

Signed in Washington, DC, on April 6, 2009.

William J. Murphy,

Acting Manager, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation.

[FR Doc. E9-8439 Filed 4-13-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-08-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

Information Collection Activity; Comment Request

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended), the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) invites comments on this information collection for which RUS intends to request approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received June 15, 2009.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Michele L. Brooks, Director, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, USDA, Rural Utilities Service, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., STOP 1522, Room 5162—South Building, Washington, DC 20250-1522. Telephone: (202) 690-0178. FAX: (202) 720-8435.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) regulation (5 CFR 1320) implementing provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13) requires that interested members of the public and affected agencies have an opportunity to comment on information collection and recordkeeping activities (see 5 CFR 1320.8(d)). This notice identifies an information collection that RUS is submitting to OMB for extension.

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. Comments may be sent to: Michele L. Brooks, Director, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, USDA Rural Utilities Service, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., STOP 1522, Washington, DC 20250-1522. FAX: (202) 720-8435.

Title: 7 CFR Part 1786—Prepayment of RUS Guaranteed and Insured Loans to Electric and Telephone Borrowers.

OMB Control Number: 0572-0088.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: 7 CFR Part 1786 establishes policies and procedures to implement Sections 306(B) and 306(c) of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936. Part 1786 outlines the procedures for the prepayment of certain Electric and Telephone loans. The information required to be collected consists of materials that will allow the agency to determine which loans qualify for prepayment and provide authorization from the borrower's management.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 3.20 hours per response.

Respondents: Not-for-profit organizations; business or, other for-profit.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 5.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 16.00 hours.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Gale Richardson, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, at (202) 720-0992. FAX: (202) 720-8435. E-mail:

gale.richardson@wdc.usda.gov.

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.

Dated: April 8, 2009.

James R. Newby,

Acting Administrator, Rural Utilities Service.

[FR Doc. E9-8443 Filed 4-13-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-15-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

Information Collection Activity; Comment Request

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44

U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended), the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) invites comments on this information collection for which RUS intends to request approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by June 15, 2009.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Michele Brooks, Director, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, USDA Rural Utilities Service, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., STOP 1522, Room 5162, South Building, Washington, DC 20250-1522.

Telephone: (202) 690-1078. FAX: (202) 720-8435. E-mail:

michele.brooks@wdc.usda.gov.

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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. Comments may be sent to: Michele Brooks, Director, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, USDA Rural Utilities Service, STOP 1522, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250-1522. FAX: (202) 720-8435. E-mail: *michele.brooks@wdc.usda.gov.*

Title: Lien Accommodations and Subordinations, 7 CFR 1717, Subparts R & S.

OMB Control Number: 0572-0100.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: The Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (RE Act), as amended (7 U.S.C. 901 *et seq.*), authorizes and empowers the Administrator of Rural Utilities

Service to make loans in the several United States and Territories of the United States for rural electrification and the furnishing of electric energy to persons in rural areas who are not receiving central station service. The RE Act also authorizes and empowers the Administrator of the Agency to provide financial assistance to borrowers for purposes provided in the RE Act by accommodating or subordinating loans made by the national Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation, the Federal Financing Bank, and other lending agencies. Title 7 CFR part 1717, subparts R & S sets forth policy and procedures to facilitate and support borrowers' efforts to obtain private sector financing of their capital needs, to allow borrowers greater flexibility in the management of their business affairs without compromising RUS loan security, and to reduce the cost to borrowers, in terms of time, expenses and paperwork, of obtaining lien accommodations and subordinations. The information required to be submitted would be limited to necessary information that would allow the Agency to make a determination on the borrower's request to subordinate and accommodate their lien with other lenders.

Estimate of Burden: Public Reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 19 hours per response.

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

Estimated Number of Respondents: 15.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 285 hours.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Gale Richardson, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, at (202) 720-0992. FAX: (202) 720-8435.

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.

Dated: April 8, 2009.

James R. Newby,

Acting Administrator, Rural Utilities Service.
[FR Doc. E9-8444 Filed 4-13-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-15-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service

Notice of Funding Availability for the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program for Fiscal Year (FY) 2009

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

ACTION: Notice of funding availability.

SUMMARY: The Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) is announcing the release of the FY 2009 Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program (BFRDP) Request for Applications (RFA) via Grants.gov.

DATES: The FY 2009 Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program RFA (BFRDP) was posted to Grants.gov on Friday, March 13, 2009, and applications are due via Grants.gov by Monday, May 13, 2009.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Siva Sureshwaran, 202-720-7536 (phone), 202-401-6070 (fax), or ssureshwaran@csrees.usda.gov. Janie Simms Hipp, 202-720-3605 (phone), 202-690-3162 (fax), or jhipp@csrees.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background and Purpose

Section 7405 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Pub. L. 107-171) (7 U.S.C. 3319f) as amended by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Pub. L. 110-246), directs the Secretary of Agriculture (Secretary) to establish a Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program (BFRDP). The authority to carry out the BFRDP has been delegated to CSREES through the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics. The Secretary is authorized to make competitive grants to support new and established local and regional training, education, outreach, and technical assistance initiatives that address the needs of beginning farmers and ranchers (Standard BFRDP Projects). Grants for Standard BFRDP Projects will be awarded to address needs of beginning farmers and ranchers in the following priority areas: Mentoring, apprenticeships, and internship activities; resources and referral; assisting beginning farmers or ranchers in understanding how to acquire land from retiring farmers and ranchers; innovative farm and ranch transfer strategies; entrepreneurship and business training; model land leasing

contracts; financial management training; whole farm planning; conservation assistance; risk management education; diversification and marketing strategies; curriculum development; understanding the impact of concentration and globalization; basic livestock and crop farming practices, forestry and range management; acquisition and management of agricultural credit; environmental compliance; information processing; and other similar subject areas of use to beginning farmers and ranchers. The Secretary is also directed to establish beginning farmer and rancher education teams to develop curricula and conduct educational programs and workshops for beginning farmers and ranchers in diverse geographical areas in the United States (Educational Enhancement Projects).

The FY 2009 BFRDP RFA is soliciting grant applications for Standard BFRDP Projects and Educational Enhancement Projects discussed above. In addition, the RFA is soliciting a project application to establish an Online clearinghouse that makes available to beginning farmers or ranchers education curricula and training materials and programs, which may include Online courses for direct use by beginning farmers or ranchers. This award will be made as a cooperative agreement.

The Secretary may make awards to a collaborative State, tribal, local or regionally-based network or partnership of public or private entities, which may include: A State cooperative extension service; a Federal, State, or tribal agency; a community-based and nongovernmental organization; a college or university (including a junior college awarding an associate's degree) or foundation maintained by a college or university; private for-profit organizations; or any other appropriate partner, as determined by the Secretary.

All applicants are required to provide funds or in-kind support from non-Federal sources in an amount that is at least equal to 25 percent of the Federal funds requested.

In making BFRDP awards, priority will be given to partnerships and collaborations that are led by or include nongovernmental and community-based organizations with expertise in new agricultural producer training and outreach.

The estimated amount available for support of this program in FY 2009 is \$17,280,000. The eligibility criteria for projects and applicants, and the application forms and associated instructions needed to apply for a BFRDP award, can be accessed through