Notices

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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

Research, Education, and Economics.

Notice of Strategic Planning Task Force Meeting

AGENCY: Research, Education, and Economics, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Meeting.

SUMMARY: The United States Department of Agriculture announces a meeting of the Strategic Planning Task Force on Research Facilities.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Strategic Planning Task Force on Research Facilities, currently consisting of 14 members, is scheduled to meet for the FIFTH of eight planned meetings. The meeting is scheduled to be held at the St. Louis Airport Hilton. St. Louis, Missouri, beginning at 1:00 p.m. on August 25 and concluding at noon on August 28. The meeting will be devoted to a review of the Task Force progress in data collection and the afternoon of Thursday, August 27, 1998, to a discussion of private sector agriculture research.

TIMES AND DATES: August 25, 1998, 1:00 p.m.–5pm; August 26, 1998, 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.; August 27, 1998, 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.; and August 28, 1998, 8:00 a.m.–noon.

PLACE: St. Louis Airport Hilton, St. Louis, Missouri.

TYPE OF MEETING: Open to the public.

COMMENTS: The public may file written comments before or after the meeting with the contact person listed below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mitch Geasler, Project Director, Strategic Planing Task force on Research Facilities, Room 344–A Jamie L. Whitten Building, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, D.C. 20250–0113. Telephone 202–720–3803.

Done at Washington, D.C., on this 6th Day of July 1998.

I. Miley Gonzalez,

Under Secretary, Research, Education, and Economics.

[FR Doc. 98–18451 Filed 7–13–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Commodity Credit Corporation

Notice of Request for Extension and Revision of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Commodity Credit Corporation, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Commodity Credit Corporation's (CCC) intention to request an extension for and revision to an information collection currently approved in support of the Sugar Loan Program regulations for sugar beets and sugarcane. New legislation resulted in a decrease in burden hours.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received on or before September 14, 1998 to be assured consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Merle Strawderman, Agricultural Program Specialist, Price Support Division, Farm Service Agency, USDA, STOP 0512, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20013–0512; telephone (202) 720–9889; e-mail Merle__ Strawderman@wdc.fsa.usda.gov.; or facsimile (202) 690–3307.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Sugar Program, 7 CFR part 1435.

OMB Control Number: 0560–0093.

Expiration Date: July 31, 1998.

Type of Request: Extension and Revision of a Currently Approved Information Collection.

Abstract: The information collected under Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Control Number 0560–0093, as identified above, is needed to enable FSA to effectively administer the regulations at 7 CFR part 1435 relating to loans for sugar beets and sugarcane. Changes in the sugar program authority contained in the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 modified sugar processors' requirements for participating in the sugar loan program. As a result, the collection of information on CCC Forms SU–3, Request for Benefit payment, SU–4, Surety Bond for Sugar Loan Program, SU–5, Claims Waiver, and SU–6, Agreement to Provide Adequate Financial Assurance is no longer necessary. Accordingly, CCC is eliminating these forms and decreasing the burden hours associated with participation in the sugar loan program.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this information collection is estimated to average 16 minutes per response.

Respondents: Sugar processors and producers.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 30.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 120.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 65 hours.

Topics for comment include but are not limited to the following: (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; or (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. Comments should be sent to the Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, D.C. 20503 and to Merle Strawderman, Program Specialist, Price Support Division, Farm Service Agency, USDA, STOP 0512, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20013–0512; telephone (202) 720–9889. Copies of the information collection may be obtained from Merle Strawderman at the above address.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Signed at Washington, DC, on July 6, 1998.

Richard O. Newman,

Acting Executive Vice President, Commodity Credit Corporation.

[FR Doc. 98–18663 Filed 7–13–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–05–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Federal Crop Insurance Corporation

Crop Revenue Coverage

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: In accordance with section 508(h) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (Act), the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC) Board of Directors (Board) approves for reinsurance and subsidy the insurance of wheat in select states and counties under the Crop Revenue Coverage (CRC) plan of insurance for the 1999 crop year. This notice is intended to inform eligible producers and the private insurance industry of the CRC coverage changes for wheat and provide its terms and conditions.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tim Hoffmann, Director, Product Development Division, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, United States Department of Agriculture, 9435 Holmes Road, Kansas City, Missouri, 64131, telephone (816) 926-7387.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 508(h) of the Act allows for the submission of a policy to FCIC's Board and authorizes the Board to review and, if the Board finds that the interests of producers are adequately protected and that any premiums charged to the producers are actuarially appropriate, approve the policy for reinsurance and subsidy in accordance with section 508(e) of the Act.

