES award process. Therefore, the information collection will serve as an integral part of the CSREES peer-review and award process. The following information will be collected:

Form CSREES-New—Questionnaire for Potential Reviewers: Will be used to

update/provide data such as geographical and expertise information, and willingness to review proposals submitted to CSREES.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average ten (10) minutes per response.

Respondents: Individuals.

Estimated Number of Responses per Form: 75,000.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 12,500 hours.

Frequency of Responses: Annually.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Robert C. MacDonald, Grants Policy Program Leader, Information Systems and Technology Management, CSREES, USDA, STOP 2216, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-2216. Telephone (202) 205-5967. E-mail: rmacdonald@reeusda.gov.

Comments: 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; (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.

Done at Washington, DC, this 16th day of July, 2002.

Joseph J. Jen,

Under Secretary, Research, Education, and Economics.

[FR Doc. 02-18648 Filed 7-23-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Madera County Resource Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of resource advisory committee meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the authorities in the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (Pub. L. 92-463) and under the secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (Pub. L. 106-393) the Sierra National Forest's Resource Advisory Committee for Madera County will meet on Monday,