

based classifications and subject specific descriptive fields supports a unique retrieval capability in this system. The information can be utilized nationally, regionally, or at more detailed levels, by program leaders, budget officials, and administrators to identify resource utilization, monitor research activity in specific target areas, support decision making and resource allocation, not just on individual projects, but also for specific program areas. Combining system capabilities facilitates the program evaluation, accountability, and decision-making processes.

Estimate of Burden: The preferred method for submitting this information collection is electronic via a web interface. CSREES will accept electronic submissions by other means and on rare occasions, by a fax transmission. A submission is made once. There may be instances that a second submission is required, however, this would involve corrections or revisions to the initial submission. There are no special circumstances that would cause an information collection to be conducted in a manner that would require respondents to submit more than an original and two copies of any document. In fact, paper-based submissions are discouraged.

Determination of hour burden estimates for the CRIS data collection was accomplished by requesting estimates from nine individuals who have significant experience in the generation of information to satisfy the collection requirements of the AD-416, AD-417, AD-419 and AD-421 forms. The basic unit of measure in CRIS is a project. As such for purposes of this estimate, a respondent was treated as all responses related to a single project. Typically the information to provide data on the four forms is the result of work processes performed by a number of individuals, both professional and administrative. Accordingly the estimate was developed by tabulating burden hours in two categories, the first, scientific/professional, and the second, administrative. The estimates provided varied in magnitude. The variation is due to significant differences in the internal procedures and processes utilized at the individual locations as well as differences between individual interpretation of the inclusion of efforts contributed to the development of the information. Responses were received from eight of the nine individuals. The data was summarized to develop common burden hour estimates related to each individual form. These estimates were then projected onto the total

volume of the forms processed by CRIS in an annual cycle.

CSREES estimates the number of responses for the CRIS Form AD-416 will be 3,258 with an estimated response time of 3.9 hours per form, representing a total annual burden of 12,706 hours for this form. CSREES estimates the number of responses for the CRIS Form AD-417 will be 3,258 with an estimated response time of .7 hours per form, representing a total annual burden of 2,281 hours for this form. CSREES estimates that the number of responses for the CRIS Form AD-419 will be 11,767 with an estimated response time of 1.4 hours per form, representing a total annual burden of 16,474 hours for this form. CSREES estimates the number of responses for the CRIS Form AD-421 will be 12,158 with an estimated response time of 2.7 hours per form, representing a total annual burden of 32,827 hours for this form. Thus, for this CRIS information collection, CSREES estimates a total of 30,441 annual responses, representing an estimated 64,288 annual burden hours.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Jason Hitchcock, E-Government Program Leader, Information Systems and Technology Management; CSREES/USDA; Mail Stop 2216; 1400 Independence Avenue, SW.; Washington, DC 20250-2216; or sent electronically to: jhitchcock@csrees.usda.gov.

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.

Done at Washington, DC, this 24th day of June, 2003.

Gary Cunningham,

Associate Administrator, Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service.
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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service

Notice of Intent To Revise and Request an Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations (5 CFR part 1320) which implement the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. chapter 35), this notice announces the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service's (CSREES) intention to revise and request an extension for a currently approved information collection (OMB No. 0524-0026) for Form CSREES-665, "Assurance of Compliance with the Department of Agriculture Regulations Assuring Civil Rights Compliance," and Form CSREES-666, "Organizational Information."

DATES: Submit comments on or before September 4, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Address all comments to Erin Daly, Policy Specialist, Office of Extramural Programs; CSREES/USDA; Mail Stop 2299; 1400 Independence Avenue, SW.; Washington, DC 20250-2299. Comments may be sent electronically to: edaly@csrees.usda.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Erin Daly at (202) 401-3319 or via the above e-mail address.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Assurance of Compliance with the Department of Agriculture Regulations Assuring Civil Rights Compliance and Organizational Information.

OMB Number: 0524-0026.

Expiration Date of Current Approval: August 31, 2003.

Type of Request: Intent to revise and extend a currently approved information collection for three years.

Abstract: CSREES has primary responsibility for providing linkages between the Federal and State components of a broad-based, national agricultural research, extension, and education system. Focused on national issues, its purpose is to represent the Secretary of Agriculture and carry out the intent of Congress by administering formula and grant funds appropriated for agricultural research, extension, and