

Notices

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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

Federal Crop Insurance Corporation

Request for Public Comment on Information Collections Related to Crop Insurance Policies

AGENCY: Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a public comment period on the information collection requests (ICRs) associated with crop insurance policies administered by Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC). As part of the renewal of OMB approval for these collections, FCIC will review and combine all current ICRs approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under 23 separate dockets into one ICR. Only the docket related to the non-insured disaster assistance program, OMB Number 0563-0016, will be excluded from this merger. Establishing one OMB docket permits FCIC to better organize, monitor and revise its collections as programs change, and helps FCIC identify opportunities to streamline collections.

FCIC is soliciting comments concerning its information collections.

DATES: Written comments on this notice will be accepted until close of business May 16, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments to the Acting Director, Product Development Division, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), 9435 Holmes Road, Kansas City, MO 64131. Written comments will be available for public inspection and copying in room 6741, South Building, USDA, 14th and Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C., 8:15 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., est., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bill Smith, Supervisory Insurance Management Specialist, Research and Development, Product Development Division, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, at the Kansas City, MO address listed above, telephone (816) 926-7743.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Federal Crop Insurance Policies.
Respondents/Affected Entities: Parties affected by the information collection requirements included in this Notice are producers, insurance companies reinsured by FCIC, insurance agents, and loss adjustment contractors.

Abstract: FCIC is conducting a thorough review of information collections associated with its crop insurance policies. As part of this review, FCIC is reorganizing and renewing currently approved information collections, and identifying any current collections that have not been approved by OMB. The ICRs affected by this review have been approved by OMB at different times under 23 different docket numbers. They are currently up for renewal and extension for three years. Establishing one common OMB docket number permits FCIC to maintain one ICR and to submit a single request once every three years when OMB approval must be renewed. Combining the agency's ICRs into one package also provides FCIC an opportunity to analyze the need for each of its forms, identify duplication, and plan streamlining of collections.

FCIC seeks public comment regarding the following: (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information has practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (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 respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information gathering technology.

Background: The information collected by FCIC allows it to provide an actuarially sound insurance program for producers and increases producers' risk management options. The

information is collected by Farm Service Agency personnel, crop insurance agents and loss adjusters. Various forms are used in gathering the information required by FCIC for the application, acceptance, and issuance of crop insurance policies and determining insurance coverage, premium, and the amount of production and loss. The information on these forms is then electronically transmitted to FCIC by the insurance provider. This data is used to administer the Federal crop insurance program in accordance with the Federal Crop Insurance Act, as amended.

The collections identified in this notice also provide FCIC with data for establishing new and different types of insurance coverage or crop options to increase insurance protection. Policy provisions and options permit producers to personalize their insurance coverage through written agreements, which allow deviations from the written policy, providing exclusions for hail and fire or high-risk land, etc.

Insurance providers must use the FCIC guidelines if they want to develop similar forms that fit their individual needs. Forms developed and produced on paper or electronically-generated by insurance providers will contain all required data and must be approved by FCIC.

Since crops differ significantly, FCIC customizes its required information collections for each crop that it insures. The type and amount of information determined by FCIC as necessary to establish and maintain the crop insurance program must also be reasonable, and FCIC must take into consideration the time and cost to producers, insurance providers, insurance agents, and loss adjusters. FCIC is reviewing the burden calculations in preparation of applying for renewal of OMB approval of its information collections. FCIC is also identifying and reducing duplication of its forms.

Burden Statement: FCIC has conducted a careful estimate of its current information collection burden. FCIC must estimate a burden for its forms that includes the time to complete the form and for the representative to explain the benefits of the program to the producer. Various activities of the loss adjuster (e.g., measuring acreage and making appraisals) must also be considered in the burden estimates.

FCIC has reviewed burden estimates for all of its forms, and the new burden estimates are lower for 52 forms and unchanged for 42 forms. FCIC is seeking approval from OMB for the burden associated with 30 additional forms that are also described below. FCIC used the 1996 crop year Summary of Business totals and computer generated reports to determine a total number of policyholders.

Total Burden: Burden hours and costs to respondents are described individually in the 23 currently-approved OMB dockets. FCIC is proposing to combine these dockets into one. Under the combined docket, FCIC estimates a total burden of 1,341,259 hours for all crop policy information collections.

Frequency of Reporting: Some sales forms are completed only when a producer applies for crop insurance, e.g., the application and most coverage options. Canceling and reinstating insurance coverage, transferring insurance coverage to a different reinsured company, and changing the amount of insurance coverage are instances when these forms would have to be completed again. Other forms are completed annually, such as forms used to collect crop acreage data, production data used to establish the insurance guarantee, and administrative forms such as the assignment of indemnity and certain coverage options. More than one crop may be reported on one form and producers may need to complete more than one form per year, for example when planting both spring and winter wheat which have different reporting dates. Some acreage reports may need to be revised which will require an additional report to be submitted during the crop year. Notice of damage and claim forms are completed by crop year, crop, and unit when a crop has been damaged or destroyed.

