

- The reason why the importer was selected for the project; and
- The importer's role in the project regarding handling and processing the commodity sample; and

(e) Information indicating all funding sources, and amounts to be contributed by each entity that will contribute to implementation of the proposed project. This may include the organization that submitted the proposal, private industry entities, host governments, foreign third parties, CCC, FAS, or other Federal agencies. Contributed resources may include cash, goods, and services.

Review Process

FAS will use the following criteria in evaluating proposals:

- The overall quality of the proposal;
- The ability of the organization to provide an experienced staff with the requisite technical and trade experience to execute the proposal;
- The extent to which the proposal is targeted to a market in which the United States is generally competitive;
- The potential for expanding commercial sales in the proposed market;
- The nature of the specific market constraint involved and how well it is addressed by the proposal;
- The extent to which the importer's contribution in terms of handling and processing enhances the potential outcome of the project;
- The amount of reimbursement requested and the organization's willingness to contribute resources, including cash and goods and services of the U.S. industry and foreign third parties; and
- How well the proposed technical assistance component assures that performance trials will effectively demonstrate the intended end-use benefit.

FAS will establish a QSP Committee (Committee) for the purpose of reviewing proposals for eligibility and completeness and allocating CCC funds. The Committee will evaluate each proposal against the factors described above. The purpose of this review is to identify meritorious proposals, recommend an appropriate funding level for each proposal based upon these factors, and submit the proposals and funding recommendations to the Deputy Administrator, Commodity and Marketing Programs.

Agreements

Following approval of a proposal, CCC will enter into an agreement with the organization that submitted the proposal. Agreements will incorporate the proposal as approved by FAS. Each

agreement will identify terms and conditions pursuant to which CCC will reimburse certain costs of the project. Agreements will also outline the responsibilities of the participant, including, but not limited to, procurement (or arranging for procurement) of the commodity sample at a fair market price, arranging for shipment of the commodity sample within the time limit specified in the agreement (generally 90 days), compliance with cargo preference requirements (shipment on United States flag vessels, as may be required), timely and effective implementation of technical assistance, and submission of a written evaluation report within 6 months of completion of the project. Evaluation reports should address the performance measures presented in the proposal.

Closing Date for Proposals

All proposals must be submitted in triplicate and received by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, [insert date 30 days after date of publication in the **Federal Register**], at one of the following addresses:

Hand Delivery (including FedEx, DHL, etc.): U.S. Department of Agriculture, Foreign Agricultural Service, Marketing Operations Staff, Room 4932-S, 14th and Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-1042.

U.S. Postal Delivery: Marketing Operations Staff, STOP 1042, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-1042.

Dated: November 4, 1999.

Timothy J. Galvin,

*Administrator, Foreign Agricultural Service,
Vice President, Commodity Credit Corporation.*

[FR Doc. 99-29656 Filed 11-12-99; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3410-10-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Commodity Credit Corporation

Upland Cotton Domestic User/Exporter Agreement

AGENCY: Commodity Credit Corporation, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The purpose of this notice is to advise potential Upland Cotton Domestic User/Exporter Agreement (Agreement) holders and other interested parties of the implementation and effective date of the new Revision 6 Agreement that the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) will use to carry out

the Upland Cotton User Marketing Certificate (Step 2) Program, authorized under the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996, as amended.

EFFECTIVE DATE: November 15, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Barry Klein, Warehouse and Inventory Division, Farm Service Agency, United States Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., STOP 0553, Washington, D.C. 20250-0553, telephone (202) 720-4647, or FAX (202) 690-0014, E-Mail:

Barry_Klein@wdc.fsa.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In keeping with the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2000, enacted October 22, 1999, CCC will reinstate the Step 2 Program for eligible upland cotton beginning October 1, 1999. All potential Domestic and Exporter Agreement holders who sign and return the Revision 6 Agreement to the Kansas City Commodity Office, P.O. Box 419205, Kansas City, MO 64141-6205, by no later than November 30, 1999, will be eligible to receive the Step 2 payment in effect during the week in which the upland cotton bales were consumed or exported. Prompt Payment Act provisions will not apply retroactively. Prompt Payment interest will be calculated beginning 30 days from receipt of the completed application for payment. Those potential Agreement holders who fail to sign and return the new Revision 6 Agreement by November 30, 1999, will have an effective date upon signature and acceptance by CCC. An electronic copy of the Revision 6 Agreement is available on the World Wide Web at www.fsa.usda.gov/daco/step2.

