

National Forest, Grindstone Ranger District, PO Box 164, Elk Creek, CA 95939. (530) 968-5329; E-Mail gaddini@fs.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting is open to the public. Committee discussion is limited to Forest Service staff and Committee members. However, persons who wish to bring matters to the attention of the Committee may file written statements with the Committee staff before or after the meeting. Public input sessions will be provided and individuals who made written requests by June 8, 2003 will have the opportunity to address the committee at those sessions.

May 13, 2003.

James F. Giachino,

Designated Federal Official.

[FR Doc. 03-12403 Filed 5-16-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

National Agricultural Statistics Service

Notice of Intent To Revise and Extend a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: National Agricultural Statistics 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 regulations at 5 CFR part 1320 (60 FR 44978, August 29, 1995), this notice announces the intention of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) to seek approval to revise and extend a currently approved information collection, the Agricultural Surveys Program.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by July 23, 2003, to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be mailed to Ginny McBride, NASS OMB Clearance Officer, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 5336 South Building, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250 or sent electronically to gmcbride@nass.usda.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Carol House, Acting Associate Administrator, National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, (202) 720-4333.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Agricultural Surveys Program.
OMB Control Number: 0535-0213.

Expiration Date of Approval: January 31, 2004.

Type of Request: Intent to extend and revise a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: The National Agricultural Statistics Service is responsible for preparing and issuing State and national estimates of crop and livestock production, grain stocks, farm numbers, land values, on-farm pesticide usage, and pest crop management practices. The Agricultural Surveys Program contains a series of surveys that obtains basic agricultural data from farmers and ranchers throughout the Nation for preparing agricultural estimates and forecasts of crop acreage, yield, and production; stocks of grains and soybeans; hog and pig numbers; sheep inventory and lamb crop; cattle inventory; and cattle on feed. Grazing fees, land values, pesticide usage, and pest management practices data are also collected.

Uses of the statistical information are extensive and varied. Producers, farm organizations, agribusinesses, State and national farm policy makers, and government agencies are important users of these statistics. Agricultural statistics are used to plan and administer other, related Federal and State programs in such areas as consumer protection, conservation, foreign trade, education, and recreation.

The cattle survey portion of the programs will be changed for January 2004 only to add two questions regarding non-ambulatory cattle. Aggregated totals will be provided to the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service for the National Animal Health Monitoring System, which will assess the number of farm operations experiencing down animals. That information will be used in the design of a major study to be conducted in 2005.

The Agricultural Surveys Program had approval from OMB for a 3-year period. NASS intends to request that the program be approved for another 3 years. These data will be collected under the authority of 7 U.S.C. 2204(a). Individually identifiable data collected under this authority are governed by Section 1770 of the Food Security Act of 1985, 7 U.S.C. 2276, which requires USDA to afford strict confidentiality to non-aggregated data provided by respondents.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 15 minutes per response.

Respondents: Farms.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 547,000.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 139,000 hours.

Copies of this information collection and related instructions can be obtained without charge from Ginny McBride, NASS OMB Clearance Officer, at (202) 720-5778.

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.

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

Signed at Washington, DC, April 24, 2003.

Carol House,

Associate Administrator.

[FR Doc. 03-12391 Filed 5-16-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-20-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

National Agricultural Statistics Service

Notice of Intent To Request an Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: National Agricultural Statistics 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 regulations at 5 CFR part 1320 (60 FR 44978, August 29, 1995), this notice announces the intention of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) to request extension of a currently approved information collection, the List Sampling Frame.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by July 23, 2003, to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be mailed to Ginny McBride, NASS OMB Clearance Officer, U.S. Department of Agriculture,

Room 5336 South Building, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, D.C. 20250 or sent electronically to gmcbride@nass.usda.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Carol House, Associate Administrator,
National Agricultural Statistics Service,
U.S. Department of Agriculture, (202)
720-4333.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: List Sampling Frame.