FCIC reviewed each form and estimated the proportion of insureds who complete each form in a given year,

recognizing that some insureds complete the forms more than once in any given year. This proportion was multiplied by the number of insureds for each crop for the 1996 crop year to determine the total annual number of responses. To determine the average number of completed Claim for Indemnity forms FCI-74, FCI-8, and FCI-63, FCIC generated indemnity records by crop and by unit for the 1993 through the 1996 crop years. The total annual responses for these claim forms were calculated by averaging the number of units indemnified during this period. Certain forms are used for each loss. FCIC estimated the proportion of losses requiring specific forms and multiplied that value times the average number of units indemnified to determine the total annual responses for such forms.

Recordkeeping Requirements: FCIC requires records to be kept for three years, but all records required by FCIC are retained as part of normal business practice. Therefore, FCIC is not estimating additional burden related to recordkeeping.

Nature and Purpose of Information Collected: The various categories of forms, the nature of the information collected, and the purpose for the information are described below.

Sales documents provide the information required to issue a crop insurance policy, such as the insured's name, address, social security number, crops to be insured, dollar amount of insurance or price election and level of coverage selected by the producer, crop condition reports for perennial crops, assignment or transfer of indemnity, power of attorney, or other information affecting policy benefits.

Yield Reports establish an individual insured's actual production history yield and provide the basis for calculating the insured's production guarantee. The production guarantee is the simple average of a minimum of four yearly yields up to a maximum of ten yields.

Option forms allow an insured to modify the insurance coverage contained in the provisions in the crop insurance policy. An option may provide additional insurable causes of loss or limit those causes of loss, provide different methods of determining losses, or provide different types of unit division to increase an insured's protection, etc.

Acreage reports indicate the location, number of acres, dates planted, share (percent of interest), and other information by unit for each crop to be insured. The reports includes such information as plant inventory and container reports for nursery crops, planting records for some crops, and tonnage reports for raisins. These reports are used to determine premium and liability and must be submitted on or before the final acreage reporting date specified in the Special Provisions.

Notice of Damage and Claim Forms notify an insurance provider of damage to the crop. Appraisal worksheets for each individual crop are used in the field by the loss adjuster to determine the production to be counted in establishing the loss. Other forms in this category are various inspection, appraisal, production records, and claim for indemnity documents. The claim for indemnity form summarizes information determined by the loss adjuster and is required to compute the amount of an indemnity. The loss adjuster will determine from records, appraisals, and measurements, the amount of harvested and unharvested production, primary and secondary (when applicable) causes of loss, number of units (when applicable), number of planted and harvested acres and any other information necessary to determine the amount of loss.

Forms and Previous OMB Docket Numbers: The following lists have been compiled by grouping the various forms by the type and intended use of the information required on each form.

Form No.	Form title	Current OMB No.
Sales Documents		
FCI-5	Request for Actuarial Change	0563-0042
FCI-5A	Request for Actuarial Change	0563-0042
FCI-6	Statement of Facts	0563-0003
FCI-12	Crop Insurance Application	0563-0003
FCI-12A	Contract Changes	0563-0003
FCI-12P	Pre-Acceptance Perennial Crop Inspection Report	0563-0031
FCI-19C	Texas Citrus Grove inspection Report	0563-0003
FCI-20	Application for Assignment of Indemnity	0563-0014
FCI-21	Transfer of Right to Indemnity	0563-0014
FCI-513	Waiver To Transfer Segregation II and III—Peanuts To Quota Loan	0563-0026
FCI-518*	Florida Citrus Grove Inspection Report	0563-
FCI-532	Power of Attorney	0563-0030

