

Dated: October 6, 1998.

**William O. Coats,**

*Acting Deputy Administrator, Tobacco Programs.*

[FR Doc. 98-27312 Filed 10-9-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Commodity Credit Corporation

#### Notice of Request for an Approval of a New Information Collection

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

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

**SUMMARY:** Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) is seeking approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to obtain information regarding transportation services needed to meet domestic and export food assistance program needs.

This information collection will allow CCC to determine the capabilities of motor freight carriers to meet CCC's transportation needs by demonstrating that the motor carriers have both the willingness and the capability to meet those needs.

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received on or before December 14, 1998 to be assured consideration.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Timothy P. Mehl, Chief, Planning and Analysis Division, Kansas City Commodity Office, 9200 Ward Parkway, Kansas City, Missouri 64114, telephone (816) 926-3536, fax (816) 926-6767.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title:* Standard Rules Tender Governing Motor Carrier Transportation.  
*OMB Control Number:* New submission.

*Type of Request:* Approval of a new information collection.

*Abstract:* CCC through the Kansas City Commodity Office (KCCO) solicits bids from transportation companies for the purpose of providing motor carrier transportation of agricultural commodities. Motor Carriers provide over the road trucking that CCC hires to provided transportation services to meet domestic and export program needs. Motor carriers that choose to do business with the KCCO Traffic Management Division (TMD) are required to complete and submit, one time only, the Standard Rules Tender Governing Motor Carrier Transportation. TMD is collecting information to determine Motor Carrier abilities to meet CCC requirements for hauling agricultural products for CCC. TMD

must ensure that Motor Carriers providing transportation services have both the willingness and the capacity to meet these needs.

*Estimate of Burden:* Public reporting burden for collecting information under this notice is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.

*Respondents:* Transportation Businesses.

*Respondents:* 141.

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

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 141 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 regarding this information collection requirement may be directed to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503, and to Timothy P. Mehl, Chief, Planning and Analysis Division, Kansas City Commodity Office, 9200 Ward Parkway, Kansas City, Missouri 64114, telephone (816) 926-3536, fax (816) 926-6767.

All comments will become a matter of public record.

Signed at Washington, DC, on October 2, 1998.

**Keith Kelly,**

*Executive Vice President, Commodity Credit Corporation.*

[FR Doc. 98-27308 Filed 10-9-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-05-P

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Commodity Credit Corporation

#### Notice of Request for an Approval of a New Information Collection

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

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

**SUMMARY:** The Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) is seeking approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to obtain information regarding intermodal transportation services needed to meet domestic and export food assistance program needs.

This information collection will allow CCC to determine the capabilities of intermodal companies to meet the intermodal transportation needs of CCC for the movement of its freight traffic by demonstrating that companies providing transportation service have both the willingness and the capability to meet those needs.

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received on or before December 14, 1998 to be assured consideration.

#### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Timothy P. Mehl, Chief, Planning and Analysis Division, Kansas City Commodity Office, 9200 Ward Parkway, Kansas City, Missouri 64114, telephone (816) 926-3536, fax (816) 926-6767.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title:* Standard Operating Agreement Governing Intermodal Transportation.

*OMB Control Number:* New submission.

*Type of Request:* Approval of a new information collection.

*Abstract:* CCC, through the Kansas City Commodity Office (KCCO), solicits bids from transportation companies for the purpose of providing intermodal transportation of agricultural commodities. Intermodal Marketing Companies (IMC) provide rail trailer-on-flatcar/container-on-flatcar (TOFC/COFC) service that CCC hires to provide domestic and export program transportation needs. IMC's that choose to do business with the KCCO Traffic Management Division (TMD) are required to complete and submit the Standard Operating Agreement Governing Intermodal Transportation form. This form is filled out one time only. TMD is collecting information to determine IMC's abilities to meet CCC requirements for hauling agricultural products for CCC. TMD must ensure that IMC providing transportation service have both the willingness and the capacity to meet these needs.

*Estimate of Burden:* Public reporting burden for collecting information under this notice is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.

*Respondents:* Intermodal Marketing Companies.

*Respondents:* 23.