OMB Control Number: 0535-0140.

Expiration Date of Approval: October 31, 2003.

Type of Request: Intent to extend a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: The primary objectives of the National Agricultural Statistics Service are to prepare and issue state and national estimates of crop production, livestock production, economic statistics, and environmental statistics related to agriculture and also to conduct the Census of Agriculture.

The List Sampling Frame is used to maintain as complete a list as possible of farm operations. The goal is to produce for each state a relatively complete, current, and unduplicated list of names to sample for agricultural operation surveys. Information from these surveys is used by government agencies and educational institutions in planning, farm policy analysis, and program administration.

These data will be collected under the authority of 7 U.S.C. 2204(a). Individually identifiable data collected under this authority are governed by Section 1770 of the Food Security Act of 1985, 7 U.S.C. 2276, which requires USDA to afford strict confidentiality to non-aggregated data provided by respondents.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 4 minutes per response.

Respondents: Farms.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 250,000.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 16,670 hours.

Copies of this information collection and related instructions can be obtained without charge from Ginny McBride, NASS OMB Clearance Officer, at (202) 720-5778.

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.

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

Signed at Washington, DC, April 24, 2003.

Carol House,

Associate Administrator.

[FR Doc. 03-12392 Filed 5-16-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-20-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) Inviting Applications for the Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvements Grant Program

AGENCY: Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of extension of application deadline and clarification of previous notice.

SUMMARY: The Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS) extends the deadline of June 6, 2003, for submitting applications for grant funds to purchase renewable energy systems and make energy efficiency improvements for agricultural producers and rural small businesses under Title IX, Section 9006, pursuant to enactment of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 announced in a notice of funds availability (NOFA) published April 8, 2003 (67 FR 17009). This action is also taken to provide additional information that clarifies the financial requirements for agricultural producers and requirements for utility interconnection agreements and power purchase arrangements. This extension will allow eligible applicants additional time to submit applications.

DATES: Accordingly, the deadline for submitting applications under the notice published April 8, 2003, (67 FR 17009) is extended to June 27, 2003. Applications postmarked after June 27, 2003, will be returned to the applicant with no action. Postage due applications will not be accepted.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: USDA Rural Development State Offices

published in the notice on April 8, 2003 (67 FR 17009).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background and Discussion of Extension of Application Deadline

RBS published a Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) on April 8, 2003 (67 FR 17009) with an application deadline of June 6, 2003. Due to the application requirements outlined in the NOFA and the clarifications of two areas of the NOFA that are being provided as part of this notice, RBS is extending the application period until June 26, 2003.

The NOFA requires that agricultural producers submit a current balance sheet and income statement in a format that is generally required by commercial agricultural lenders. In addition, agricultural producers are required to provide financial statements for the past 3 years, including income statements and balance sheets, in the format that is generally required by commercial agricultural lenders. For agricultural producers, the requirement of the use of a format that is generally required by commercial agricultural lenders is satisfied by the use of "income tax returns, bank statements, balance sheet/income statements, or financial statements." If the applicant chooses to submit last year's income tax return in lieu of a current income statement, a balance sheet and/or bank statement will be required. This requirement is necessary in order to determine the demonstrated financial need for the grant. Agricultural producers may submit only income tax returns to satisfy the requirement to provide financial statements for the past 3 years. For assistance in finding technical and feasibility resources useful in preparing an application under the NOFA, please access the Rural Development Web site, <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>, in the Rural Development News section.

RBS recognizes that the interconnection agreement and power purchase arrangements may take several months to arrange and execute. While the Agency always recognized this reality, language used in the NOFA to describe the requirement could have been more clear. Applicants are advised that a letter of intent between the utility and the applicant to enter into an interconnection agreement satisfies the requirement in the NOFA. Applicants are also advised that a letter of intent between the power purchaser and the applicant to enter into a power purchase arrangement satisfies the requirement in the NOFA. RBS recognizes that the utility and the power purchaser may be different entities.