

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**National Agricultural Statistics Service****Notice of Intent To Seek Approval To Reinstate an Information Collection**

AGENCY: National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the intention of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) to seek reinstatement of an information collection, the Farm and Ranch Irrigation Survey (FRIS). Revision to previous burden hours will be needed due to changes in the size of the target population, sampling design, and questionnaire length.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by April 16, 2018 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by docket number 0535–0234, by any of the following methods:

- *Email:* ombofficer@nass.usda.gov.

Include the docket number above in the subject line of the message.

- *E-fax:* (855) 838–6382.

- *Mail:* Mail any paper, disk, or CD-ROM submissions to: David Hancock, NASS Clearance Officer, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 5336 South Building, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250–2024.

- *Hand Delivery/Courier:* Hand deliver to: David Hancock, NASS Clearance Officer, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 5336 South Building, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250–2024.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Kevin L. Barnes, Associate Administrator, National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, (202) 720–2707. Copies of this information collection and related instructions can be obtained without charge from David Hancock, NASS—OMB Clearance Officer, at (202) 690–2388 or at ombofficer@nass.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: 2018 Farm and Ranch Irrigation Survey.

OMB Control Number: 0535–0234.

Expiration Date of Previous Approval: September 30, 2016.

Type of Request: Intent to Seek Approval to Reinstate and Revise an Information Collection.

Abstract: The 2018 Farm and Ranch Irrigation Survey is conducted every 5 years as authorized by the Census of Agriculture Act of 1997 (Pub. L. 105–

113). The 2018 Farm and Ranch Irrigation Survey (FRIS) will use a combined probability sample of all farms, ranches, greenhouses, nurseries, and other horticultural operations that reported irrigation on the 2017 Census of Agriculture. This irrigation survey aims to provide a comprehensive inventory of agricultural irrigation practices with detailed data relating to acres irrigated by category of land use, acres and yields of irrigated and non-irrigated crops, quantity of water applied, and method of application to selected crops. Also included will be 2018 expenditures for maintenance and repair of irrigation equipment and facilities; purchase of energy for on-farm pumping of irrigation water; investment in irrigation equipment, facilities, and land improvement; cost of water received from off-farm water supplies; and questions related to water reuse and security. The irrigation questions for horticultural specialties will provide the area irrigated in the open and under protection, source of water, and the irrigation method used at the State level and by 20 Water Resource Regions (WRR). A table will be published showing the total estimated quantity of water applied for crops including horticultural specialties. Irrigation data are used by the farmers, their representatives, government agencies, and many other groups concerned with the irrigation industry and water use issues. This survey will provide the only source of dependable, comparable irrigation data by State and Water Resources Region (WRR). The National Agricultural Statistics Service will use the information collected only for statistical purposes and will publish the data only as aggregate totals. NASS is also considering a possible name change to this long running data collection. The proposed name that is being considered is “Irrigation and Water Management Survey”.

Authority: The census of agriculture and subsequent follow-on censuses are required by law under the “Census of Agriculture Act of 1997,” Pub. L. 105–113, 7 U.S.C. 2204(g). Individually identifiable data collected under this authority are governed by Section 1770 of the Food Security Act of 1985 as amended, 7 U.S.C. 2276, which requires USDA to afford strict confidentiality to non-aggregated data provided by respondents. This Notice is submitted in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Pub. L. 104–13 (44 U.S.C. 3501, *et seq.*) and Office of Management and Budget regulations at 5 CFR part 1320.

NASS also complies with OMB Implementation Guidance,

“Implementation Guidance for Title V of the E-Government Act, Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2002 (CIPSEA),” *Federal Register*, Vol. 72, No. 115, June 15, 2007, p. 33362. The law guarantees farm operators that their individual information will be kept confidential. NASS uses the information only for statistical purposes and publishes only aggregate data. These data are used by Congress when developing or changing farm programs. Many national and state programs are designed or allocated based on census data, *i.e.*, soil conservation projects, funds for cooperative extension programs, and research funding. Private industry uses the data to provide more effective production and distribution systems for the agricultural community.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 30–60 minutes per response. Publicity materials and instruction sheets will account for about 15 minutes of additional burden per respondent. Respondents who refuse to complete the survey will be allotted 2 minutes of burden per attempt to collect the data.

Respondents: Farmers, Ranchers, Farm Managers, and producers of Nursery, Greenhouse and Floricultural Products.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 35,000.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 26,000 hours.

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; (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, technological, or other forms of information technology collection methods; and (e) comments relating to the proposed name change.

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, January 29, 2018.

Kevin L. Barnes,
Associate Administrator.

[FR Doc. 2018-02940 Filed 2-13-18; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

[Docket No. NRCS-2017-0004]

South Branch Potomac River Subwatershed of the Potomac River Watershed, Highland County, Virginia and Pendleton and Grant Counties, West Virginia

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service, Department of Agriculture.

