This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Doc. Number AMS–FV–11–0054; FV–13–331]

United States Standards for Grades of Okra

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Final notice.

SUMMARY: The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) of the Department of Agriculture (USDA) is revising the voluntary United States Standards for Grades of Okra by removing the “Unclassified” category from the standards.

DATES: Effective: November 22, 2013.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dave Horner, Standardization Branch, Specialty Crops Inspection Division, telephone: (540) 361–1128 or 1150. The revised United States Standards for Grades of Okra are available on the Specialty Crops Inspection Division Web site at www.ams.usda.gov/scihome.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 203(c) of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1621–1627), as amended, directs and authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture “to develop and improve standards of quality, condition, quantity, grade and packaging and recommend and demonstrate such standards in order to encourage uniformity and consistency in commercial practices.” AMS is committed to carrying out this authority in a manner that facilitates the marketing of agricultural commodities and makes copies of official standards available upon request. Because the United States Standards for Grades of Fruits and Vegetables are not connected with Federal marketing orders or U.S. import requirements, they no longer appear in the Code of Federal Regulations. They are, however, maintained by the AMS Fruit and Vegetable Program and are available on the Internet at www.ams.usda.gov/scihome.

AMS is revising the voluntary United States Standards for Grades of Okra using the procedures in Part 36, Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations (7 CFR Part 36). These standards were last revised December 18, 1928.

Background and Response to Comments

On February 9, 2012, AMS published a notice in the Federal Register (77 FR 6772) soliciting comments about removing the “unclassified” section and any other possible revision to the United States Standards for Grades of Okra. The public comment period closed on April 9, 2012, with no responses.

On May 1, 2013, AMS published a second notice in the Federal Register (78 FR 25416) soliciting comments about removing the “unclassified” section from the United States Standards for Grades of Okra. The public comment period closed on May 31, 2013, with no responses.

Based on the information gathered, AMS will remove and reserve “Section 51.3946 Unclassified.” The revision will bring the okra standards in line with current marketing practices and other commodity standards. This section is being removed in standards for all commodities as they are revised. It is no longer considered necessary since it is not a grade and only serves to show that no grade has been applied to the lot.

The official grade of a lot of okra covered by these standards will be determined by the procedures set forth in the Regulations Governing Inspection, Certification, and Standards of Fresh Fruits, Vegetables and Other Products (Sec. 51.1 to 51.61).

The revisions to the United States Standards for Grades of Okra will be effective 30 days after publication of this notice in the Federal Register.


Dated: October 17, 2013.

Rex A. Barnes,
Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 2013–24818 Filed 10–22–13; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–02–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Farm Service Agency

Information Collection; Guaranteed Farm Loan Program

AGENCY: Farm Service Agency, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of re-opening of a public comment period.

SUMMARY: The Farm Service Agency (FSA) is reopening and extending the comment period for 60 days to allow interested individuals and organizations to comment on the extension and revision of a currently approved information collection associated with the Guaranteed Farm Loan Program. The amended estimate adds the merger of the information collection for the Land Contract Guarantee Program (0560–0279) into the Guaranteed Farm Loan Program. This information collection is used to make and service loans guaranteed by FSA to eligible farmers and ranchers by commercial lenders and to provide guarantees to the seller of a farm through the use of land contracts.

DATES: We will consider comments that we receive by December 23, 2013.

ADDRESSES: We invite you to submit comments on this notice. In your comments, include date, volume, and page number of this issue of the Federal Register. You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

• Federal eRulemaking Portal: Go to: www.regulations.gov. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.
  • Mail: Trent Rogers, Senior Loan Specialist, USDA, FSA, Stop 0522, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250.
  
You may also send comments to the Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503. Copies of the information collection may be requested by contacting Trent Rogers at the above addresses.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Trent Rogers, Senior Loan Specialist, (202) 720–3889.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Description of Information Collection

Title: Guaranteed Farm Loans.

OMB Control Number: 0560–0155.

Expiration Date of Approval: 01/31/2014.
Type of Request: Extension with revision.

Abstract: FSA published the original notice and request for comments in the Federal Register on Friday, August 7, 2013 (78 FR 48135). The following information is being provided again and to amend the estimated total annual burden hours due to merger of two information collections.

