

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Commodity Credit Corporation****Notice of Request for Extension and Revision 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 Commodity Credit Corporation's intention to request an extension for and revision to a currently approved information collection in support of the Market Access Program.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by February 15, 2000 to be assured of consideration.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS: Contact Denise Huttenlocker, Deputy Director, Marketing Operations Staff, Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-1042, (202) 720-4327.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Market Access Program.

OMB Number: 0551-0227.

Expiration Date of Approval: April 30, 2000.

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

Abstract: The primary objective of the Market Access Program is to encourage the development, maintenance, and expansion of commercial export markets for U.S. agricultural products through cost-share assistance to eligible trade organizations that implement a foreign market development program. Financial assistance under this program is made available on a competitive basis. Currently, there are more than 70 organizations participating directly in the program with activities in more than 100 countries. The Market Access Program is administered by personnel of the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS).

Prior to initiating program activities, Participants must submit detailed applications to FAS which include country strategies, constraints, goals and benchmarks, proposed activities, estimated budgets, and performance measurements. Each Participant is also responsible for submitting: (1) Reimbursement claims for approved costs incurred in carrying out approved activities, (2) an end-of-year contribution report, (3) travel reports, and (4) program evaluations. Participants must maintain records on

all information submitted to FAS. The information collection is used by FAS 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.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 24 hours per response.

Respondents: Non-profit organizations, state groups, cooperatives, and commercial entities.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 70.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 41.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 62,830.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Kimberly Chisley, the Agency Information Collection Coordinator, at (202) 720-2568.

Request for Comments

Send comments regarding the accuracy of the burden estimate, ways to minimize the burden, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology, or any other aspect of this collection of information, to:

Kent D. Sisson, Director, Marketing Operations Staff, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW., STOP 1042, Washington, DC 20250-1042.

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 records.

Signed at Washington, DC on December 8, 1999.

Timothy J. Galvin,

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

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BILLING CODE 3410-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service****Higher Education Challenge Grants Program for Fiscal Year 2000; Request for Proposals and Request for Input**

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

ACTION: Notice of request for proposals and request for input.

SUMMARY: The Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension

Service (CSREES) is announcing the Higher Education Challenge Grants Program for Fiscal Year (FY) 2000. Proposals are hereby requested from eligible institutions as identified herein for competitive consideration of Challenge Grant awards. CSREES also is soliciting comments regarding this request for proposals from any interested party. These comments will be considered in the development of the next request for proposals for this program. Such comments will be forwarded to the Secretary or his designee for use in meeting the requirements of section 103(c)(2) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998.

DATES: Proposals must be received on or before February 14, 2000. Proposals received after the closing date will not be considered for funding. Forms indicating intent to submit a proposal are due on January 17, 2000. User comments are requested within six months from the issuance of the request for proposals. Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

ADDRESSES: Hand-delivered proposals (brought in person by the applicant or through a courier service) must be received on or before March 6, 2000, at the following address: Challenge Grants Program; c/o Proposal Services Unit; Office of Extramural Programs; Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service; U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 303, Aerospace Center, 901 D Street, SW; Washington, DC 20024. The telephone number is (202) 401-5048. Proposals transmitted via a facsimile (fax) machine will not be accepted.

Proposals submitted through the U.S. mail must be received on or before February 14, 2000. Proposals submitted through the U.S. mail should be sent to the following address: Challenge Grants Program; c/o Proposal Services Unit, Office of Extramural Programs, Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, STOP 2245, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-2245.

Form CSREES-711, "Intent to Submit a Proposal," is requested for the Higher Education Challenge Grants Program and is due February 7, 2000. Applicants may either mail Form CSREES-711 to Higher Education Programs, Mail Stop 2251; CSREES-USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20250-2251, or fax Form CSREES-711 to the Higher Education Programs office at (202) 720-2030.