

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE****Farm Service Agency****Information Collection; Facsimile Signature Authorization and Verification**

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

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

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Farm Service Agency is seeking comments from all interested individuals and entities on an extension of a currently approved collection. Specifically, comments are sought about FSA-237, which serves as a verification of producer's original signature and their desire to conduct business with FSA electronically.

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received on or before August 26, 2003 to be assured of consideration.

Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments concerning this notice should be addressed to Virgil Ireland, Agricultural Program Specialist, USDA, FSA, STOP 0517, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250 and Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503. Comments may be submitted via facsimile to (202) 690-3632. Copies of the information collection may be obtained from Mr. Ireland at the above address.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Virgil Ireland, Agricultural Program Specialist, Emergency Preparedness and Program Branch, Production, Emergencies, and Compliance Division, (202) 720-5103.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****Description of Information Collection**

*Title:* Facsimile Signature Authorization and Verification (7 CFR part 718).

*OMB Control Number:* 0560-0203.

*Type of Request:* Extension of currently approved information collection.

*Abstract:* Individuals wishing to conduct business and provide certain signed documents to the USDA Service Center agencies via facsimile machines must complete a FSA-237, Facsimile Signature Authorization and Verification form. The FSA-237 serves as evidence that the individual is willing to conduct business and provide signed documents through facsimile machines. The FSA-211 also provides

the agencies a source to authenticate signatures and transactions in the event of errors or fraud that require legal remedies. The information collected on the FSA-237 is limited to the individual's name, signature and identification number. Individuals must agree to the terms and conditions of conducting business via facsimile machines. Without the collection of this information, USDA service center agencies cannot ensure the authenticity of signatures received via facsimile unless they are supplemented with the original signature.

*Estimate of Respondent Burden:* Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .02 hours per response.

*Respondents:* Individuals who wish to conduct business with USDA service center agencies via facsimile.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 987,341 hours.

*Estimated Number of Annual Responses per Respondent:* 1.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 19,747.

Comment is invited: (1) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical or scientific utility; (2) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information, including the validity of methodology and assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of the information on respondents, including the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

All comments received in response to this notice, including names and addresses when provided, will be a matter of public records. Comments will be summarized and included in the submission for Office of Management and Budget approval.

Signed at Washington, DC, on June 20, 2003.

**James R. Little,**

*Administrator, Farm Service Agency.*

[FR Doc. 03-16311 Filed 6-26-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-05-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE****Forest Service****DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR****Bureau of Land Management**

**RIN 0596-AC03**

**Stewardship End Result Contracting**

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA, and Bureau of Land Management, DOI

**ACTION:** Notice of interim guidelines; opportunity for public input.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Agriculture, Forest Service (FS), and the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) would like to receive public input on the interim guidelines jointly developed to implement the stewardship end result contracting provisions as authorized by section 323 of P.L. 108-7, the Consolidated Appropriations Resolution, 2003 (16 U.S.C. 2104 note). The agencies are publishing these guidelines in the **Federal Register** in order to insure that the public has the opportunity to comment on implementation guidelines for this new authority granted by Congress. The public's input will be considered prior to development of final agency policy.

**DATES:** Public input must be received in writing by July 28, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments concerning this notice should be addressed to: USDA Forest Service, Forests and Rangelands Staff, Mail Stop 1105, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20024-1105.

Public input on these interim guidelines may also be submitted via facsimile to (202) 205-1045 or by e-mail to [stewardship@fs.fed.us](mailto:stewardship@fs.fed.us). If comments are sent via facsimile or e-mail, the public is requested not to send duplicate written comments via regular mail.

All comments, including names and addresses when provided, will be available for public inspection and copying. The public may inspect comments received at the office of the Director of Forests and Rangelands, 201 14th Street, SW., Washington, DC. Visitors are urged to call ahead to facilitate entry into the building at (202) 205-0893.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Darci Birmingham, Forests and Rangelands Staff, Forest Service at (202) 205-1759, or Mike Haske, Renewable Resources and Planning, Bureau of Land Management at (202) 452-0312. Individuals who use telecommunication