This information collected under OMB Number 0560–0155 is needed to effectively administer the FSA’s general guaranteed farm loan programs. The information is collected by the FSA loan official in consultation with participating commercial lenders. The basic objective of the guaranteed loan program is to provide credit to applicants who are unable to obtain credit from lending institutions without a guarantee. The reporting requirements imposed on the public by the regulations at 7 CFR part 762 are necessary to administer the guaranteed loan program in accordance with statutory requirements of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act and are consistent with commonly performed lending practices.

FSA also provides guarantees for loans made by private sellers of a farm or ranch on a land contract sales basis. This information is needed to effectively administer the FSA Land Contract Guarantee Program. Since this program is also a guarantee program, FSA is merging the annual burden hours into the general Guaranteed Loan Program information collection. The reporting requirements imposed on the public by the regulations at 7 CFR part 763 are necessary to administer the Land Contract Guarantee Loan Program in accordance with statutory requirements of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act and as specified in the 2008 Farm Bill. Collection of information after loans are made is necessary to protect the Government’s financial interest.

Overall, the number of respondents is estimated to decrease by 458, the number of responses is estimated to decrease by 14,709, and the number of burden hours is estimated to decrease by 7,873 in comparison to the information that was published on August 7, 2013 (78 FR 48135). The changes are due to less usage of the interest assistance agreement form and merging the burden hours of the Land Contract Guarantee Program into the Guaranteed Loan Program information collection. The separate approval for OMB control number 0560–0155 will discontinue when FSA receives OMB approval for the extension and revision of the OMB control number of 0560–0155.

FSA believes that requesting additional time to comment on the notice is reasonable and provides the public the opportunity to comment on the information collection. As result of reopening and extension, the comment period will close on December 23, 2013. All comments from the original notice published August 7, 2013 will be automatically included with the additional comments submitted in the response to this notice.

Estimate of Average Time To Respond: 62.2 minutes per response. The average travel time, which is included in the total annual burden, is estimated to be 1 hour per respondent.

Type of Respondents: Farmers and ranchers.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 16,183.

Estimated Number of Report Filed per Respondent: 15.7.

Estimated Total Annual Number of Responses: 243,977.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 253,097.

We are requesting comments on all aspects of this information collection to help us to:

(1) Evaluate whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of FSA, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(2) Evaluate the accuracy of FSA’s estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(3) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(4) 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, including name and addresses when provided, will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Signed on September 26, 2013.

Juan M. Garcia,
Administrator, Farm Service Agency.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

Amendment to Certification of Nebraska’s Central Filing System

AGENCY: Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In response to a request from Nebraska’s Secretary of State we are approving amendments to the debtor identification and signature requirements of the certified central filing system for Nebraska to permit the conversion of all debtor social security and taxpayer identification numbers into approved unique identifiers. The proposed specific procedure whereby Nebraska will automatically convert social security numbers and taxpayer identification numbers into ten number unique identifiers has been reviewed and determined to permit the numerical searching of master lists while providing protection against identity theft.

DATES: Effective Date: October 23, 2013.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) administers the Clear Title program for the Secretary of Agriculture. The Clear Title program is authorized by Section 1324 of the Food Security Act of 1985, which requires that States implementing central filing systems for notification of liens on farm products have such systems certified by the Secretary.

A listing of the States with certified central filing systems is available through the Internet on the GIPSA Web site (http://www.gipsa.usda.gov). Farm products covered by a State’s central filing system are also identified through the GIPSA Web site. The Nebraska central filing system covers specified farm products.

We originally certified the central filing system for Nebraska on December 19, 1986. On August 30, 2012, John A. Gale, Nebraska’s Secretary of State, requested the certification be amended to incorporate the use of an approved unique identifier other than a Social Security Number or Tax Payer Identification Number, in accordance with the 2004 amendments to Section 1324 of the Food Security Act.

This notice announces our approval of the amended certification for Nebraska’s central filing system. Details of the specific procedures by which Nebraska will create approved unique identifiers are being provided by GIPSA to the Secretaries of State of other states.