

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 collected; or (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of the 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 Jay Jagolta, Systems Accountant, USDA, Farm Service Agency, Financial Management Division, STOP 0581, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-0581, (202) 305-1311.

Signed at Washington, DC, on May 13, 1997.

**Richard O. Newman,**

*Acting Executive Vice President, Commodity Credit Corporation.*

[FR Doc. 97-14269 Filed 5-30-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-05-P

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Commodity Credit Corporation

#### Notice of Request for Extension, Revision, and Separation of a Currently Approved Information Collection

**AGENCY:** Commodity Credit Corporation, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the intention of the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) and the Farm Service Agency (FSA) to request extension for the Highly Erodible Land Conservation and Wetland Conservation certification requirements and to separate from collections currently approved under OMB No. 0560-0004 which includes several other unrelated areas for information collection. This information is collected in support of the conservation provisions of Title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended by the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 and the Federal Agriculture, Improvement and Reform Act of 1996.

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received on or before August 1, 1997, to be assured consideration.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS:** Contact LaVonne Maas, Agricultural Program Specialist, Compliance and Production Adjustment Division, USDA, FSA, STOP 0517, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-0517, (202) 720-8128.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

**Title:** Highly Erodible Land Conservation and Wetland Conservation Certification.

**OMB Number:** New submission.

**Expiration Date:** June 30, 1997.

**Type of Request:** Extension and revision of that portion of a previously approved information collection that relates to the Highly Erodible Land Conservation and Wetland Conservation requirements. The conservation requirements are being separated from inclusion with several other unrelated forms to eliminate confusion with other requirements and to provide clear information specifically for the conservation requirements according to 7 CFR part 12.

**Abstract:** Title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended by the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 and the Federal Agriculture, Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 conditions certain Department of Agriculture (USDA) benefits on compliance with certain requirements relating to highly erodible lands and wetlands. Rules governing those requirements are codified in 7 CFR Part 12. In order to ensure that persons who request benefits subject to the conservation restrictions get technical assistance needed and are informed regarding the compliance requirements on their land, information is collected with regard to their intended activities on their land that could affect their eligibility for requested USDA benefits. Once technical determinations are made, producers are required to certify that they will comply with the conservation requirements on their land to maintain their eligibility.

Persons may request that certain activities be exempt according to provisions of the statute. Information is collected from those who seek these exemptions for the purpose of evaluating whether the exempted conditions will be met.

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

**Respondents:** Individual producers.

**Estimated Number of Respondents:** 506,350.

**Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:** 1.

**Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:** 109,477 hours.

Proposed topics for comment include:

(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 collected; or (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of the 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 LaVonne Maas, Agricultural Program Specialist, USDA-Farm Service Agency-Compliance and Production Adjustment Division, STOP 0517, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-0517, (202) 720-8128.

Signed at Washington, DC, on May 13, 1997.

**Richard O. Newman,**

*Acting Executive Vice President, Commodity Credit Corporation.*

[FR Doc. 97-14270 Filed 5-30-97; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Farm Service Agency

#### Notice of Request for Extension and Revision of a Currently Approved Information Collection

**AGENCY:** Farm Service Agency, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the intention of Farm Service Agency (FSA) to request extension for and revision to the Power of Attorney and Power of Attorney for Husband and Wife provisions. This information is collected in support of programs administered by FSA. The Power of Attorney collection information is being separated from inclusion with several other unrelated

forms previously cleared under OMB 0560-0004 to eliminate confusion with other requirements and to provide clear information specifically for the authorization of Power of Attorney.

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received on or before August 1, 1997 to be assured consideration.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS:** Contact Joanne Franta, Agricultural Program Specialist, Compliance and Production Adjustment Division, USDA, FSA, STOP 0517, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-0517, (202)720-5103.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION OR COMMENTS:**

*Title:* Power of Attorney.

*OMB Number:* 0560-0004.

*Expiration Date:* June 30, 1997.

*Type of Request:* Extension and revision of a currently approved information collection.

*Abstract:* Producers may file Power of Attorney information authorizing someone to act for the producer under a variety of programs administered by FSA. A Power of Attorney form is completed once and remains in full force and effect until written notice of its revocation has been duly served upon FSA. This one-time collection supports all FSA requirements for Power of Attorney authorization. The authority granted by a Power of Attorney is valid in all counties of the United States unless otherwise noted. Completion of a Power of Attorney form grants the attorney authority to act with respect to actions involving FSA. The Power of Attorney, Form FSA-211, grants to the attorney full authority with respect to programs and records to complete FSA transactions(s). Such programs and records for which a Power of Attorney may be used are determined by FSA. The Form FSA-211-1 is used by one spouse to grant signing authority for another for such programs and records as determined by FSA. These forms provide a service to producers who are not always able to be present to sign documents. They save the producers the legal fees associated with obtaining a power of attorney and protect the government and producers from an unauthorized individual signing on behalf of the producer.

*Estimate of Burden.* Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 15 minutes per response for either the FSA-211 or FSA-211-1.

*FSA-211, Power of Attorney:*

*Respondents:* Individual producers.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 500,000.

*Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* 1.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 125,000 hours.

*FSA-211-1, Power of Attorney for Husband and Wife:*

*Respondents:* Spouse.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 100,000.

*Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* 1.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 25,000 hours.

*Proposed topics for comment include:*

(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 collected; or (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of the information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical 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 Joanne Franta, Agricultural Program Specialist, USDA, Farm Service Agency, Compliance and Production Adjustment Division, STOP 0517, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-0517, (202) 720-5103.

Signed at Washington, DC, on May 13, 1997.

**Richard O. Newman,**

*Acting Executive Vice President, Commodity Credit Corporation.*

[FR Doc. 97-14268 Filed 5-30-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-05-P

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Food and Consumer Service

#### Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request—Reaching the Working Poor and Poor Elderly

**AGENCY:** Food and Consumer Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Food and Consumer Service's intention to request

Office of Management and Budget approval of the Reaching the Working Poor and Poor Elderly Study data collection.

**DATES:** Written comments on this notice must be received by August 1, 1997.

**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 will have 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 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: Michael E. Fishman, Acting Director, Office of Analysis and Evaluation, Food and Consumer 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 Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or copies of the proposed information collection forms should be directed to Michael E. Fishman, (703) 305-2017.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Title:* Reaching the Working Poor and Poor Elderly.

*OMB Number:* Not yet assigned.

*Expiration Date:* Not applicable.

*Type of Request:* New collection of information.

*Abstract:* The Food Stamp Program (FSP) is designed to provide assistance to all financially needy persons. However, a substantial number of those eligible for food stamps do not receive them. Most households that are eligible for food stamps but do not participate in the program fall into one of two groups: households with earnings, and households with elderly members. Only about one-half of eligible working households and one-third of eligible households with elderly participate in the FSP. The Food and Consumer Service is conducting a study of the reasons for nonparticipation by the working poor and poor elderly.

The study involves the development and testing of questionnaires about FSP