

Notices

Federal Register

Vol. 70, No. 209

Monday, October 31, 2005

This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Farm Service Agency

Commodity Credit Corporation

Request for Extension and Revision of a Currently Approved Information Collection; Payment Eligibility and Payment Limitation Determinations Under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program

AGENCIES: Farm Service Agency and the Commodity Credit Corporation, 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) and the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) to request an extension and revision of a currently approved information collection. This information collection is used to support payment eligibility and payment limitation determinations for multiple programs including the Conservation Reserve Program, Price Support Programs, the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program authorized by the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, and the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received on or before December 30, 2005 to be assured consideration. Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

ADDRESSES: Comments concerning this notice should be addressed to Farm Service Agency, Attn: James Baxa, Program Manager, Production, Emergencies, and Compliance Division, Farm Service Agency, United States Department of Agriculture, STOP 0517, Room 4752, South Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-0517. Comments also may be submitted via

facsimile to (202) 720-4941 or by e-mail to james.baxa@wdc.usda.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: James Baxa, Program Manager at (202) 720-9882, or Diane Sharp, Director of Production, Emergencies, and Compliance Division at (202) 720-7641.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Payment Eligibility and Payment Limitation Determinations under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program.

OMB Control Number: 0560-0096.

Expiration Date of Approval: November 30, 2006.

Type of Request: Extension and Revision of a Currently Approved Information Collection.

Abstract: The collection of information is necessary to determine the eligibility of individuals and entities as defined at 7 CFR part 1400 for payment eligibility and payment limitation in multiple programs including the Conservation Reserve Program, the Price Support Programs, the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program and the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program. The regulations at 7 CFR part 1400 provide for "actively engaged in farming" and "person" determinations to be made for individuals or entities, with respect to a particular farming operation, in order to determine their payment eligibility and payment limitations under the multiple programs. Forms CCC-502A, CCC-502B, CCC-502C, CCC-502D, CCC-502EZ, CCC-501A and CCC-501B are used by the respondents. The proposed revision is the consolidation of these mentioned forms into a single form to be used by all respondents. The common elements to collect from individuals or entities are names, farming interest, members, addresses, tax identification numbers, location of the lands, percentage of leased or owned equipments, citizenship types, estimated farming labor hours, estimated percentage of farming management, and designated names in receiving payments. The respondents are allowed to submit this information either through the physical use of the form or electronically to the appropriate FSA County office-based personnel who receive and make the payment eligibility determinations.

Information collection under Titles I and II of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 are exempted

from Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, including the Conservation Reserve Program, the Price Support Programs, the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program. Only the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program is not exempt from the requirement of Paperwork Reduction Act, so it is necessary to describe the information collection in this Notice. If the information is not collected from the respondents, the FSA would not be able to administer the payment programs properly to comply with the regulations.

Estimate of Burden: Average 56 minutes per response.

Type of Respondents: Producers who, as owner, landlord, tenant, or sharecropper, are involved in the farming operations and who would seek benefits under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program.

Estimated Annual Number of Respondents: 125,000.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: One per respondent.

Estimated Total Burden Hours: 116,667.

Comment is invited on: (a) Whether this 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; (d) ways to minimize the burden of collection 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 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 James Baxa, Program Manager, Production, Emergencies and Compliance Division, Farm Service Agency, United States Department of Agriculture, STOP 0517, Room 4752-S, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250. Copies of the information collection may be obtained from James Baxa the above address.

All comments received in responses to this notice, including names and addresses when provided, will be a

matter of public record. Comments will be summarized and included in the submission for Office of Management and Budget approval.

Signed at Washington, DC, on October 24, 2005.

Michael W. Yost,

Acting Administrator, Farm Service Agency and Acting Executive Vice President, Commodity Credit Corporation.

[FR Doc. 05-21593 Filed 10-28-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-05-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Tehama County Resource Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Tehama County Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) will meet in Red Bluff, California. Agenda items to be covered include: (1) Introductions, (2) Approval of Minutes, (3) Public Comment, (4) Modoc County Speaker, and Tehama County Speaker, (5) Subcommittee Reports, (6) Chairman's Perspective, (7) General Discussion, (8) County Update, (9) Next Agenda.

