

Independence Avenue, SW.,  
Washington, DC 20250. Request should  
be received at least 3 business days  
before the meeting.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Michael Schechtman, Designated  
Federal Official, Office of the Deputy  
Secretary, Telephone (202) 720-3817;  
Fax (202) 690-4265; e-mail  
[mschechtman@ars.usda.gov](mailto:mschechtman@ars.usda.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The  
second meeting of the AC21 has been  
scheduled for September 15-16, 2003.  
The AC21 consists of 18 members  
representing the biotechnology industry,  
the seed industry, international plant  
genetics research, farmers, food  
manufacturers, commodity processors  
and shippers, environmental and  
consumer groups, along with academic  
researchers including a bioethicist. In  
addition, representatives from the  
Departments of Commerce, Health and  
Human Services, and State, and the  
Environmental Protection Agency, the  
Council on Environmental Quality, and  
the Office of the United States Trade  
Representative serve as "ex officio"  
members. The Committee meeting will  
be held from 8:30 am to 5 p.m. on each  
day. The topics to be discussed will  
include: (1) Approval of a framework for  
the AC21's main report; (2) review of a  
draft outline for the introduction to that  
report; (3) development of a plan for the  
preparation of the report and  
organization of work groups; and (4)  
continuation of discussion on impacts  
of biotechnology along the overall food  
production and distribution system,  
focusing on potential impacts of new  
value-added biotechnology products  
with direct consumer benefits.

Background information regarding the  
work of the AC21 will be available on  
the USDA Web site at <http://www.usda.gov/agencies/biotech/ac21.html>. On September 15, 2003, if  
time permits, reasonable provision will  
be made for oral presentations of no  
more than five minutes each in  
duration. The meeting will be open to  
the public, but space is limited. If you  
would like to attend the meetings, you  
must register by contacting Ms. Dianne  
Harmon at (202) 720-4074, by fax at  
(202) 720-3191 or by e-mail at  
[धारmon@ars.usda.gov](mailto:धारmon@ars.usda.gov) at least 5 days  
prior to the meeting. Please provide  
your name, title, business affiliation,  
address, telephone, and fax number  
when you register. If you require a sign  
language interpreter or other special  
accommodation due to disability, please

indicate those needs at the time of  
registration.

**Edward B. Knipling,**

*Acting Administrator.*

[FR Doc. 03-21484 Filed 8-21-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-18-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**Farm Service Agency**

**Request for Extension of a Currently  
Approved Information Collection—  
Certified State Mediation Program**

**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 the  
Farm Service Agency (FSA) to request  
an extension of approval for the  
information collection used in support  
of the Certified State Mediation Program  
under title 7 of the Code of Federal  
Regulations part 785. The collection of  
information is used by FSA to  
determine whether a State meets the  
eligibility criteria to be a recipient of  
grant funds, and to determine if the  
grant is being administered  
appropriately. Lack of adequate  
information to make these  
determinations could result in the  
improper administration and  
appropriation of Federal grant funds.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on  
or before October 21, 2003 to be assured  
consideration.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments concerning this  
notice should be address to Chester  
Bailey, Mediation Coordinator, USDA,  
FSA, Outreach Staff, Room 3716-S,  
Stop 0511, 1400 Independence Avenue,  
SW., Washington, DC 20250 and to: the  
Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of  
Information and Regulatory Affairs,  
Office of Management and Budget,  
Washington, DC 20503. Comments may  
be submitted by e-mail to  
[chester.bailey@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:chester.bailey@wdc.usda.gov). Copies of  
the information collection may be  
obtained by contacting Chester Bailey at  
(202) 720-1471.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**  
Chester Bailey, FSA, Outreach Staff,  
telephone (202) 720-1471.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title:* Certified Mediation Program.

*OMB Control Number:* 0560-0165.

*Expiration Date of Approval:*  
September 10, 2003.

*Type of Request:* Extension of  
Currently Approved Information  
Collection.

*Abstract:* This information is needed  
by FSA to effectively administer the  
Certified State Mediation Program in  
accordance with Subtitles A and B of  
Title V of the Agricultural Credit Act of  
1987 (Pub. L. 100-233). FSA collects the  
information by mail, phone, fax, in  
person, or via the Internet. Although  
other institutions, public and private,  
generally require and collect  
information similar to that requested by  
FSA, there is a wide diversity in  
reporting practices.

The information to be collected  
includes an application for certification,  
re-verification for subsequent annual  
approval, SF-424 Application for  
Federal Assistance, audit reports and  
financial management systems and  
reporting requirements.

The information requested is reported  
annually and is necessary for the FSA  
to determine eligibility, and to  
administer the mediation grant program  
in an equitable and cost-effective  
manner.

*Estimate of Burden:* The public  
reporting burden for this information  
collection is estimated to average 34  
hours per respondent.

*Respondents:* State agencies.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:*  
29.

*Estimate Number of Responses per  
Respondent:* 6.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on  
Respondents:* 986 hours.

Comment is invited on: (a) Whether  
the collection of information is  
necessary for the above stated purposes  
and the proper performance of FSA,  
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 being  
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  
automate, electronic, mechanical, or  
other technological collation techniques  
or other forms of information  
technology.

Comments will be summarized and  
included in the request for Office of  
Management and Budget approval.

Signed in Washington, DC, on August 15,  
2003.

**James R. Little,**

*Administrator, Farm Service Agency.*

[FR Doc. 03-21490 Filed 8-21-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-05-P**