

factors, and submit the proposals and funding recommendations to the Deputy Administrator, Commodity and Marketing Programs.

FAS will use the following criteria in evaluating proposals:

- The ability of the organization to provide an experienced staff with the requisite technical and trade experience to execute the proposal;
- The extent to which the proposal is targeted to a market in which the United States is generally competitive;
- The potential for expanding commercial sales in the proposed market;
- The nature of the specific market constraint or opportunity involved and how well it is addressed by the proposal;
- The extent to which the importer's contribution, in terms of handling and processing, enhances the potential outcome of the project;
- The amount of reimbursement requested and the organization's willingness to contribute resources, including cash and goods and services of the U.S. industry and foreign third parties; and
- How well the proposed technical assistance component assures that performance trials will effectively demonstrate the intended end-use benefit.

Highest priority for funding under this announcement will be given to meritorious proposals which target countries which meet either of the following criteria:

- Per capita income less than \$9,265 (the ceiling on upper middle income economies as determined by the World Bank [World Development Indicators 2001]); and population greater than 1 million. Proposals may address suitable regional groupings, for example, the islands of the Caribbean Basin; or
- U.S. market share of imports of the commodity identified in the proposal of 10 percent or less.

Agreements

Following approval of a proposal, CCC will enter into an agreement with the organization that submitted the proposal. Agreements will incorporate the details of each project as approved by FAS. Each agreement will identify terms and conditions pursuant to which CCC will reimburse certain costs of each project. Agreements will also outline the responsibilities of the participant, including, but not limited to, procurement (or arranging for procurement) of the commodity sample at a fair market price, arranging for transportation of the commodity sample within the time limit specified in the

agreement (organizations should endeavor to ship commodities within 6 months of effective date of agreement), compliance with cargo preference requirements (shipment on United States flag vessels, as required), compliance with the Fly America Act requirements (shipment on United States air carriers, as required), timely and effective implementation of technical assistance, and submission of a written evaluation report within 90 days of expiration of the agreement. Evaluation reports should address all performance measures which were presented in the proposal.

Closing Date for Proposals

To be considered for participation in the QSP, interested parties should submit, via a commercial delivery service (including FedEx, DHL, etc.), proposals to: Director, Marketing Operations Staff, Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 4932-S, Stop 1042, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-1042. All proposals must be received by 5 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time, August 18, 2003.

Dated: July 11, 2003.

A. Ellen Terpstra,

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

[FR Doc. 03-18268 Filed 7-17-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Commodity Credit Corporation

Announcement of the 2003/2004 Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops Program

AGENCY: Commodity Credit Corporation, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Commodity Credit Corporation has published elsewhere in this issue a final rule establishing the "Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops" program to help open, retain, and expand markets for U.S. specialty crops.

DATES: Proposals will be accepted between July 18, 2003 and 5 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time, August 18, 2003. Proposals will be reviewed, and funding decisions will be made, as proposals are received.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Marketing Operations Staff, Foreign Agricultural Service, Room 4932-S, Stop 1042, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Ave.,

SW., Washington, DC 20250-1042, or telephone: (202) 720-4327.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: To be considered for participation in the Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops (TASC) program, interested parties should submit, via a commercial delivery service (including FedEx, DHL, etc.), proposals to: Director, Marketing Operations Staff, Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 4932-S, Stop 1042, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-1042. All proposals must be received by 5 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time, August 18, 2003. Although entities interested in participating in the TASC program are not required to submit proposals in any specific format, all proposals must contain complete information about the proposed projects as described in the final rule, published elsewhere in this issue, that establishes the program.

Dated: July 11, 2003.

A. Ellen Terpstra,

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

[FR Doc. 03-18267 Filed 7-17-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Farm Service Agency

Notice of Request for Revision and Extension of Currently Approved Information Collection—Emergency Farm Loan 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 intent of Farm Service Agency (FSA) to request an extension of currently approved information collections used in support of FSA's Emergency Loan Program.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received on or before September 16, 2003 to be assured consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Janet Downs, Senior Loan Officer, USDA, Farm Service Agency, Loan Making Division, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Stop 0522, Washington, DC 20250-0522; Telephone (202) 720-0599; e-mail: janet_downs@wdc.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: 7 CFR 764, Emergency Farm Loans.

OMB Control Number: 0560-0159.

Expiration Date of Approval: 01/31/2004.

Type of Request: Extension of Currently Approved Information Collection.

Abstract: The information collected under control number 0560-0159 is needed for FSA to effectively administer the Emergency Loan Program in accordance with the requirements of 7 CFR 764 as authorized by the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (CONACT). The collected information is submitted to the Agency loan official by loan applicants and commercial lenders for use in making program eligibility and financial feasibility determinations as required by the CONACT.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .77 hours per response.

Respondents: Individual farmers and commercial lenders.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 4,961.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 3,816.

Comments are sought on these requirements including: (a) If 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 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 automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

These 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 Janet Downs, USDA, FSA, Farm Loan Programs, Loan Making Division, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Stop 0522, Washington, DC 20250-0522. Copies of the information collection may be obtained from Janet Downs at the above address. Comments regarding paperwork burden 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 July 10, 2003.

James R. Little,

Administrator, Farm Service Agency.

[FR Doc. 03-18194 Filed 7-17-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food and Nutrition Service

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Performance Reporting System, Management Evaluation, Data Analysis, and Corrective Action

AGENCY: Food and Nutrition Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice invites the general public and other public agencies to comment on a proposed information collection. The proposed collection would be a reinstatement of a collection which has expired. The expired collection was previously approved under OMB No. 0584-0010.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before September 16, 2003.

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 has 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; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to Edward Speshock, Senior Program Analyst, State Administration Branch, Food Stamp Program, Food and Nutrition 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 OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection

form and instruction should be directed to Edward Speshock, (703) 305-2383.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Performance Reporting System, Management Evaluation, Data Analysis, and Corrective Action.

OMB Number: 0584-0010.

Expiration Date: Reinstatement requested.

Type of Request: Reinstatement, with change, to a previously approved collection for which approval has expired.

Abstract: The purpose of the Performance Reporting System (PRS) is to ensure that each State agency and project area is operating the Food Stamp Program in accordance with the requirements of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (the Act) (7 U.S.C. 2011, *et seq.*), as amended, and corresponding program regulations. Under Section 11 of the Act (7 U.S.C. 2020), State agencies must maintain necessary records to ascertain that the Food Stamp Program is operating in compliance with the Act and regulations and must make these records available to the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) for inspection and audit.

Management Evaluation (ME) Review Schedules—Unless the State receives approval for an alternative Management Evaluation review schedule, each State agency is required, under 7 CFR part 275, to submit one review schedule every one, two, or three years, depending on the project area make-up of the State.

Data Analysis—Under 7 CFR part 275, each State must establish a system for analysis and evaluation of all data available to the State. Data analysis and evaluation is an ongoing process that facilitates the development of effective and prompt corrective action.

Corrective Action Plans—Under 7 CFR part 275, State agencies must prepare a corrective action plan (CAP) addressing identified deficiencies. The State agencies must develop a system for monitoring and evaluating corrective action and submit CAP updates, as necessary.

Affected Public: State agencies.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 52 State agencies, Guam and the Virgin Islands.

Number of responses per respondent: 1.0.

Estimated total annual responses: 54.

Hours per response: 7.5.

Number of record keepers: 405.

Estimated annual hours per record keepers: 54.

Estimated annual record keeping burden: 27 hours.

Total annual reporting and record keeping burdens: 432.