DATES: The meeting will be held on November 10, 2005 from 9 a.m. and end at approximately 12 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Lincoln Street School, Conference Room A, 1135 Lincoln Street, Red Bluff, CA. Individuals wishing to speak or propose agenda items must send their names and proposals to Jim Giachino, DFO, 825 N. Humboldt Ave., Willows, CA 95988.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bobbin Gaddini, Committee Coordinator, USDA, Mendocino National Forest, Grindstone Ranger District, PO Box 164, Elk Creek, CA 95939. (530) 968-5329; E-Mail ggaddini@fs.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting is open to the public. Committee discussion is limited to Forest Service staff and Committee members. However, persons who wish to bring matters to the attention of the Committee may file written statements with the Committee staff before or after the meeting. Public input sessions will be provided and individuals who made written requests by November 7, 2005 will have the opportunity to address the committee at those sessions.

Dated: October 25, 2005.

James F. Giachino,

Designated Federal Official.

[FR Doc. 05-21610 Filed 10-28-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Guarantee Fee Rates for Guaranteed Loans for Fiscal Year 2006; Maximum Portion of Guarantee Authority Available for Fiscal Year 2006

AGENCY: Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: As set forth in 7 CFR 4279.107(b) and 4280.126(c), Rural Development (the Agency) has the authority to charge an annual renewal fee for loans made under the Business and Industry (B&I) Guaranteed Loan Program and the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Improvements (REEEI) Guaranteed Loan Program. Pursuant to that authority, the Agency is establishing the renewal fee rate at one-fourth of 1 percent for the B&I Guaranteed Loan Program and one-eighth of 1 percent for the REEEI Guaranteed Loan Program. These rates will apply to all loans obligated in fiscal year (FY) 2006 that are made under the cited programs. As established in 7 CFR 4279.107 and 4280.126, the amount of the fee on each guaranteed loan will be determined by multiplying the fee rate by the outstanding principal loan balance as of December 31, multiplied by the percent of guarantee.

As set forth in 7 CFR 4280.126(a), each fiscal year the Agency shall establish the initial guarantee fee rate for loans made under the REEEI Guaranteed Loan Program. Pursuant to that authority, the Agency is establishing the initial guarantee fee rate at 1 percent for loans made in FY 2006.

As set forth in 7 CFR 4279.107(a) and 4279.119(b)(4), each fiscal year the Agency shall establish a limit on the maximum portion of B&I guarantee authority available for that fiscal year that may be used to guarantee loans with a B&I guarantee fee of 1 percent or guaranteed loans with a guarantee percentage exceeding 80 percent.

Allowing the guarantee fee to be reduced to 1 percent or exceeding the 80 percent guarantee on certain B&I guaranteed loans that meet the conditions set forth in 7 CFR 4279.107 and 4279.119 will increase the Agency's ability to focus guarantee assistance on projects which the Agency has found

particularly meritorious, such as projects in rural communities that remain persistently poor, which experience long-term population decline and job deterioration, are experiencing trauma as a result of natural disaster, or are high impact as defined in 7 CFR 4279.155(b)(5).

Not more than 12 percent of the Agency's quarterly apportioned B&I guarantee authority will be reserved for loan requests with a guarantee fee of 1 percent, and not more than 15 percent of the Agency's quarterly apportioned guarantee authority will be reserved for guaranteed loan requests with a guaranteed percentage exceeding 80 percent. Once the above quarterly limits have been reached, all additional loans guaranteed during the remainder of that quarter will require a 2 percent guarantee fee and not exceed an 80 percent guarantee limit.

Written requests by the Rural Development State Office for approval of a guaranteed loan with a 1 percent guarantee fee or a guaranteed loan exceeding 80 percent must be forwarded to the National Office, Attn: Director, Business and Industry Division, for review and consideration prior to obligation of the guaranteed loan. The Administrator will provide a written response to the State Office confirming approval or disapproval of the request.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 31, 2005.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rick Bonnet, Special Projects/Programs Oversight Division, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA, STOP 3221, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-3221, telephone (202) 720-1804.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This action has been reviewed and determined not to be a rule or regulation as defined in Executive Order 12866 as amended by Executive Order 13258.

Dated: October 21, 2005.

Peter J. Thomas,
Administrator.

[FR Doc. 05-21588 Filed 10-28-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-XY-P