Signed at Washington, DC, on November 3, 1999.

Keith Kelly,

Executive Vice President, Commodity Credit Corporation.

[FR Doc. 99-29726 Filed 11-12-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-05-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food and Nutrition Service

Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposed Collection; Comment Request; The Summer Food Service Program Claim Reimbursement Form FNS-143

AGENCY: Food and Nutrition Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Food and Nutrition Service is publishing for public comments a summary of an approval collection for the Summer Food Service Program Claim for Reimbursement, Form FNS-143.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before January 14, 2000.

ADDRESSES: 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 has practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, 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 the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to Susan Fouts, Child Nutrition Division, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, VA 22302.

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.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection form and instruction should be directed to Susan Fouts, Child Nutrition Division (703) 305-1506.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Summer Food Service Program Claim for Reimbursement, Form FNS-143.

OMB Number: 0584-0041.

Expiration Date: January 31, 2000.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: The Summer Food Service Program Claim for Reimbursement Form is used to collect meal and cost data from sponsors to determine the reimbursement entitlement for meals served. The form is sent to the Food and Nutrition Service's (FNS) Regional Offices where it is entered into a computerized payment system. The payment system computes earnings to date and the number of meals to date and generates payments for the amount of earnings in excess of prior advance and claim payments. If the information is not provided on the claim form, the sponsor would not have a vehicle for

receiving reimbursement. Earned reimbursement in the Summer Food Service Program is based on performance, *i.e.*, meals served. Recipients are reimbursed the lesser of meals served times rates of actual costs. To fulfill the earned reimbursement requirements set forth in the Summer Food Service Program Regulations issued by the Secretary of Agriculture (7 CFR 225.9), the meal and cost data must be collected on the FNS-143 claim form. In addition, this form is an intrinsic part of the accounting system being used currently to ensure reimbursement as well as to facilitate adequate record keeping. This request is being made to extend the current information collection for an additional three years. Current methods are the only practical means of collecting this information considering the resources of form users. The information collected is used by FNS to manage, plan, evaluate, and account for government resources. The reports and records are required to ensure the proper and judicious use of public funds.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 530.

Number of Responses Per Respondent: 3.

Estimated Total Annual Responses: 1590.

Hours Per Response: .5 hours per response.

Total Annual Reporting Burden: 795.

Number of Record Keepers: 530.

Total Record Keeping Hours: 398.

Total Annual Burden Hours: 1193 (total hours per response plus total record keeping hours).

Dated: November 4, 1999.

Samuel Chambers, Jr.,

Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service.

[FR Doc. 99-29727 Filed 11-12-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-30-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Maximum Dollar Amount on Loan and Grant Awards Under the Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program for Fiscal Year 2000

AGENCY: Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Rural Business-Cooperative Service hereby announces the maximum dollar amount on loan and grant awards under the Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant (REDLG) program for fiscal year (FY) 2000. The maximum dollar award on

zero-interest loans for FY 2000 is \$450,000. The maximum dollar award on grants for FY 2000 is \$200,000. The maximum loan and grant awards stated in this notice are effective for loans and grants made during the fiscal year beginning October 1, 1999, and ending September 30, 2000. REDLG loans and grants are available to Rural Utilities Service electric and telephone utilities to assist in developing rural areas from an economic standpoint.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Patricia Wing, Loan Specialist, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA, STOP 3225, Room 6870, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250, Telephone: (202) 720-9558. FAX: (202) 720-6561. E-mail: PWing@rus.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The maximum loan and grant awards are determined in accordance with 7 CFR 1703.28. The maximum loan and grant awards are calculated as 3.0 percent of the projected program levels; however, as specified in 7 CFR 1703.28(b), regardless of the projected total amount that will be available, the maximum size may not be lower than \$200,000. The projected program level during FY 2000 for zero-interest loans is \$15 million and the projected program level for grants is \$4 million. Applying the specified 3.0 percent to the program level for loans results in the maximum loan award of \$450,000. Applying the specified 3.0 percent to the program level for grants results in an amount lower than \$200,000. Therefore, the maximum grant award for FY 2000 will be \$200,000.

Dated: November 4, 1999.

Wilbur T. Peer,

Acting Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service.

[FR Doc. 99-29633 Filed 11-12-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-XY-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Housing Service

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Rural Utilities Service

Notice of Stakeholder's Meeting on Rural Community Development Initiative (RCDI)

AGENCIES: Rural Housing Service (RHS), Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS), and Rural Utilities Service, USDA.