

Notices

Federal Register

Vol. 68, No. 198

Tuesday, October 14, 2003

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

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

October 8, 2003

The Department of Agriculture has submitted the following information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. Comments regarding (a) whether the 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 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 should be addressed to: Desk Office for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), *Pamela Beverly OIRA*, Submission@OMB.EOP.GOV or fax (202) 395-5806 and to Departmental Clearance Office, USDA, OCIO, Mail Stop 7602, Washington, DC 20250-7602. Comments regarding these information collections are best assured of having their full effect if received within 30 days of this notification. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling (202) 720-6746.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number and the agency informs potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information that such persons are not required to respond to

the collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Foreign Agricultural Service

Title: Pub. L. 480, Title I Financing and Record Keeping.

OMB Control Number: 0551-0005.

Summary of Collection: The Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) is responsible for administering Public Law 480, Title I agreements, as amended. This regulation provides for the financing of sales of U.S. agricultural commodities to recipients of foreign countries or private entities. In accordance with the law, an agreement providing for long-term credit financing is first negotiated with the recipient through diplomatic channels. After an agreement has been signed, the recipient applies to FAS for authorization to purchase each commodity provided in the agreement. At least 75 percent of the gross tonnage of commodities purchased under Title I must be shipped on privately owned U.S. flag commercial vessels to the extent such vessels are available at fair and reasonable rates. If ocean transportation is required to a country where there is no U.S. flag vessel coverage, a foreign vessel will be used at its prevailing rate. The recipient must send the pertinent terms of all proposed ocean freight contracts, regardless of whether any portion of the ocean freight is financed by CCC, to FAS for review and approval before the vessel is contracted.

Need and Use of the Information: FAS will collect information to insure that (1) suppliers keep accurate records on Title I transactions; (2) suppliers permit access to authorized USDA representatives (such as auditors and investigators); and, (3) suppliers retain records for three years after final payment. FAS will review and evaluate the information to ensure that there are no potential conflicts of interests and ensure that the sales price is within the prevailing range of export market prices. Without the information, FAS could not ensure program compliance.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit.

Number of Respondents: 25.

Frequency of Responses: Recordkeeping; Reporting; On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 47.

Farm Service Agency

Title: Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act Report.

OMB Control Number: 0560-0097.

Summary of Collection: The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires foreign investors to report to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) in a timely manner all held, acquired, or transferred U.S. agricultural land. The Secretary of Agriculture has delegated authority for the collection of this information to the Farm Service Agency (FSA). Foreign investors may obtain form FSA-153, AFIDA Report, from their local FSA county office or from the FSA Internet site. Investors are required to file report within 90 days of the acquisition, transfer, or change in the use of their land.

Need and Use of the Information: The information collected from the AFIDA Reports is used to monitor the effect of foreign investment upon family farms and rural communities and in the preparation of a voluntary report to Congress and the President. Congress reviews the report and decides if regulatory action is necessary to limit the amount of foreign investment in U.S. agricultural land. If this information was not collected, USDA could not effectively monitor foreign investment and the impact of such holdings upon family farms and rural communities.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit; Individuals or households; Farms.

Number of Respondents: 4,375.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting on occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 904.

Farm Service Agency

Title: Farm storage Facility Loan Program.

OMB Control Number: 0560-0204.

Summary of Collection: 7 CFR 1436 authorizes the Farm Service Agency (FSA) to administer the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFLP). The regulations provide terms and conditions in which CCC may provide low-cost financing for producers to build or upgrade on-farm storage and handling facilities. Producers requesting loans must provide information regarding the need for farm storage capacity and the storage facility they