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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: List Sampling Frame.

OMB Control Number: 0535-0140.

Expiration Date of Approval: October 31, 2003.

Type of Request: Intent to extend a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: The primary objectives of the National Agricultural Statistics Service are to prepare and issue state and national estimates of crop production, livestock production, economic statistics, and environmental statistics related to agriculture and also to conduct the Census of Agriculture.

The List Sampling Frame is used to maintain as complete a list as possible of farm operations. The goal is to produce for each state a relatively complete, current, and unduplicated list of names to sample for agricultural operation surveys. Information from these surveys is used by government agencies and educational institutions in planning, farm policy analysis, and program administration.

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 4 minutes per response.

Respondents: Farms.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 250,000.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 16,670 hours.

Copies of this information collection and related instructions can be obtained without charge from Ginny McBride, NASS OMB 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, April 24, 2003.

Carol House,

Associate Administrator.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) Inviting Applications for the Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvements Grant Program

AGENCY: Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of extension of application deadline and clarification of previous notice.

SUMMARY: The Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS) extends the deadline of June 6, 2003, for submitting applications for grant funds to purchase renewable energy systems and make energy efficiency improvements for agricultural producers and rural small businesses under Title IX, Section 9006, pursuant to enactment of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 announced in a notice of funds availability (NOFA) published April 8, 2003 (67 FR 17009). This action is also taken to provide additional information that clarifies the financial requirements for agricultural producers and requirements for utility interconnection agreements and power purchase arrangements. This extension will allow eligible applicants additional time to submit applications.

DATES: Accordingly, the deadline for submitting applications under the notice published April 8, 2003, (67 FR 17009) is extended to June 27, 2003. Applications postmarked after June 27, 2003, will be returned to the applicant with no action. Postage due applications will not be accepted.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
USDA Rural Development State Offices

published in the notice on April 8, 2003 (67 FR 17009).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background and Discussion of Extension of Application Deadline

RBS published a Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) on April 8, 2003 (67 FR 17009) with an application deadline of June 6, 2003. Due to the application requirements outlined in the NOFA and the clarifications of two areas of the NOFA that are being provided as part of this notice, RBS is extending the application period until June 26, 2003.

The NOFA requires that agricultural producers submit a current balance sheet and income statement in a format that is generally required by commercial agricultural lenders. In addition, agricultural producers are required to provide financial statements for the past 3 years, including income statements and balance sheets, in the format that is generally required by commercial agricultural lenders. For agricultural producers, the requirement of the use of a format that is generally required by commercial agricultural lenders is satisfied by the use of "income tax returns, bank statements, balance sheet/income statements, or financial statements." If the applicant chooses to submit last year's income tax return in lieu of a current income statement, a balance sheet and/or bank statement will be required. This requirement is necessary in order to determine the demonstrated financial need for the grant. Agricultural producers may submit only income tax returns to satisfy the requirement to provide financial statements for the past 3 years. For assistance in finding technical and feasibility resources useful in preparing an application under the NOFA, please access the Rural Development Web site, <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>, in the Rural Development News section.

RBS recognizes that the interconnection agreement and power purchase arrangements may take several months to arrange and execute. While the Agency always recognized this reality, language used in the NOFA to describe the requirement could have been more clear. Applicants are advised that a letter of intent between the utility and the applicant to enter into an interconnection agreement satisfies the requirement in the NOFA. Applicants are also advised that a letter of intent between the power purchaser and the applicant to enter into a power purchase arrangement satisfies the requirement in the NOFA. RBS recognizes that the utility and the power purchaser may be different entities.