

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Farm Service Agency****Notice of Request for Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection—Farm Loan Programs Account Servicing Policies**

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 intent of the Farm Service Agency (FSA) to request an extension of a currently approved information collection for "Farm Loan Programs Account Servicing Policies" used in support of the FSA, Farm Loan Programs (FLP). This renewal does not involve any revisions to the program regulations.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Bashir Duale, Senior Loan Officer, USDA, Farm Service Agency, Loan Servicing and Property Management Division, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., STOP 0523, Washington, DC 20250-0523; Telephone (202) 720-1645; Electronic mail: bashir_duale@wdc.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Farm Loan Programs Account Servicing Policies.

OMB Control Number: 0560-0161.

Expiration Date of Approval: March 31, 2004.

Type of Request: Extension of Currently Approved Information Collection.

Abstract: The regulation describes the policies and procedures the Agency will use in servicing delinquent FLP loans. Servicing of the accounts is administered in accordance with the provisions of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (CONACT), as amended. The CONACT establishes required notification by the Agency and response time frame requirements for the borrower and Agency actions on the borrower's request. Specifically, it requires a borrower to document that they can meet family living and farm operating expenses and service all debts, including the loan they are proposing to be restructured by the Agency. This information submitted by the borrowers to the Agency is used by the Agency officials to consider a financially distressed or delinquent borrower's request for debt restructuring, including rescheduling,

re-amortization, consolidation, deferral, and write down.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 45 minutes per response.

Respondents: Individuals or households, businesses or other for profit and farms.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 11,672.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 25,302.

Comments are sought on these requirements including: (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; 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 should be sent to the Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503 and to Bashir Duale, USDA, FSA, Farm Loan Programs, Loan Servicing and Property Management Division, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., STOP 0523, Washington, DC 20250-0523. Copies of the information collection may be obtained from Bashir Duale at the above address.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval of the information collection. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

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

James R. Little,

Administrator, Farm Service Agency.

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BILLING CODE 3410-05-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Farm Service Agency****Information Collection: Minority Farm Register**

AGENCY: Farm Service Agency, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) is seeking comments from all interested individuals and organizations on the collection of information for a Minority Farm Register, which is a voluntary register of minority farm or ranch operators, landowners, tenants and others with farming or ranching interest. The Minority Farm register will provide a listing to be used by USDA's Office of Outreach and other minority outreach organizations to better serve minority farmers and help abate the decline of minority farmers throughout the country.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received on or before October 21, 2003 to be assured consideration. Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable. Comments should reference the OMB number and title of the information collection to which they pertain.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be sent to Ronald W. Holling, Assistant to the Director, Office of Business and Program Integration, Farm Service Agency, STOP 0501, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-0501, (202) 720-8530; e-mail Ronald.Holling@usda.gov, and to the Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503. All comments will become a matter of public record. For further information, contact Ronald Holling at the address listed above.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: USDA Minority Farm Register.

OMB Number: 0560-NEW.

Type of Request: Request for Approval of a New Information Collection.

Abstract: The purpose of this information collection is to create a Minority Farm Register, which is a voluntary register of minority farm or ranch operators, landowners, tenants and others with farming or ranching interest. The information to be collected will be name, address, Social Security Number, phone number, race, ethnicity and gender. The names and addresses will be the only required information. Providing Social Security Numbers, phone numbers, race, ethnicity and gender will be completely voluntary. The Register will provide a listing to be used by USDA's Office of Outreach to help minority farm and ranch operators who are not land owners to be introduced to FSA's land ownership and farm loan programs to acquire land