

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

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 approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) will be requested.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by June 1, 2010.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michele L. Brooks, Director, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, Rural Utilities Service, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., STOP 1522, Room 5159, South Building, Washington, DC 20250-1522. *Telephone:* (202) 690-1078. *Fax:* (202) 720-8435. *E-mail:* Michele.Brooks@wdc.usda.gov.

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 the Agency 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, Rural Utilities Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, STOP 1522, South Building, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250-1522. *Fax:* (202) 720-8435.

Title: Broadband Grant Program.

OMB Control Number: 0572-0127.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: The provision of broadband transmission service is vital to the economic development, education, health, and safety of rural Americans. To further this objective, RUS provides financial assistance in the form of grant to eligible entities that propose, on a "community-oriented connectivity" basis, to provide broadband transmission service that fosters economic growth and delivers enhanced educational, health care, and public safety services to extremely rural, lower income communities. The Agency gives priority to rural areas that it believes have the greatest need for broadband transmission services. Grant authority is utilized to deploy broadband infrastructure to extremely rural, lower income communities on a "community-oriented connectivity" basis. The "community-oriented connectivity" concept integrates the deployment of broadband infrastructure with the practical, everyday uses and applications of the facilities. This broadband access is intended to promote economic development and provide enhanced educational and health care opportunities. The Agency provides financial assistance to eligible entities that are proposing to deploy broadband transmission service in rural communities where such service does not currently exist and who will connect the critical community facilities including the local schools, libraries, hospitals, police, fire and rescue

services and who will operate a community center that provides free and open access to residents.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 154.87 hours per response.

Respondents: Public bodies, commercial companies, cooperatives, nonprofits, Indian tribes, and limited dividend or mutual associations and must be incorporated or a limited liability company.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 300.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 48,010.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Joyce McNeil, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, Rural Utilities Service at (202) 720-0812, 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: March 24, 2010.

Jonathan Adelstein,

Administrator.

[FR Doc. 2010-7040 Filed 3-29-10; 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 approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) will be requested.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by June 1, 2010.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michele L. Brooks, Director, Program Development & Regulatory Analysis, Rural Utilities Service, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., STOP 1522, Room 5168, South Building,

Washington, DC 20250-1522.
Telephone: (202) 690-1078. FAX: (202) 720-8435. E-mail:
Michele.Brooks@wdc.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) regulation (5 CFR part 1320) implanting 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 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 assumption 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 on other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to: Joyce McNeil, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, Rural Utilities Service, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Room 5166—South Building, STOP 1522, Washington, DC 20250-1522. FAX: (202) 720-8435.

Title: 7 CFR part 1777, Section 306C Water and Waste Disposal (WWD) Loans and Grants.

OMB Control Number: 0572-0109.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: Section 306C of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926c) authorizes the Rural Utilities Service to make loans and grants to low-income rural communities whose residents face significant health risks. These communities do not have access to, or are not served by, adequate affordable water supply systems or waste disposal facilities. The loans and grants will be available to provide water and waste disposal facilities and services to these communities, as determined by the Secretary.

The Section 306C WWD Loans and Grants program is administered through 7 CFR part 1777.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information

is estimated to average 9 hours per response.

Respondents: Not for profits; State, Local or Tribal Government.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1.
Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 9 hours.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Joyce McNeil, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, Rural Utilities Service at (202) 720-0812. FAX: (202) 720-4120.

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: March 24, 2010.

Jonathan Adelstein,

Administrator, Rural Utilities Service.

[FR Doc. 2010-7043 Filed 3-29-10; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-15-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

National Institute of Food and Agriculture

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

AGENCY: National Institute of Food and Agriculture, 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 National Institute of Food and Agriculture's (NIFA) intention to request an extension for the currently approved information collection for the NIFA Current Research Information System (CRIS).

DATES: Written comments on this notice must be received by June 1, 2010, to be assured of consideration. Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

ADDRESSES: Written comments concerning this notice and requests for copies of the information collection may be submitted by any of the following methods: *jhitchcock@nifa.usda.gov*; Fax: 202-720-0857; Mail: Information Systems and Technology Management, NIFA, USDA, STOP 2216, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-2216; Hand Delivery/Courier: 800 9th Street, SW.,

Waterfront Centre, Room 4217, Washington, DC 20024.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Jason Hitchcock, Director of Information, Policy, Planning, and Training; Information Systems and Technology Management; NIFA/USDA; E-mail: *jhitchcock@nifa.usda.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: NIFA Current Research Information System.

OMB Number: 0524-0042.

Expiration Date of Current Approval: June 30, 2010.

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

Abstract: The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) administers several competitive, peer-reviewed research, education, and extension programs, under which awards of a high-priority are made. These programs are authorized pursuant to the authorities contained in the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977, as amended (7 U.S.C. 3101 *et seq.*); the Smith-Lever Act (7 U.S.C. 341 *et seq.*); and other legislative authorities. NIFA also administers several formula funded research programs. The programs are authorized pursuant to the authorities contained in the McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Research Act of October 10, 1962 (16 U.S.C. 582a *et seq.*); the Hatch Act of 1887, as amended (7 U.S.C. 361a-i); Section 1445 of Public Law 95-113, the Food and Agriculture Act of 1977, as amended (7 U.S.C. 3222); and Section 1433 of Subtitle E (Sections 1429-1439), Title XIV of Public Law 95-113, as amended (7 U.S.C. 3191-3201). Each formula funded program is subject to a set of administrative requirements; "Administrative Manual for the McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Research Program," the "Administrative Manual for the Hatch Research Program," the "Administrative Manual for the Evans-Allen Cooperative Agricultural Research Program," and the "Administrative Manual for the Continuing Animal Health and Disease Research Program."

The Current Research Information System (CRIS) is the USDA's documentation and reporting system (CRIS forms AD-416, AD-417, AD-419, and AD-421) and constitute a necessary information collection for publicly-supported projects as set forth in requirements established in 7 CFR Parts 3400 through 3430 pertaining to the aforementioned authorities. This