In accordance with the Act, the Board approved a program of insurance known as CRC, originally submitted by American Agrisurance, a managing general agency for Redland Insurance Company.

The CRC program has been approved for reinsurance and premium subsidy, including subsidy for administrative and operating expenses. CRC is designed to protect producers against both price and yield losses. CRC provides a harvest revenue guarantee that pays losses from the established yield coverage at a higher price if the harvest time price is higher than the spring price.

In the 1996 crop year, the CRC program was available for corn and soybeans in all counties in Iowa and Nebraska. In the 1997 crop year, the CRC program was expanded for corn into Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, and Texas, and soybeans into Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, and Texas. New CRC programs were also made available for grain sorghum in Colorado, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and crop reporting districts 20, 30, 50, and 70 in Kansas, 40 in Missouri, 50 and 80 in South Dakota, and 40, 51, 52, 81, 82, 90, 96, and 97 in Texas; for cotton in Arizona, Georgia, Oklahoma, and crop reporting districts 11, 12, 21, and 22 in Texas; and for wheat into Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, South Dakota, Texas, Washington, and twenty-three counties each in Montana and North Dakota.

In the 1998 crop year, the CRC program was expanded for corn into Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Georgia, Idaho, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Montana, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming; for soybeans into Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, North Dakota, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and Wisconsin; for grain sorghum into Alabama, Arkansas, California, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, Wisconsin, and the remaining counties in Kansas, Missouri, South Dakota, and Texas; for cotton into Alabama, Arkansas, California, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, New Mexico, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and the remaining counties in Texas; and for wheat into Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming, and remaining counties in Montana and North Dakota.

Prior to the 1998 crop year, the CRC policy only provided coverage for basic and optional units, as selected by the insured. The expected market price was also based on 95 percent of the average daily settlement price prior to the 1998 spring crops. Beginning with the 1998 crop year, insureds could select basic, optional or enterprise units for corn and soybeans and 95 or 100 percent of the average daily settlement price for corn, grain sorghum, soybeans and cotton. The CRC program was also changed to provide insurance for any producer that had been identified on the nonstandard underwriting classification system (NCS).

Beginning with the 1999 crop year for CRC wheat, producers may select basic, optional or enterprise units, 95 or 100 percent of the average daily settlement price, coverage for all acreage classified as high risk, and a separate price for durum wheat. A methodology has also been developed for determining the spring wheat Base Price in counties that have both fall and spring wheat programs, but only a fall cancellation date.

FCIC herewith gives notice of the above stated changes for the 1999 crop year for CRC wheat for use by private insurance companies.

The CRC underwriting rules, rate factors and forms for wheat will be released electronically to all reinsured companies through FCIC's Reporting Organization Server. FCIC will also make available the terms and conditions of the CRC reinsurance agreement. Requests for this information should be sent to Heyward Baker, Director, Reinsurance Services Division, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 0804, Room 6727-S, Washington, D.C., 20250–0804.

Following is a complete list of insurable CRC crops by state for the 1999 crop year:

Alabama—Corn, Cotton, Grain Sorghum, Soybeans, Wheat
Arizona—Corn, Cotton, Wheat
Arkansas—Corn, Cotton, Grain Sorghum, Soybeans, Wheat
California—Corn, Cotton, Grain Sorghum, Wheat
Colorado—Corn, Grain Sorghum, Wheat
Georgia—Corn, Cotton, Grain Sorghum, Soybeans, Wheat
Idaho—Corn, Wheat
Illinois—Corn, Grain Sorghum, Soybeans, Wheat
Indiana—Corn, Grain Sorghum, Soybeans, Wheat
Iowa—Corn, Grain Sorghum, Soybeans, Wheat
Kansas—Corn, Cotton, Grain Sorghum, Soybeans, Wheat
Kentucky—Corn, Grain Sorghum, Soybeans, Wheat
Louisiana—Corn, Cotton, Grain Sorghum, Soybeans, Wheat
Michigan—Corn, Grain Sorghum, Soybeans, Wheat
Minnesota—Corn, Grain Sorghum, Soybeans, Wheat
Mississippi—Corn, Cotton, Grain Sorghum, Soybeans, Wheat
Missouri—Corn, Cotton, Grain Sorghum, Soybeans, Wheat