Form No.	Form title	Current OMB No.
FCI-544	Underwriting Questionnaire (Container Stock Only)	0563-0034
FCI-554	Macadamia Orchard Inspection Report	0563-0015
FCI-575	Social Security Number (SSN) and Employer Identification (EIN) Reporting Form	0563-0047
FCI-576	Disclaimer	0563-0049
FCI-583*	Authorization to Obtain Prune Records	0563-
FCI-587*	Request to Waive Administrative Fees for Catastrophic Crop Coverage	0563-
FCI-588*	Producer's Pre-Acceptance Worksheet	0563-
FCI-589*	Pre-Acceptance Inspection Report—Peach Addendum Worksheet	0563-
FCI-590*	Pre-Acceptance Inspection Report—Apple Addendum Worksheet	0563-
FCI-591*	Pre-Acceptance Inspection Report—Almonds, Citrus, Figs, Fr. Plums, Stonefruit, Walnuts, Addendum Worksheet	0563-
FCI-592*	Pre-Acceptance Inspection Report—Blueberry Addendum Worksheet	0563-
FCI-*	Pre-Acceptance Inspection Report—Cranberry Addendum Worksheet	0563-
FCI-*	Pre-Acceptance Inspection Report—Grape/Table Grape Addendum Worksheet	0563-
FCI-*	Pre-Acceptance Inspection Report—Pear Addendum Worksheet	0563-
FCI-*	Block Production Worksheet	0563-
FCI-*	Unit Summary Worksheet	0563-
Yield Report Forms		
FCI-19A	Actual Production History Review	0563-0016
FCI-19A	Production and Yield Report	0563-0003
FCI-555	Peach Producer's Picking Records	0563-0022
FCI-595*	Hybrid Corn Seed Approved Yields	0563-
Option Forms		
FCI-9	Late Planting Agreement	0563-0023
FCI-78	Request To Exclude Hail and Fire	0563-0032
FCI-505	Potato Crop Insurance Policy—Certified Seed Potato Option Amendment	0563-0020
FCI-506	Apple Fresh Fruit Option	0563-0020
FCI-523	Potato Crop Insurance Policy—Potato Quality Option	0563-0020
FCI-539	Apple Sunburn Option	0563-0020
FCI-547	Potato Crop Insurance Policy—Processing Potato Quality Option	0563-0020
FCI-548	Potato Crop Insurance Policy—Frost/Freeze Potato Option	0563-0020
FCI-549	High-Risk Land Exclusion Option	0563-0003
FCI-550	Fresh Market Tomato Minimum Value Option	0563-0020
FCI-553	Unit Division Option	0563-0003
FCI-577	Nursery Frost, Freeze, and Cold	0563-0050
Acreage Report Forms		
FCI-19	Crop Insurance Acreage Report	0563-0003
FCI-527	Fresh Sweet Corn Planting Record	0563-0022
FCI-528	Peppers—Planting Record	0563-0022
FCI-529	Tomatoes—Planting Record	0563-0022
FCI-544	Underwriting Questionnaire (Container Stock Only)	0563-0034
FCI-545	Nursery Container Report	0563-0034
FCI-546	Nursery Provisions Plant Inventory Summary	0563-0034
FCI-819	Raisin Supplement—Tonnage Report	0563-0035
Notice of Damage and Claim Forms		
FCI-8	Notice of Damage or loss.	
FCI-63	Claim for Citrus Indemnity	0563-0016
FCI-63	Claim for Raisin Indemnity	0563-0016
FCI-63A	Adjuster's Florida Citrus Worksheet	0563-0016
FCI-63A	Notice of Damage and Inspection—Raisins	0563-0035
FCI-63B	Tabulation of Production Records From Individual Load Certificates FL. Citrus	0563-0044
FCI-63C	Florida Citrus Production Sheet	0563-0044
FCI-73	Certification Form	0563-0033
FCI-74	Field Inspection and Claim for Indemnity	0563-0016
FCI-74 (Continuation Sheet)	Field Inspection and Claim for Indemnity (Continuation Sheet)	0563-0016
FCI-74T-P-C	Field Inspection and Claim for Indemnity (Tobacco, Peanuts, and Cotton)	0563-0016
FCI-74T-P-C (Continuation Sheet)	Field Inspection and Claim for Indemnity (Tobacco, Peanuts, and Cotton-Continuation Sheet)	0563-0016
FCI-74T-P-C*	AUP Cotton Quality Adjustment Worksheet	0563-
FCI-74T-P-C*	ELS Cotton Quality Adjustment Worksheet	0563-
FCI-74A	Adjuster's Apple Worksheet	0563-0016
FCI-74A	Avocado Appraisal Worksheet	0563-0016
FCI-74A	Beans and Peas Appraisal Worksheet	0563-0016
FCI-74A	Canning & Processing Beans—Stand Reduction and Hail Appraisal Worksheet	0563-0016
FCI-74A	Blueberry Appraisal Worksheet	0563-0016
FCI-74A	Lowbush Blueberry Appraisal Worksheet	0563-0016

