

Notices

Federal Register

Vol. 74, No. 197

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

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

Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service

Notice of Intent To Request an Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations (5 CFR part 1320) which implement the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), this notice announces the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service's (CSREES) intention to request an extension for a currently approved information collection (OMB No. 0524-0026) for Form CSREES-665, "Assurance of Compliance with the Department of Agriculture Regulations Assuring Civil Rights Compliance," and Form CSREES-666, "Organizational Information." Upon OMB approval of this collection, the burden for the Form CSREES-665 will be transferred to OMB control number 0524-0039, "Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Application Kit for Research and Extension Programs."

DATES: Submit comments on or before December 14, 2009.

ADDRESSES: Written comments concerning this notice and requests for copies of the information collection may be submitted by any of the following methods to Jason Hitchcock, Director, Information Policy, Planning and Training; Mail: CSREES/USDA; Mail Stop 2216; 1400 Independence Avenue, SW.; Washington, DC 20250-2299; Hand Delivery/Courier: 800 9th Street, SW., Waterfront Centre, Room 4217,

Washington, DC 20024; or E-mail: jhitchcock@csrees.usda.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Jason Hitchcock, Director of Information Policy, Planning, and Training; Information Systems and Technology Management; CSREES/USDA, E-mail: jhitchcock@csrees.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Assurance of Compliance with the Department of Agriculture Regulations Assuring Civil Rights Compliance and Organizational Information.

OMB Number: 0524-0026.

Expiration Date of Current Approval: February 28, 2010.

Type of Request: Intent to extend a currently approved information collection for three years.

Abstract: CSREES has primary responsibility for providing linkages between the Federal and State components of a broad-based, national agricultural research, extension, and education system. Focused on national issues, its purpose is to represent the Secretary of Agriculture and carry out the intent of Congress by administering formula and grant funds appropriated for agricultural research, extension, and education. Before awards can be made, certain information is required from applicants to assure compliance with the applicable civil rights laws and to effectively assess the potential recipient's capacity to manage Federal funds.

Need for the Information: Form CSREES-665 "Assurance of Compliance with the Department of Agriculture Regulations Assuring Civil Rights Compliance": By signing this form, the organization certifies that it complies with the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended. The applicant agrees that it will offer its programs to all eligible persons without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, disability, age, political beliefs, religion, marital status, or familial status and that people will not be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity for which the applicant receives the Federal financial assistance from the Department of Agriculture. This information is submitted to CSREES on a one-time basis.

Form CSREES-666 "Organizational Information": This form enables

CSREES to determine that applicants recommended for awards will be responsible recipients of Federal funds. The information pertains to organizational management and financial matters of the potential grantee. This form and the documents which the applicant attaches to it provide CSREES with information such as the legal name of grantee, certification that the organization has the legal authority to accept Federal funding, identification and signatures of the key officials of the organization, the organization's practices in regard to compensation rates and benefits of employees, insurance for equipment, subcontracting with other organizations, etc., as well as the financial condition of the organization and certification that the organization is not delinquent on Federal taxes. All of this information is considered by CSREES prior to award to determine if the grantee is both managerially and fiscally responsible. This information is submitted to CSREES on a one-time basis. If sufficient changes occur within the organization, the grantee submits revised information.

Estimate of the Burden: CSREES estimates the number of responses for the Form CSREES-665 will be 4350 with an estimated response time of 5 minutes per form, representing a total annual burden of 363 hours for this form. CSREES estimates the number of responses for the Form CSREES-666 will be 150 with an estimated response time of 6.3 hours per form, representing a total annual burden of 945 hours for this form. These estimates are based on a survey of grantees that were approved for grant awards. They were asked to give an estimate of time it took them to complete each form. This estimate was to include such things as: (1) Reviewing the instructions; (2) searching existing data sources; (3) gathering and maintaining the data needed; and (4) actual completion of the forms. The average time it took each respondent was calculated from their responses.

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 a 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; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the information collection 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.

Done at Washington, DC, this 6th day of October 2009.

Rajiv J. Shah,

Chief Scientist, USDA, Under Secretary for REE.

[FR Doc. E9-24677 Filed 10-13-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food and Nutrition Service

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection: Comment Request: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Education and Administrative Reporting System (EARS)

AGENCY: Food and Nutrition Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice invites the general public and other public agencies to comment on a proposed information collection. The proposed collection is an extension, without change, of a currently approved collection.

The purpose of the Education and Administrative Reporting System (EARS) form is to collect uniform and standard information on nutrition education activities (SNAP-Ed) funded by SNAP. The data collected will inform management decisions, support policy initiatives, and provide documentation for legislative, budget and other requests that support planning within the agency.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before December 14, 2009.

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 the validity of the methodology and assumptions that were 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 may be sent to Jane Duffield, Chief, State Administration Branch, Program Accountability and Administration Division, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 818, Alexandria, VA 22302. Comments may also be submitted via fax to the attention of Jane Duffield at 703-605-0795, Room 824 or via e-mail to jane.duffield@fns.usda.gov. Comments will also be accepted through the Federal eRulemaking Portal. Go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and follow the online instructions for submitting comments electronically.

All written comments will be open for public inspection at the office of the Food and Nutrition Service during regular business hours (8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday) at 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 824 Alexandria, Virginia 22302.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval.

All comments will also be a matter of public record.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the proposed information collection form and instructions should be directed to Jane Duffield at (703) 605-4385.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Education and Administrative Reporting System.

OMB Number: 0584-0542.

Form Number: FNS-759.

Expiration Date: 08/31/2010.

Type of Request: Extension, without change, of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) developed the Education and Administrative Reporting System (EARS) for the nutrition education (SNAP-Ed) component of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which is provided for in Section 11 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2020 (f)(3)(B)(ii)). In 2003, the Agency convened a workgroup of diverse stakeholders to assist with this task, including people from the State, local, and federal levels, as well as academia.

The EARS form was approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in Fiscal Year (FY) 2007. The first phase of EARS implementation, launched in FY 2008, required SNAP State agencies to report on financial questions #9 and #10 on the EARS form. Full implementation of all applicable EARS questions is required of SNAP State agencies by FY 2010.

EARS provides uniform data and information about the nutrition education activities of all participating States across the country. Data collected on the EARS form includes demographic characteristics of participants receiving nutrition education benefits, information about education topics and strategies, and use of resources. The EARS form is designed as an annual report that SNAP State agencies submit using the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) web-based Food Program Reporting System (FPRS). FPRS is available to SNAP State agencies between October 15 and December 30 of each year for the submission of EARS data for the prior FY's nutrition education activities.

Affected Public: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) State Agencies, and implementing partners such as extension universities and non-profit organizations and local program operators.

Estimated Number of Respondents:

52.

Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Responses:

52.

Hours per Response: 54.

Total Annual Reporting Hours: 2,808.

Total Annual Burden Hours: 2,808.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 52 SNAP State agencies.

Dated: October 5, 2009.

Julia Paradis,

Administrator.

[FR Doc. E9-24678 Filed 10-13-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Inviting Applications for the Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program for Fiscal Year 2010

AGENCY: Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This Notice is to invite applications for loans and grants under the Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant (REDLG) program pursuant to