

to rural businesses to improve business, industry and employment opportunities as well as provide a diversification of the economy in rural areas.

Need and Use of the Information: The information requested is necessary for RBS to process applications in a responsible manner, make prudent credit and program decisions, and effectively monitor the intermediaries' activities to protect the Government's financial interest and ensure that funds obtained from the Government are used appropriately. Various forms are used to identify the intermediary, describe the intermediary's experience and expertise, describe how the intermediary will operate its revolving loan fund, provide for debt instruments, loan agreements, security, and other material necessary for prudent credit decisions and reasonable program monitoring.

Description of Respondents: Not-for-profit institutions; Individuals or households; Business or other for-profit.

Number of Respondents: 160.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 16,930.

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Title: University Value-Added Research Grant.

OMB Control Number: 0570-0046.

Summary of Collection: The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Pub. L. 107-171) authorizes the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture to use \$300,000 to support research at a university concerning the effects of projects for value-added agricultural commodities or products on agricultural producers and the commodity markets. The Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS) will administer this grant. RBS will collect information from applicants who must be an accredited university. The university may contract with other parties to contribute expertise or proprietary data that would not otherwise be available to the research effort.

Need and Use of the Information: RBS will use the information to confirm that an applicant meets the eligibility requirements and that the research proposals are consistent with the purposes set forth in the statute. The information is also used to make a competitive evaluation and rank the proposals in order to determine the grant award. Information considered by the reviewers in ranking the proposals are (1) the nature of the proposed research, (2) qualifications of the researchers, (3) work plan and research budget and (4) measures to evaluate the effectiveness of value-added projects.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit.

Number of Respondents: 15.

Frequency of Responses:

Recordkeeping; Reporting: On occasion; Quarterly; Semi-annually.

Total Burden Hours: 479.

Rural Utilities Service

Title: 7 CFR Part 1721, Extensions of Payments of Principal and Interest.

OMB Control Number: 0572-0123.

Summary of Collection: Rural Utilities Service (RUS) is revising procedures and conditions under which borrowers may request extensions of the payment of principal and interest. RUS electric program provides loans and loan guarantees to borrowers at interest rates and on terms that are more favorable than those generally available from the private sector. As a result of obtaining federal financing, RUS borrowers receive economic benefits that exceed any direct economic costs associated with complying with (RUS) regulations and requirements. The authority, as amended, for these extensions is contained in Section 12 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, and section 236 of the "Disaster Relief Act of 1970."

Need and Use of the Information: The collection of information occurs only when the borrower requests an extension of principal and interest. Eligible purchases include financial hardship energy resource conservation loans, renewable energy project, and contributions-in-aid of construction. The collections are made to provide needed benefits to borrowers while also maintaining the integrity of RUS loans and their repayment of taxpayer's monies.

Description of Respondents: Not for-profit institutions.

Number of Respondents: 94.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 816.

Rural Utilities Service

Title: 7 CFR Part 1738, Rural Broadband Access.

OMB Control Number: 0572-0130.

Summary of Collection: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) amended its regulation in order to establish the Rural Broadband Access Loan and Loan Guarantee Program. Title VI, Rural Broadband Access, amended The Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (RE Act), to provide loans and loan guarantees to fund the cost of construction, improvement, or acquisition of facilities and equipment for the provision of broadband service in eligible rural communities in State and territories of the United States. The regulation

prescribes the types of loans available, facilities financed and eligible applicants, as well as minimum credit support requirements considered for a loan. In addition, Title VI of the RE Act requires that Rural Utilities Service (RUS) make or guarantee a loan only if there is reasonable assurance that the loan, together with all outstanding loans and obligations of the borrower, will be repaid in full within the time agreed.

Need and Use of the Information: RUS will collect information to determine whether an applicant's eligibility to borrow from RUS under the terms of the RE Act and that the applicant complies with statutory, regulatory and administrative eligibility requirements for loan assistance. RUS will use the information to determine that the Government's security for loans made are reasonable adequate and that the loans will be repaid within the time agreed.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit; Not-for-profit institutions.

Number of Respondents: 300.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 28,475.

Farm Service Agency

Title: Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program.

OMB Control Number: 0560-0175.

Summary of Collection: The collection of crop planting and production data is necessary for the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) to calculate the producer's approved yield on the basis of actual production history. Information collection relative to the occurrence of crop damage or loss production and application for Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) is necessary for CCC to accept and consider a request for assistance under NAP and to facilitate eligibility determinations. NAP provides eligible producers of eligible crops with protection to the catastrophic risk protection plan of crop insurance. It helps reduce production risks faced by producers of crops for which Federal crop insurance is not available. It also reduces financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop. The Farm Service Agency (FSA) will collect information using several forms.

Need and Use of the Information: FSA will collect the producer's name, address identification number, farm and tract, acreage, ownership, location, crop history, planted acreage, production, yield, share, etc. The information will be used to identify eligible NAP