

Upland Cotton User Marketing Certificate Program.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received on or before February 10, 1997 to be assured of consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Janise Zygmunt, Farm Service Agency, United States Department of Agriculture, Stop 0515, P.O. Box 2415, Washington, DC 20013-2415 or call (202) 720-8841.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Cotton, 7 CFR Part 1427.

OMB Control Number: 0560-0136.

Expiration Date: April 30, 1997.

Type of Request: Extension and Revision of a Currently Approved Information Collection.

Abstract: The information collected under Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Number 0560-0136, as identified above, is needed to enable the Farm Service Agency (FSA) to effectively administer the Upland Cotton User Marketing Certificate Program.

In order to participate in the Upland Cotton User Marketing Certificate Program, U.S. exporters and domestic mills must sign an Upland Cotton Domestic User/Exporter Agreement (CCC-1045). CCC-1045 contains the terms and conditions for receiving payments and outlines the responsibilities of the participant. Two changes to form CCC-1045 were made in response to the passage of the 1996 Act. First, the 1996 Act extended the authority to conduct the Upland Cotton User Marketing Certificate Program through July 31, 2003. Previous legislation had authorized the program only through July 31, 1998. Second, the 1996 Act limits the total amount of payments that can be made under the program to no more than \$701 million during fiscal years 1996 through 2002. CCC-1045 has been revised to reflect the new date and the restriction on payments. Neither change results in a change in the annual reporting and recordkeeping burden.

CCC determined that exporters will no longer be required to report their shipments each week. Instead, only for weeks in which a payment rate is in effect will exporters be required to report to CCC the amount of cotton that has been exported. This reporting will be done on CCC 1045-2 or a report generated by the exporters containing the same information. This results in a 1,950-hour reduction in the annual reporting burden for exporters. Domestic users must continue to report to CCC on a weekly basis in a somewhat revised format. Instead of two reports (Domestic User Application for Payment and Weekly Inventory Summary

Report), the information collection has been combined into one report called "Weekly Consumption Report/ Application For Payment." The annual reporting burden increase of 25 hours connected with this report is due not to a change in the burden, but to rounding the Average Time to Respond associated with the Weekly Consumption Report/ Application for Payment report to 13 minutes. The net reduction in the burden is 1,925 hours.

Respondents: U.S. cotton exporters and domestic mills.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 300.

Estimated Average Time to Respond: 14 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Responses: 11,700.

Estimated Number of Reports Filed per Person: 39.

Estimated Total Burden Hours: 2,750.

Topics for comments include but are not limited to the following: (a) 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; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; or (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. Comments should be sent to the Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, D.C. 20503 and to Janise Zygmunt, Farm Service Agency, United States Department of Agriculture, Stop 0515, P.O. Box 2415, Washington, DC 20013-2415; telephone (202) 720-8841. Copies of the information collection may be obtained from Janise Zygmunt at the above address.

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

Signed at Washington, D.C., on November 20, 1996.

Grant Buntrock,

Executive Vice President, Commodity Credit Corporation.

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BILLING CODE 3410-05-P

Rural Housing Service

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Rural Utilities Service

Farm Service Agency

Notice of Request for Comments on Approved Information Collection Packages

AGENCIES: Rural Housing Service, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, Rural Utilities Service, and Farm Service Agency, USDA.

ACTION: Proposed collection; comments request.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13), this notice announces the intention of the Rural Housing Service (RHS), Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS), the Rural Utilities Service (RUS), and the Farm Service Agency (FSA) to request a revision to and extension for information collection currently approved in support of the Direct Farm Ownership Loan Program Regulations under Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number 0560-0157; the Farm Credit Account Servicing Regulations under OMB control number 0560-0161; the Liquidation of Loans Secured by Real Estate and Acquisition of Real and Chattel Property Regulations under OMB control number 0575-0109; the Management of Property Regulations under OMB control number 0575-0110; the Debt Settlement, Farmer Programs and Housing Regulation under OMB control number 0575-0118; and a reinstatement with change, for information collection in support of the Application for Direct Loan Assistance under OMB control number 0560-0167. These regulations are published under the authority of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, as amended.

Revisions are necessary as a result of program changes mandated by the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (1996 Act). The provisions of the 1996 Act became effective either upon enactment of the legislation on April 4, 1996, or 90 days thereafter. Therefore, emergency clearance for the information collection was requested and approved under OMB control numbers 0560-0172 and 0560-0173.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received on or before February 10, 1997 to be assured consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

William D. Cobb, Senior Loan Officer,

Loan Servicing and Property Management Division, Farm Service Agency, USDA/FSA/LSPMD/ Stop 0523, P.O. Box 2415, Washington, DC 20013-2415; Telephone (202)720-1059.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: 7 CFR 1943-A, Direct Farm Ownership Loan Policies, Procedures, and Authorizations.