Form No.	Form title	Current OMB No.
FCI-74A	Canola Appraisal Worksheet	0563-0016
FCI-74A	Citrus Appraisal Worksheet—(AZ/CA)	0563-0016
FCI-74A	Citrus Appraisal Worksheet—(Texas)	0563-0016
FCI-74A	Texas Tree Citrus Appraisal Worksheet	0563-0016
FCI-74A (Continuation Sheet)	Appraisal Worksheet (Texas Citrus Tree Damage Continuation Sheet)	0563-0016
FCI-74A	Sweet Corn—Fresh/Canning & Freezing Appraisal Worksheet	0563-0016
FCI-74A	Corn, Grain Sorghum, and Silage Appraisal Worksheet	0563-0016
FCI-74A	Cotton Appraisal Worksheet	0563-0016
FCI-74A	Fig Appraisal Worksheet	0563-0016
FCI-74A	Flax Appraisal Worksheet	0563-0016
FCI-74A	Florida Fruit Tree Pilot Appraisal Worksheet	0563-0016
FCI-74A (Continuation Sheet)	Florida Fruit Tree Pilot Appraisal Worksheet (Continuation Sheet)	0563-0016
FCI-74A	Forage Appraisal Worksheet	0563-0016
FCI-74A	Grape/Table Grape—Appraisal Worksheet	0563-0016
FCI-74A	Macadamia Trees Appraisal Worksheet	0563-0016
FCI-74A (Continuation Sheet)	Macadamia Tree Appraisal Worksheet (Continuation Sheet)	0563-0016
FCI-74A	Millet Appraisal Worksheet (Does not require OMB approval)	0563-0016
FCI-74A	Nut Trees (Nut Count) Appraisal Worksheet	0563-0016
FCI-74A*	Onion Appraisal Worksheet	0563-
FCI-74A	Peach Appraisal Worksheet	0563-0016
FCI-74A	Peanuts Appraisal Worksheet	0563-0016
FCI-74A	Pear Appraisal Worksheet	0563-0016
FCI-74A	Peppers/Fresh Tomatoes Appraisal Worksheet (Planting to Fruit Set/Replant)	0563-0016
FCI-74A	Fresh Plums Appraisal Worksheet	0563-0016
FCI-74A	Potatoes Appraisal Worksheet	0563-0016
FCI-74A	Prune Appraisal Worksheet	0563-0016
FCI-74A	Random Path Appraisal Worksheet	0563-0039
FCI-74A	Safflower Appraisal Worksheet	0563-0016
FCI-74A	Small Grains Appraisal Worksheet (Wheat-Barley-Rye-Rice)	0563-0016
FCI-74A	Soybeans Appraisal Worksheet	0563-0016
FCI-74A	Stonefruit Appraisal Worksheet	0563-0016
FCI-74A	Sugar Beets Appraisal Worksheet	0563-0016
FCI-74A	Sugarcane Appraisal Worksheet	0563-0016
FCI-74A	Sunflowers Appraisal Worksheet	0563-0016
FCI-74A	Tobacco Appraisal Worksheet	0563-0016
FCI-74A	C&P Tomatoes Appraisal Worksheet	0563-0016
FCI-74B	Apple Appraisal Worksheet	0563-0016
FCI-74B	Peanut Computation Sheet	0563-0041
FCI-74B	Pepper Appraisal Worksheet (Fruit Set to Maturity)	0563-0016
FCI-74B	Corn & Grain Sorghum—Stand Reduction Appraisal Worksheet	0563-0016
FCI-74B	Fresh Tomatoes Appraisal Worksheet (After Fruit Set)	0563-0016
FCI-74C	Summary of Harvested Avocado Production Worksheet	0563-0016
FCI-74C	Corn & Grain Sorghum Hail Damage Appraisal Worksheet	0563-0016
FCI-74C	Peppers/Fresh Tomatoes/Fresh Sweet Corn—Summary of Harvested Production	0563-0040
FCI-74C-VC*	Peanut Computation Sheet	0563-
FCI-551	Raisin Reconditioning Pool Production to Count	0563-0035
FCI-552	Self-Certification Replant Worksheet	0563-0037
FCI-578*	Raisin Packer's Release of Insured Raisins	0563-
FCI-579*	Raisin Release to an Alternative Use Market	0563-
FCI-580*	Raisin Release to Disk	0563-
FCI-581*	Raisin Reconditioning Authorization	0563-
FCI-582*	Raisin Appraisal Worksheet	0563-

* Seeking OMB approval.

Signed in Washington, D.C., on March 11, 1997.

Kenneth D. Ackerman,
Manager, Federal Crop Insurance
Corporation.

[FR Doc. 97-6649 Filed 3-14-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-FA-P

Rural Utilities Service

Municipal Interest Rates for the Second Quarter of 1997

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of municipal interest rates on advances from insured electric loans for the second quarter of 1997.

SUMMARY: The Rural Utilities Service hereby announces the interest rates for advances on municipal rate loans with interest rate terms beginning during the second calendar quarter of 1997.

DATES: These interest rates are effective for interest rate terms that commence during the period beginning April 1, 1997, and ending June 30, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Carolyn Dotson, Loan Funds Control

Assistant, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Utilities Service, room 2234-S, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Stop 1522, Washington, DC 20250-1522. Telephone: 202-720-1928. FAX: 202-690-2268. E-mail: CDotson@rus.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) hereby announces the interest rates on advances made during the second calendar quarter of 1997 for municipal rate electric loans. Pursuant to RUS regulations at 7 CFR 1714.4, each advance of funds on a municipal rate