

payment has no outstanding Farm Loan Program loans and becomes delinquent on the SA amortized payment, the SA payment agreement may be reamortized in accordance with § 1951.909.

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Dated: March 24, 2003.

J.B. Penn,

Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services.

Dated: April 1, 2003.

Thomas C. Dorr,

Under Secretary for Rural Development.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Farm Service Agency

Rural Housing Service

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Rural Utilities Service

7 CFR Parts 772, 1901, and 1951

RIN 0560-AG67

Servicing Minor Program Loans

AGENCY: Farm Service Agency, USDA.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: This rule proposes to consolidate, clarify and revise the servicing regulations for the Minor Programs currently administered by the Farm Service Agency, Farm Loan Programs (FSA). Minor Program loans involve existing loans only since there is no longer funding for new loans in these programs. FSA Minor Programs consist of the following loan types: Grazing Association loans and Irrigation and Drainage Association loans previously administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development (RD) mission area, and Non-Farm enterprise and Recreation Loans made to individuals which have previously been administered by FSA. Recreation loans to associations will continue to be serviced by RD.

DATES: Comments on the proposed rule must be received on or before June 9, 2003 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Mail comments on the proposed rule to: Veldon Hall, Director, Farm Loan Programs, Loan Servicing and Property Management Division, Farm Service Agency, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW. Stop 0523, Washington, DC 20250-0523, or hand deliver to Suite 500, 1250 Maryland Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20024 during normal business hours.

Comments and supporting documents may be viewed by contacting the information contact listed below. All comments, including names and addresses, will become part of the public record. Comments on the paperwork burden of this proposed rule must be sent to the addresses listed in the Paperwork Reduction Act section of this Rule.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mel Thompson, Senior Loan Officer, Farm Service Agency; telephone: 202-720-7862; Facsimile: 202-690-1196; e-mail: mel_thompson@wdc.fsa.usda.gov.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication (Braille, large print, audio tape, etc.) should contact the USDA Target Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Executive Order 12866

This rule was determined to be not significant under Executive Order 12866 and was not reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget.

Regulatory Flexibility Act

The Agency certifies that this rule will not have a significant economic effect on a substantial number of small entities, because it does not require any action by the borrower who may be a small entity. The Agency, therefore, is not required to perform a Regulatory Flexibility Analysis as required by the Regulatory Flexibility Act, Pub. L. 96-534, as amended (5 U.S.C. 601). This rule does not impact small entities to a greater extent than large entities.

Environmental Evaluation

The environmental impacts of this proposed rule have been considered in accordance with the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*, the regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality (40 CFR parts 1500-1508), and the FSA regulations for compliance with NEPA, 7 CFR parts 799, and 1940, subpart G. FSA completed an environmental evaluation and concluded that this proposed rule, if enacted, requires no further environmental review because no new loans are authorized. Servicing existing loans in accordance with previously published rules containing environmental requirements is not a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. No extraordinary circumstances or other unforeseeable factors exist which would require preparation of an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement. A copy of the environmental

evaluation is available for inspection and review upon request.

Executive Order 12988

This rule has been reviewed in accordance with E.O. 12988, Civil Justice Reform. In accordance with that Executive Order: (1) All State and local laws and regulations that are in conflict with this rule will be preempted; (2) no retroactive effect will be given to this rule; and (3) administrative proceedings in accordance with 7 CFR parts 11 and 780 must be exhausted before requesting judicial review.

Executive Order 12372

As stated in the Notice related to 7 CFR part 3015, subpart V (48 FR 29115, June 24, 1983) the programs and activities within this rule do not require consultation with state and local officials under the scope of Executive Order 12372.

Unfunded Mandates Reform Act

This rule contains no Federal mandates as defined in Title II of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (UMRA). Thus, this rule is not subject to the requirements of sections 202 and 205 of UMRA.

Executive Order 13132

The policies contained in this rule do not have any substantial direct effect on states, on the relationship between the national government and the states, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government. Nor does this rule impose any new significant loan servicing criteria on state and local governments. The proposed rule revises the citation references and consolidates the servicing regulations to streamline loan servicing criteria applicable to Minor Programs. Therefore, consultation with the states is not required.

Paperwork Reduction Act

The amendments to 7 CFR parts 772, 1901, subpart E, and 1951, subparts E and F, contained in this rule only delete requirements and propose no new collections nor do they significantly affect the aggregate information collection burden of the Agencies. Certain forms and information collection are included and approved in the Information Collection Package for OMB control number 0560-0158 and are not impacted by this collection. Still, this rule transfers some of the information collections assigned OMB control numbers 0575-0118, 0575-0093, and 0575-0066, to the proposed part 772. This will result in certain burden that is currently assigned by OMB to the