

October 16, 1997: Summit Middle School, 0156 Summit County Road 1030, Frisco, Co.

October 21, 1997: Inn at Aspen, 38750 Highway 82, Aspen Co.

Release and Review of the EIS

The DEIS is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and be available for public comment in the fall of 1998. At that time, the EPA will publish a notice of availability for the DEIS in the **Federal Register**. The comment period of the DEIS will be 90 days from the date the EPA publishes the notice of availability in the **Federal Register**.

The Forest Service believes, at this early stage, it is important to give reviewers notice of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviewers of the DEIS must structure their participation in the environmental review of the proposal so that it is meaningful and alerts an agency to the reviewer's position and contentions; *Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v. NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519, 553 (1978). Also, environmental objections that could be raised at the DEIS stage but are not raised until after completion of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) may be waived or dismissed by the courts; *City of Angoon v. Hodel*, 803 F.2d 1016, 1022 (9th Cir. 1986) and *Wisconsin Heritages, Inc., v. Harris*, 490 F. Supp. 1334, 1338 (E.D. Wis. 1980). Because of these court rulings, it is very important that those interested in this proposed action participate by the close of the three-month comment period so that substantive comments and objections are made available to the Forest Service at a time when it can meaningfully consider them and respond to them in the FEIS.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns on the proposed actions, comments on the DEIS should be as specific as possible. It is also helpful if comments refer to specific pages or chapters of the draft statement. Comments may also address the adequacy of the DEIS or the merits of the alternatives formulated and discussed in the statements. Reviewers may wish to refer to the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act at 40 CFR 1503.3 in addressing these points.

After the comment period ends on the DEIS, comments will be analyzed, considered, and responded to by the Forest Service in preparing the Final EIS. The FEIS is scheduled to be

completed in the fall of 1999. The responsible official will consider the comments, responses, environmental consequences discussed in the FEIS, and applicable laws, regulations, and policies in making decisions regarding these revisions. The responsible official will document the decisions and reasons for the decisions in a Record of Decision for the revised Plan. The decision will be subject to appeal in accordance with 36 CFR 217.

Dated: July 30, 1997.

Elizabeth Estill,

Regional Forester, Rocky Mountain Region.

[FR Doc. 97-20631 Filed 8-5-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Farm Service Agency

Notice of Request for Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Farm Service Agency, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Farm Service Agency's (FSA) intention to request an extension for an information collection currently approved for FSA's regulation governing the Emergency Loan program. The regulations concerning this activity are published under the authority of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, as amended.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received on or before October 6, 1997 to be assured of consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Steven R. Bazzell, Senior Loan Officer, Farm Loan Programs, Loan Making Division, Farm Service Agency, STOP 0522, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20250-0522. Telephone (202) 720-3889; e-mail sbazzell@wdc.fsa.usda.gov; or facsimile (202) 690-1117.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Emergency Loan Policies, Procedures, and Authorizations.

Expiration Date of Approval: August 31, 1997.

OMB Number: 0560-0159.

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

Abstract: The information collected under Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Number 0560-0159, as indicated above, is needed to enable FSA to carry

out its mission of providing emergency assistance to family-size farmers, who have suffered physical and/or production losses in a Presidential, Secretarial, or Administratively declared natural disaster, and who are unable to secure commercial credit to recover from the losses. This regulation outlines the process for determining an applicant's eligibility based on the nature and extent of the physical or production losses suffered.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated at 0.51 hours per response.

Respondents: Individuals or households and farms.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 3,100.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondents: 4.10.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 12,710.

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of FSA, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of FSA's estimate of the burden of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions; (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. Comments may be sent to the Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, OMB, Washington, D.C. 20503, and to Steven R. Bazzell at the address listed above. All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval.

All comments will become a matter of public record.

Signed at Washington, D.C., on July 31, 1997.

Bruce R. Weber,

Acting Administrator, Farm Service Agency.

[FR Doc. 97-20692 Filed 8-5-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-05-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Farm Service Agency

U.S. Warehouse Act Fees; Correction

AGENCY: Farm Service Agency, USDA.

ACTION: Notice; correction.