*Estimated Number of Annual*

*Responses per Respondent:* 1.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 23 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 regarding this information collection requirement should be directed to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503, and to Timothy P. Mehl, Chief, Planning and Analysis Division, Kansas City Commodity Office, 9200 Ward Parkway, Kansas City, Missouri 64114, telephone (816) 926-3536, fax (816) 926-6767.

All comments will become a matter of public record.

Signed at Washington, DC, on October 2, 1998.

**Keith Kelly,**

*Executive Vice President, Commodity Credit Corporation.*

[FR Doc. 98-27309 Filed 10-9-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-05-P

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Farm Service Agency

#### Notice of Request for Approval for a New 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 approval for the Crop Data Report Pilot Project. The purpose of this pilot project is to determine the feasibility of offering alternative methods of reporting crop and land use data. Producers will have the option of reporting by using the pilot option or by using the method currently in place nationwide.

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received on or before December 14, 1998 to be assured consideration.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS:**

Contact Rebecca Davis, Production, Emergencies, and Compliance Division, USDA, FSA, STOP 0517, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-0517, telephone number (202) 720-9882.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title:* Crop Data Report Pilot Project.

*OMB Control Number:* New submission.

*Type of Request:* Approval of a new information collection.

*Abstract:* This pilot was developed in response to OMB requests to lessen crop data and land use reporting burden on producers. The Crop Data Report Pilot Project is comprised of four distinct options. These options are as follows:

(a) *Option 1:* The postcard mail-in certification option. This option allows producers to elect whether to report crops using mail, fax, or traditional in-office reporting methods. A postcard will be mailed to every producer in the county. Using information from the postcard, the producer can elect to participate in the mail-in certification option. Information will be collected from each producer using a prepared form (FSA-578, Report of Acreage new print option). This new print option will include the previous years information for the producer to use as a comparison for the current year and will be implemented in the following counties: O'Brien County, Iowa; Chenango County, New York; Yolo County, California; Grant County, Washington; Johnston County, North Carolina; and Orangeburg, South Carolina.

(b) *Option 2:* The lump sum report option. The purpose of Crop Data Report Option 2 is to determine whether FSA can maintain program integrity when producers report a minimum amount of crop and land data by mail. This option is also designed to test whether allowing producers to report a minimum amount of crop and land data by mail would ease reporting burden. A reporting package is mailed to all producers with cropland; including a new FSA-578L, Report of Acreage Supplemental and a cover letter. This new form, FSA-578L,

requires the producer only to report crop, acres, owner, operator and shares, and planting date and is a drastic departure from FSA's historical collection of crop and land use data. While simplifying reporting and easing the burden on the producer, it would also in some cases require the collection of additional data at a later date. This option will be implemented in the following counties: Sherburne/Anoka/Hennepin Counties, Minnesota; Grant County, Wisconsin; Oxford County, Maine; Collin County, Texas; Seward County, Nebraska; and Pike/Bullock Counties, Alabama.

(c) *Option 3:* The total package mail option. This option of reporting crop and land data was derived to parallel reporting methods utilized by Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC). Information previously collected in the FSA-578, Report of Acreage, included information pertaining to FCIC such as crop code, actuarial data and "T-area" which has been made obsolete. A new print option will allow the system to print a slight deviation of the current FSA-578, Report of Acreage, to include the obsolete information. The new print option will still create an FSA-578, Report of Acreage, incorporating the FCIC data and will also include the data from previous years for comparison to assist in completing the current years report. This option will be implemented in the following counties: Scott County, Indiana; Wyoming County, New York; Republic County, Kansas; Willacy County, Texas; Osceola/Brevard/Orange Counties, Florida; and Grant County, North Dakota.

(d) *Option 4:* The mail-in aerial photocopy option. This option was developed to test the feasibility of collecting crop and land data from producers using aerial photos only. Producers will receive reporting packets that will contain copies of aerial photos of each tract operated by the producer and instructions for reporting crops. This option will test the ability of the county office staff to interpret the information from the aerial photographs and data load information into the automated FSA-578. This option will be implemented in the following counties: Branch County, Michigan; Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania; Cochise County, Arizona; Little River, Arkansas; Pointe Coupee Parish, Louisiana; and Converse County, Wyoming.

FSA's approach to collecting this information for all options is to collect only the information needed to support program eligibility and compliance requirements.

*Estimate of Burden:* Public reporting burden for Option 1 of this pilot project