

Notices

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

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

March 8, 2018.

The Department of Agriculture has submitted the following information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104–13. Comments are requested regarding (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 utility; (2) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden including the validity of the 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 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 regarding this information collection received by April 12, 2018 will be considered. Written comments should be addressed to: Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), *OIRA_Submission@omb.eop.gov* or fax (202) 395–5806 and to Departmental Clearance Office, USDA, OCIO, Mail Stop 7602, Washington, DC 20250–7602. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling (202) 720–8958.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number and the agency informs potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information that such persons are not required to respond to the collection of information unless it

displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Food and Nutrition Service

Title: Third National Survey of WIC Participants (NSWP–III).

OMB Control Number: 0584—New.

Summary of Collection: The Third National Survey of WIC Participants (NSWP–III) is designed to provide nationally representative estimates of improper payments in the Special Supplemental Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) arising from errors in the certification or denial of WIC applicants, to investigate potential State and local agency characteristics that may correlate with these errors, and to assess WIC participants' reasons for satisfaction or dissatisfaction with the program. The NSWP–III builds on three previous studies and reports spanning several decades. The Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Improvement Act (IPERIA) of 2012 (P.L. 112–248); 2009 Executive Order 13520—Reducing Improper Payments; the Office of Inspector General (OIG) USDA FY 2014 Compliance with Improper Payments Requirements; and the Requirements for Effective Estimation and Remediation of Improper Payments set forth the priority, mandate, and requirements for the Food and Nutrition Service to identify, estimate, and reduce erroneous payments in WIC.

Need and use of the Information: The NSWP–III will collect data from state and local WIC agency directors, current and former WIC program participants, and recently denied WIC program participants. The surveys for the state and local WIC agency directors are mandatory, while the surveys for the WIC program participants are voluntary. The NSWP–III has two purposes: (1) To obtain the data necessary to accomplish the study objectives noted above and (2) to pilot a new methodology for future annual estimates of improper payments in the WIC program.

Description of Respondents: State, Local, or Tribal Government; Individuals or Households.

Number of Respondents: 6,588.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting On Occasion.

Federal Register

Vol. 83, No. 49

Tuesday, March 13, 2018

Total Burden Hours: 5,110.

Ruth Brown,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2018–04982 Filed 3–12–18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–30–P

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Farm Service Agency

Title: Emergency Conservation Program and Biomass Crop Assistance Program.

OMB Control Number: 0560–0082.

Summary of Collection: The Farm Service Agency (FSA), in cooperation with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Forest Service, and other agencies and organizations, provides eligible producers and landowners cost-share incentives and technical assistance through several conservation and environmental programs to help farmers, ranchers, and other eligible landowners and operators conserve soil, improve water quality, develop forests, and rehabilitate farmland severely damaged by natural disasters. The authorities to collect information for this collection are found under the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2201–2205), which provides emergency funds for sharing with agricultural producers the cost of rehabilitating farmland damaged by natural disaster, and for carrying out emergency water conservation measures during periods of severe drought. FSA is also managing the Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP) authorized by Section 9010 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Pub. L. 113–79), which amends Title 1X of the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 008. BCAP regulations outlined the legislations parameters, program definitions and process or: (1) Establishing BCAP project areas; (2) Matching payment opportunity for eligible material wners and qualifying biomass conversion facilities; (3) Contracting acreage for producers in BCAP project areas; and (4) Establishment and annual production payments for producers in CAP projects areas.

Need and use of the Information: FSA will collect information using several forms. The collected information will be used to determine if the person, land, and practices are eligible for participation in the respective program and to receive cost-share assistance. Information collection from eligible biomass owners, biomass conversion facilities, and producers meeting the requirements for matching payments, annual production payment assistance, establishment payments and BCAP project area designation is necessary in order to ensure the financial accountability needed to operate and administer the BCAP. Without the

information, FSA will not be able to make eligibility determinations and compute payments in a timely manner.

Description of Respondents: Farms.

Number of Respondents: 70,000.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Annually.

Total burden hours: 77,763.

Ruth Brown,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2018–05033 Filed 3–12–18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–05–P

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Rural Utilities Service

Title: 7 CFR 1726, Electric System Construction Policies and Procedures—Electric.

OMB Control Number: 0572–0107.

Summary of Collection: The Rural Electrification Act of 1936, 7 U.S.C. 901 et.seq., as amended, (RE ACT) in Sec. 4 (7 U.S.C. 904) authorizes and empowers the Administrator of the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) to make loans in the several States and Territories of the United States for rural electrification and the furnishing and improving of electric energy to persons in rural areas. These loans are for a term of up to 35 years and are secured by a first mortgage on the borrower's electric system. In the interest of protecting loan security and accomplishing the statutory objective of a sound program of rural electrification, Section 4 of the RE Act further requires that RUS make or guarantee a loan only if there is reasonable assurance that the loan, together with all outstanding loans and obligations of the borrower, will be repaid in full within the time agreed. RUS will collect information using various RUS forms.

Need and Use of the Information: RUS will collect information to implement certain provisions of the RUS standard form of loan documents regarding the borrower's purchase of materials and equipment and the construction of its electric system by contract or force account. The use of standard forms and procurement procedures helps assure RUS that appropriate standards and specifications are maintained; agency loan security is not adversely affected; and loan and loan guarantee funds are used effectively and for the intended purposes. The information will be used by RUS electric borrowers, their contractors and by RUS. If standard forms were not used, borrowers would need to prepare their own documents at a significant expense; and each document submitted by a borrower would require extensive and costly review by both RUS and the Office of the General Counsel.

Description of Respondents: Not-for-profit institutions; Business or other for-profit.

Number of Respondents: 817.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 78.