

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by December 4, 2006 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be mailed to Ginny McBride, NASS Clearance Officer, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 5336 South Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250 or sent electronically to gmcbride@nass.usda.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joseph T. Reilly, Associate Administrator, National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, (202) 720-4333.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Equine Survey.

OMB Number: 0535-0227.

Expiration Date: 02/28/2007.

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

Abstract: To improve information regarding the equine industry, several State Departments of Agriculture are expected to contract with the National Agricultural Statistics Service to conduct an Equine Survey in their State within the next 3 years. Equine activities offer unusually varied opportunities for rural development. In addition to providing the livelihood for breeders, trainers, veterinarians, and many others, the horse remains important to recreation. The number of operations, number of animals, and economic information will quantify the importance of the equine industry to State economies. Income data provides a view of the benefits that the industry provides to the State economy and a ranking of its relative importance within both the agricultural sector and the State's total economic sector. The expenditure information provides data regarding the multiplier effect of money from the equine industry, effects of wage rates paid to both permanent and part-time employees, and secondary businesses supported by the industry. NASS intends to request that the survey be approved for 3 years. These data will be collected under the authority of 7 U.S.C. 2204(a). Individually identifiable data collected under this authority are governed by Section 1770 of the Food Security Act of 1985, 7 U.S.C. 2276, which requires USDA to afford strict confidentiality to non-aggregated data provided by respondents.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 30 minutes per response.

Respondents: Horse owners, breeders, trainers, boarders.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 45,000.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 22,500 hours.

Copies of this information collection and related instructions can be obtained without charge from Ginny McBride, NASS Clearance Officer, at (202) 720-5778.

Comments: 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 will have 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; 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. All responses to this notice will become a matter of public record and be summarized in the request for OMB approval.

Signed at Washington, DC, September 28, 2006.

R. Ronald Bosecker,
NASS Administrator.

[FR Doc. 06-8428 Filed 10-2-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-20-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Notice of Availability

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The Record of Decision (ROD) for the Coal Creek Flood Control and Parkway Final Environmental Impact Statement is now available to the public. On September 1, 2006, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) published a Final Environmental Impact Statement consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, to disclose potential effects to the human environment resulting from proposed flood control improvements to Coal Creek in Cedar City, Utah. The ROD authorizes implementation of Alternative C (Replace Main Street diversion/drop structure) in conjunction

with the North Field Canal Option and Parkway Option C1.

DATES: *Effective Date:* October 2, 2006.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Marnie Wilson, Coal Creek EIS, USDA-NRCS, Wallace F. Bennett Federal Building, 125 South State Street, Room 4402, Salt Lake City, UT 84138-1100. Project information is also available on the Internet at: <http://www.ut.nrcs.usda.gov> under Public Notices.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Copies of the Final EIS and ROD are available by request from Marnie Wilson at the address listed above. Basic data developed during the environmental evaluation are on file and may be reviewed by contacting Sylvia Gillen, Utah State Conservationist.

Signed in Salt Lake City, Utah on September 21, 2006.

Sylvia A. Gillen,
State Conservationist.

[FR Doc. E6-16373 Filed 10-2-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-16-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Business—Cooperative Service

Notice of Request for Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Rural Business—Cooperative Service.

ACTION: Proposed collection; comments requested.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Rural Business-Cooperative Service's (RBS) intention to request information collection in support of the Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RBEG) program and Televisions Demonstration Grants (7 CFR part 1942-G).

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by December 4, 2006 to be assured of consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Cindy Mason, Specialty Lenders Division, Rural Business—Cooperative Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, STOP 3225, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Washington, DC 20250-3225, telephone (202) 690-1433.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments on the collection of information to Renita Bolden, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, Support Services Division, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Stop 0742, 1400

Independence Avenue, SW.,
Washington, DC 20250.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Rural Business Enterprise Grants and Televisions Demonstration Grants.

OMB Number: 0570-0022.

Expiration Date of Approval: January 1, 2007

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

Abstract: The objective of the RBEG program is to facilitate the development of small and emerging private businesses in rural areas. This purpose is achieved through grants made by RBS to public bodies and nonprofit corporations. Television Demonstration grants are available to private nonprofit public television systems to provide information on agriculture and other issues of importance to farmers and the rural residents. The regulation contains various requirements for information from the grantees, and some requirements may cause the grantees to require information from other parties. The information requested is vital for RBS to be able to process applications in a responsible manner, make prudent program decisions, and effectively monitor the grantees' activities to protect the Government's financial interest and ensure that funds obtained from the Government are used appropriately. It includes information to determine eligibility; the specific purpose for which grant funds will be used; timeframes; who will be carrying out the grant purposes; project priority; applicant experience; employment improvement; and mitigation of economic distress.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 2.5 hours per response.

Respondents: Nonprofit corporations and public bodies.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 720.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 12.

Estimated Total Annual Responses: 8,640.

Estimated Number of Hours Per Response: 2.5.

Estimated Total Hours: 21,600 hours.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Cheryl Thompson, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, at (202) 692-0043.

Comments: Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of RBS, including whether the information will

have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the RBS 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; 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 may be sent to Renita Bolden, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, STOP 0742, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Washington, DC 20250. All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: September 26, 2006.

Jackie J. Gleason,

Administrator, Rural Business—Cooperative Service.

[FR Doc. E6-16286 Filed 10-2-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-XY-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

Publication of Depreciation Rates

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS), an agency delivering the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development Utilities Programs, hereby announces the depreciation rates for telecommunications plant for the period ending December 31, 2005.

DATES: These rates are effective immediately and will remain in effect until rates are available for the period ending December 31, 2006.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Jonathan P. Claffey, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Telecommunications Program, Rural Development Utilities Programs, STOP 1590—Room 5151, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-1590. Telephone: (202) 720-9556.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In the USDA Rural Development regulation 7 CFR part 1737, Pre-Loan Policies and Procedures Common to Insured and Guaranteed Telecommunications Loans, section 1737.70(e) explains the depreciation rates that are used by USDA Rural Development in its

feasibility studies. Section 1737.70(e)(2) refers to median depreciation rates published by USDA Rural Development for all borrowers. The following chart provides those rates, compiled by USDA Rural Development, for the reporting period ending December 31, 2005:

MEDIAN DEPRECIATION RATES OF USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT BORROWERS BY EQUIPMENT CATEGORY FOR PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2005

Telecommunications plant category	Depreciation rate
1. Land and Support Assets:	
a. Motor Vehicles	16.00
b. Aircraft	10.00
c. Special purpose vehicles	12.00
d. Garage and other work equipment	10.00
e. Buildings	3.20
f. Furniture and Office equipment	10.00
g. General purpose computers	20.00
2. Central Office Switching:	
a. Digital	8.45
b. Analog & Electro-mechanical	10.00
c. Operator Systems	10.00
3. Central Office Transmission:	
a. Radio Systems	9.24
b. Circuit equipment	10.00
4. Information origination/termination:	
a. Station apparatus	12.00
b. Customer premises wiring	10.00
c. Large private branch exchanges	12.50
d. Public telephone terminal equipment	11.40
e. Other terminal equipment	10.35
5. Cable and wire facilities:	
a. Aerial cable—Poles	6.37
b. Aerial cable—Metal	5.90
c. Aerial cable—Fiber	5.10
d. Underground cable—Metal	5.00
e. Underground cable—Fiber	5.00
f. Buried cable—Metal	5.00
g. Buried cable—Fiber	5.00
h. Conduit systems	3.33
i. Other	8.34

Dated: September 22, 2006.

James M. Andrew,

Administrator, Rural Utilities Service.

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