ACTION: Notice of intent to deauthorize Federal funding.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Flood Control Act and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Guidelines (7 CFR part 622), NRCS gives notice of the intent to deauthorize Federal funding for the South Branch Potomac River Subwatershed of the Potomac River Watershed project, Highland County, Virginia and Pendleton and Grant Counties, West Virginia. **DATES:** Interested persons are invited to submit comments within 60 days of this notice being published in the **Federal Register**.

ADDRESSES: Comments submitted in response to this notice should be sent to either John Bricker, VA State Conservationist, 1606 Santa Rosa Road, Suite 209, Richmond, Virginia 23229. Telephone: (804) 287-1691 or email: Jack.Bricker@va.usda.gov or Louis Aspey, WV State Conservationist, 1550 Earl L. Core Road, Suite 200, Morgantown, West Virginia 26505. Telephone: (304) 284-7540 or email: Louis.Aspey@wv.usda.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For specific questions about this notice, please contact Wade Biddix, (804) 287-1675 or Wade.Biddix@va.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: A determination has been made by John Bricker, NRCS State Conservationist in Virginia, and Louis Aspey, NRCS State Conservationist in West Virginia, that the proposed works of improvement for the South Branch Potomac River Subwatershed of the Potomac River Watershed project will not be installed. The sponsoring local organizations have concurred in this determination and agree that Federal funding should be

deauthorized for the project. Information regarding this determination may be obtained from John Bricker, NRCS State Conservationist in Virginia, and Louis Aspey, NRCS State Conservationist in West Virginia, at the above addresses and telephone numbers.

No administrative action on implementation of the proposed deauthorization will be taken until 60 days after the date of this publication in the **Federal Register**.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program No. 10.904, Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention. Executive Order 12372 regarding State and local clearinghouse review of Federal and federally assisted programs and project is applicable)

Dated: December 21, 2017.

John A. Bricker,
VA State Conservationist.

Dated: December 14, 2017.

Louis Aspey,
WV State Conservationist.

[FR Doc. 2018-02944 Filed 2-13-18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-16-P

COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Notice of Public Meeting of the Montana Advisory Committee

AGENCY: U.S. Commission on Civil Rights

ACTION: Announcement of meeting.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights (Commission) and the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) that a meeting of the Montana Advisory Committee (Committee) to the Commission will be held at 11:00 a.m. (Mountain Time) Wednesday, February 21, 2018. The purpose of the meeting is for the Committee to discuss preparations to hear testimony on border town discrimination.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 21, 2018 at 11:00 a.m. MT.

Public Call Information: Dial: 888-713-3590, Conference ID: 2355188.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Angelica Trevino at atrevino@usccr.gov or (213) 894-3437.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This meeting is available to the public through the following toll-free call-in number: 888-713-3590, conference ID number: 2355188. Any interested member of the public may call this number and listen to the meeting. Callers can expect to incur charges for calls they initiate over wireless lines,

and the Commission will not refund any incurred charges. Callers will incur no charge for calls they initiate over land-line connections to the toll-free telephone number. Persons with hearing impairments may also follow the proceedings by first calling the Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339 and providing the Service with the conference call number and conference ID number.

Members of the public are entitled to make comments during the open period at the end of the meeting. Members of the public may also submit written comments; the comments must be received in the Regional Programs Unit within 30 days following the meeting. Written comments may be mailed to the Western Regional Office, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, 300 North Los Angeles Street, Suite 2010, Los Angeles, CA 90012. They may be faxed to the Commission at (213) 894-0508, or emailed to Angelica Trevino at atrevino@usccr.gov. Persons who desire additional information may contact the Regional Programs Unit at (213) 894-3437.

Records and documents discussed during the meeting will be available for public viewing prior to and after the meeting at <https://facadatabase.gov/committee/meetings.aspx?cid=259>. Please click on the "Meeting Details" and "Documents" links. Records generated from this meeting may also be inspected and reproduced at the Regional Programs Unit, as they become available, both before and after the meeting. Persons interested in the work of this Committee are directed to the Commission's website, <https://www.usccr.gov>, or may contact the Regional Programs Unit at the above email or street address.

Agenda

- I. Welcome and Rollcall
- II. Approval of minutes from February 1, 2018 meeting
- III. Discussion of panelists and logistics for hearing testimony on border town discrimination
- IV. Public Comment
- V. Adjournment

Exceptional Circumstance: Pursuant to 41 CFR 102-3.150, the notice for this meeting is given less than 15 calendar days prior to the meeting because of the exceptional circumstance of this Committee preparing for its upcoming public meeting to hear testimony.

Dated: February 9, 2018.

David Mussatt,
Supervisory Chief, Regional Programs Unit.

[FR Doc. 2018-03053 Filed 2-13-18; 8:45 am]

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