OMB Number: 0560-0157.

Expiration Date of Approval: May 31, 1998.

Type of Request: Revision and Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection.

Abstract: The information collected under OMB Number 0560-0157, as identified above, is needed to enable FSA to effectively administer the regulation relating to making initial and subsequent direct Farm Ownership (FO) loans. The basic objective of the FO loan program is to provide credit and management assistance to eligible farmers and ranchers to become owner-operators of family-sized farms, or to continue such operations when credit is not available elsewhere.

FSA County Offices must collect information from applicants requesting direct FO assistance in order to assure that the program is carried out in accordance with the applicable laws and authorities. The information collected will be used to determine program eligibility and feasibility of the loan request. Program eligibility requirements require that the applicant be a United States citizen; possess the legal capacity to incur the obligations of the loan; have sufficient training or experience to assure a reasonable prospect of success; have the character, industry and ability to carry out the proposed operation; is or will become the owner-operator of a family sized farm; and is unable to obtain sufficient credit elsewhere. Loan feasibility addresses FSA's determination that both loan repayment and adequate security are available.

The 1996 Act modified the authorized loan purposes for direct FO loans by eliminating the refinancing of existing indebtedness and as a result, creditors of the applicant will no longer be requested to provide evidence of the need to refinance debts. Additionally, the acquisition, installation, and modification of any qualified non-fossil energy system located on the farm is no longer an authorized loan purpose. Therefore, applicants will no longer need to provide written evidence that an operating permit for the production of alcohol fuel has been obtained from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. The public reporting burden

under the requirements of the regulation are shown in the following estimates:

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .38 hours per response.

Respondents: Individuals or households, farms.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 160.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 61 hours.

Title: 7 CFR 1951-S, Farmer Credit Programs Account Servicing Policies
OMB Number: 0560-0161.

Expiration Date of Approval: June 30, 1997.

Type of Request: Revision and Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection.

Abstract: The information collected under OMB Number 0560-0161, as identified above, is needed to enable FSA to effectively administer the regulation relating to the policies and procedures used in servicing most Farm Credit program loans. It is a primary objective of the Agency to provide supervised credit to borrowers in financial difficulty in a manner that will assure the maximum opportunity for the borrower's recovery and at the same time, ensure the maximum recovery to the Government.

FSA County Offices must collect information from financially distressed and delinquent borrowers requesting primary or preservation loan servicing in order to determine program eligibility and the feasibility of the request. Primary loan servicing includes loan consolidation, rescheduling, reamortization, deferral, writedown and interest rate reductions. Preservation loan servicing is limited to the homestead protection program.

Provisions of the 1996 Act included the elimination of the leaseback/buyback program and requires buyout at the current market value rather than the net recovery value of security property when debt restructuring will not resolve a delinquent account. The regulatory revisions made as a result of these provisions will eliminate information collection currently approved for several exhibits and attachments which are no longer required. Other provisions of the 1996 Act, which include a limitation of one debt forgiveness on direct loans and the authority to enter into contracts for conservation, recreation, and wildlife purposes rather than the establishment of an easement result in a change in the number of respondents for other exhibits, attachments or forms. The regulation

results in public reporting burden as shown in the following estimates:

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .22 hours per response.

Respondents: Individuals or households, state or local governments, farms, businesses or other for profit, small businesses or organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 10,400.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 2.53.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 5,878 hours.

Title: Liquidation of Loans Secured by Real Estate and Acquisition or Real and Chattel Property.

OMB Number: 0575-0109.

Expiration Date of Approval: May 31, 1997.

Type of Request: Revision and Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection.

Abstract: The information collected under OMB Number 0575-0109, as identified above, is needed to enable RBS, RUS and FSA to effectively administer the regulation relating to liquidation and acquisition of real estate and chattel security when it is determined that all loan servicing efforts have failed to produce a successful outcome. The primary means of liquidating loans and acquiring security is through either conveyance by the borrower or foreclosure. The information collected under this regulation is in response to a borrower's offer to convey security property to the Agency in lieu of foreclosure, or to cure a default after the acceleration of the loan account to forestall foreclosure action. The information is essential for the Agency to evaluate the terms of the offer and determine if acceptance is in the Government's best interest.

