

Empowerment Zone through December 2009. The Rural Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities program (EZ/EC) provides economically depressed rural areas and communities with opportunities for growth and revitalization. USDA has designated 80 Champion communities from the EZ/EC applicant communities that have agreed to implement their strategic plans in accordance with the principles of the program and report regularly on their progress.

Need and Use of the Information: Periodic reviews provide the basis for USDA to continue or revoke a designation during the life of the Federal program. These reports provide progress on each project that the designee has specified in their implementation plans. A warning letter maybe sent to recipients who have been regarded as noncompliance or have made insufficient progress in implementing the strategic plan.

Description of Respondents: State, Local or Tribal Government.

Number of Respondents: 110.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 2,402.

Charlene Parker,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. E6-3961 Filed 3-17-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-XT-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

March 14, 2006.

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 regarding (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; (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 should be addressed to: Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of

Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), *Pamela_Beverly_OIRA_Submission@OMB.EOP.GOV* or fax (202) 395-5806 and to Departmental Clearance Office, USDA, OCIO, Mail Stop 7602, Washington, DC 20250-7602. Comments regarding these information collections are best assured of having their full effect if received within 30 days of this notification. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling (202) 720-8681.

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.

Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service

Title: Reporting Requirements for State Plans of Work for Agricultural Research and Extension Formula Funds.

OMB Control Number: 0524-0036.

Summary of Collection: Section 202 and 225 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (AREERA) requires that a plan of work must be submitted by each institution and approved by the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) before formula funds may be provided to the 1862 and 1890 land-grant institutions. The plan of work must address critical agricultural issues in the State and describe the programs and project targeted to address these issues using the CSREES formula funds. The plan of work also must describe the institution's multistate activities as well as their integrated research and extension activities.

Need and Use of the Information: Institutions are required to annually report to CSREES the following: (1) The actions taken to seek stakeholder input to encourage their participation; (2) a brief statement of the process used by the recipient institution to identify individuals or groups who are stakeholders and to collect input from them; and (3) a statement of how collected input was considered. CSREES uses the information to provide feedback to the institutions on their Plans of Work and Annual Reports of Accomplishments and Results in order for institutions to improve the conduct and the delivery of their programs. Failure to comply with the requirements may result in the withholding of a

recipient institution's formula funds and redistribution of its share of formula funds to other eligible institutions.

Description of Respondents: Not-for-profit institutions; State, Local or Tribal Government.

Number of Respondents: 75.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Annually.

Total Burden Hours: 135,600.

Ruth Brown,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. E6-3962 Filed 3-17-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-09-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

March 16, 2006.

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 regarding (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; (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 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. Comments regarding these information collections are best assured of having their full effect if received within 30 days of this notification. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling (202) 720-8681.

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persons are not required to respond to the collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Title: Agriculture Innovation Centers.
OMB Control Number: 0570-0045.

Summary of Collection: The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Pub. L. 107-171, signed May 13, 2000) authorized the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to award grant funds for agriculture innovation centers, a demonstration program under which agricultural producers are to be provided with technical and business development assistance enabling them to establish businesses producing and marketing value-added products. This program is administered by Cooperative Programs within USDA's Rural Development. Grants were awarded, on a competitive basis, only in fiscal year 2003. The authorization for this program expired on September 30, 2004; however, centers are required to provide progress reports for the duration of the grant agreement to monitor compliance and measure the success of the program.

Need and Use of the Information: Performance report information is collected semi-annually from the ten agriculture innovation centers funded during the 2003 grant cycle. USDA uses performance reports to confirm that progress is being made toward achieving the stated goals of the project. A final report is submitted at the completion of the grant agreement. Centers may be non-profit corporations, for-profit corporations, institutions of higher learning, and consortia of the aforementioned entities.

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

Number of Respondents: 10.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Semi-annually.

Total Burden Hours: 110.

Charlene Parker,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. E6-3982 Filed 3-17-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-XT-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

March 15, 2006.

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 regarding (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; (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 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. Comments regarding these information collections are best assured of having their full effect if received within 30 days of this notification. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling (202) 720-8681.

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Natural Resources and Conservation Service

Title: Volunteer Program—Earth Team.

OMB Control Number: 0578-0024.

Summary of Collection: Volunteers have been a valuable human resource to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) since 1985. NRCS is authorized by the Federal Personnel Manual (FPM) Supplement 296-33, Subchapter 22, to recruit, train and accept, with regard to Civil Service classification law, rules, or regulations, the service of individuals to serve without compensation. Volunteers may assist in any agency program/project and may perform any activities which agency employees are allowed to do. Volunteers must be 14 years of age. NRCS will collect information using several NRCS forms.

Need and Use of the Information: NRCS will collect information on the type of skills and type of work the volunteers are interested in doing. NRCS will also collect information to implement and evaluate the effectiveness of the volunteer program. Without the information, NRCS would not know which individuals are interested in volunteering.

Description of Respondents:

Individuals or households; Business or other for-profit; Not-for-profit institutions; State, Local, or Tribal Government.

Number of Respondents: 23,540.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Semi-annually.

Total Burden Hours: 1,411.

Ruth Brown,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. E6-3983 Filed 3-17-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-16-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Commodity Credit Corporation

Information Collection; Farm Storage Facility Loan Program

AGENCY: Commodity Credit Corporation, USDA.

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) is seeking comments from all interested individuals and organizations on the extension with revision of a currently approved information collection in support of the Farm Storage Facility Loan Program.

DATES: Comments must be received in writing on or before May 19, 2006 to be assured of consideration. Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

ADDRESSES: Comments concerning this notice should be addressed to DeAnn Allen, Price Support Division, Farm Service Agency, United States Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., STOP 0512, Washington, DC 20250-0512, or to the Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503. Comments may be also submitted by e-mail to deann.allen@wdc.usda.gov. Copies of the information collection may be requested by writing to DeAnn Allen at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: DeAnn Allen, Price Support Division,