Provisions of the 1996 Act require FSA to provide Native American borrower-owners who do not voluntarily convey their real property security to the Agency the option of (1) requiring FSA to assign the loan and security instruments to the Secretary of Interior, or (2) requiring FSA to assign the loan and the security instruments to the tribe having jurisdiction over the reservation where the property is located not less than 30 days prior to the foreclosure of the property.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .57 hours per response.

Respondents: Individuals or households, state or local governments, farms, businesses or other for profit,

non-profit institutions, small businesses or organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 5410.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.92.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 5,917 hours.

Title: Management of Property.

OMB Number: 0575-0110.

Expiration Date of Approval: July 31, 1998.

Type of Request: Revision and Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection.

Abstract: The information collected under OMB Number 0575-0110, as identified above, is needed to enable RHS, RBS, RUS and FSA to effectively administer the regulation relating to the management of custodial and inventory. RHS, RBS, RUS and FSA will consider real estate and chattel security which has been abandoned by the borrower as custodial property. Inventory property is acquired through either foreclosure or the voluntary conveyance of the deed or title in lieu of foreclosure. The agencies may take actions such as securing, maintaining, or repairing the property as necessary to protect the Government's interest. In addition, properties may be leased under certain limited conditions.

The 1996 Act eliminated FSA's ability to lease inventory farm property except to those beginning farmers or ranchers who are selected to purchase an inventory property, but are unable to do so due to a lack of Agency credit funds. Such leases may not exceed 18 months or the date that FSA credit assistance becomes available.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .34 hours per response.

Respondents: Individuals or households, businesses or other for-profit, state and local governments, farms.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 2,810.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 960 hours.

Title: Debt Settlement

OMB Number: 0575-0118.

Expiration Date of Approval: September 30, 1997.

Type of Request: Revision and Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection.

Abstract: The information collected under OMB Number 0575-0118, as identified above, is needed to enable RHS, RBS, RUS and FSA to effectively administer the regulation relating to settlement of debts owed under the

agencies loan programs. The regulation establishes the requirements for debt settlement and the factors the agency will consider in approving or rejecting the offer. The information is essential for the Agency to evaluate the terms of the offer and determined if acceptance is in the Government's best interest.

The 1996 Act established a limitation of one debt forgiveness on direct loans for FSA borrowers. This limitation will reduce the number of FSA borrowers for which a debt settlement can be approved under the regulation.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .50 hours per response.

Respondents: Individuals or households, state or local governments, farms, businesses or other for-profit, small businesses or organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 14,950.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.11.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 14,825 hours.

Title: Form FmHA 410-1, Application for Direct Loan Assistance.

OMB Number: 0560-0167.

Expiration Date: June 30, 1996.

Type of Request: Revision and Extension of Information Collection.

Abstract: The information collected under OMB Number 0560-0167, as identified above, is needed to enable FSA to effectively administer the regulations relating to the policies and procedures used in making and servicing direct Farm Credit program loans. The direct loan program is designed to assist family farmers and ranchers who are temporarily unable to obtain private, commercial credit. FSA has the responsibility of providing credit counseling and supervision to direct borrowers. A thorough assessment is completed to evaluate the adequacy of the real estate and facilities, machinery and equipment, financial and production management, and goals. The agency works with the farmer or rancher to develop a plan of supervision that will ultimately result in the borrower's graduation to commercial credit. FSA can provide certain loan servicing benefits to assist the borrower in meeting the goals established in the plan. Form FmHA 410-1, Request for Direct Loan Assistance is used by the FSA County Offices to collect information needed to determine both eligibility and feasibility of a request for a loan or loan servicing.

The aforementioned form results in public reporting burden as shown in the following estimates:

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1.035 hours per response.

Respondents: Individuals or households, farms, businesses or other for-profit, small businesses or organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 44,200.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 45,760 hours.

Copies of the information collection can be obtained from Barbara Williams, Regulations and Paperwork Management Division, at (202) 720-9734.

Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the agencies, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agencies estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information including the validity of the methodology and assumption 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. Comments should be sent to Barbara Williams, Regulations and Paperwork Management Division, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Stop 0743, Washington, DC 20250-0743. All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: November 26, 1996.

Jan E. Shadburn,
Acting Administrator, Rural Housing Service.

Dated: November 26, 1996.

Dayton J. Watkins,
Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service.

Dated: December 3, 1996.

Wally Beyer,
Administrator, Rural Utilities Service.

Dated: December 3, 1996.

Bruce R. Weber,
Acting Administrator, Farm Service Agency.

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