SUMMARY: The Farm Service Agency published a notice in the **Federal Register** on June 20, 1997 (62 FR 33582), which contained a schedule for increasing the fees to be charged under the United States Warehouse Act

regulations. As published, the Notice contains errors which may prove to be misleading and need to be clarified.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Steve Mikkelsen, Warehouse and Inventory Division, Farm Service Agency, United States Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, STOP 0553, Washington, DC 20250-0553, telephone (202) 720-7433, FAX (202) 690-3123.

Correction of Publication

Accordingly, in the notice (FR Doc. 97-16248), published on June 20, 1997, page (62 FR 33583), in the second column, correct the following to read:

Tobacco and Wool

Annual fee: \$15 for each 100,000 pounds of licensed capacity, or fraction thereof, but in no case less than \$575.

Inspection fee: \$15 for each 100,000 pounds of licensed capacity, or fraction thereof, but in no case less than \$150 nor more than \$1,500.

Nuts

Annual fee: 13¢ for each 100 short tons of licensed capacity, or fraction thereof, but in no case less than \$575.

Inspection fee: \$7 for each 100 short tons of licensed capacity, or fraction thereof, of peanuts, and \$13 for each 1,000 hundredweight, or fraction thereof, of other nuts, but in no case less than \$150 nor more than \$1,500.

Syrup

Annual fee: \$5 for each 5,000 gallons of licensed capacity, or fraction thereof, but in no case less than \$575.

Inspection fee: \$5 for each 5,000 gallons, or fraction thereof, but in no case less than \$150 nor more than \$1,500.

Cottonseed

Annual fee: \$15 for each 1,000 short tons of licensed capacity, or fraction thereof, but in no case less than \$575.

Inspection fee: \$15 for each 1,000 short tons of licensed capacity, or fraction thereof, but in no case less than \$150 nor more than \$1,500.

Signed at Washington, D.C., on July 31, 1997.

Bruce R. Weber,

Acting Administrator, Farm Service Agency.
[FR Doc. 97-20691 Filed 8-5-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-05-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

National Commission on Small Farms; Meeting

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service

ACTION: Notice of public meeting. Request for comments and recommendations.

SUMMARY: The Secretary of Agriculture by Departmental Regulation No. 1043-43 dated July 9, 1997, established the National Commission on Small Farms (Commission) and further identified NRCS to provide support to the Commission. The purpose of the Commission is to gather and analyze information regarding small farms and ranches and recommend to the Secretary of Agriculture a national policy and strategy to ensure their continued viability. This notice seeks comments on issues that the Commission should address and recommendations that the Commission could consider as part of its report. The second public meeting of the Commission will be August 21-22, 1997.

DATES: Written comments and recommendations must be received on or before September 22, 1997. These comments will be summarized and presented to the Commission for their consideration.

PLACE, DATE AND TIME OF MEETING: The Commission's second meeting will be at the Best Western Ramkota Inn, 2400 North Louise, Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The Commission will meet from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. on August 21 to conduct an organizational business meeting. This meeting is open to the public; however, the committee does not plan to hear public testimony at this session. The Commission will meet from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on August 22. From 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. the Commission will continue to conduct an organizational business meeting. Starting at 10:15 a.m., the Commission will hear public testimony. We are seeking testimony from various sources to arrive at conclusions and recommendations that will ensure the continued viability of small farms. The Commission requests that testimony include ideas and recommendations based on the following questions. Concerns or problems of individual farms that relate to specific USDA programs should be addressed only in the context of a recommendation for the Commission to consider.

The questions are:

1. How are current USDA programs helping or hurting the viability of small farms?

2. What are the needs of small farms in terms of financing, research, extension, marketing and risk management and other areas? What recommendations would you make about these needs that could be part of a long-range strategy to ensure the continued viability of small farms?

3. Are there innovative non-governmental or state efforts to assist beginning and smaller independent farms that might be replicated or supplemented at the Federal level?

4. What changes in USDA policy or practices are needed to make USDA programs in the areas of credit, research, extension, marketing, risk management and other areas more effective in enabling small farms to survive and thrive?

5. What new programs could provide effective and affordable support for small farmers as commodity programs are phased out?

6. What can be done to assist beginning farmers and farm workers to become farmer owners?

7. What role should the Federal government play to ensure a diversified, decentralized and competitive farm structure?

8. What do small farms contribute to your community and your state?

9. What other generic issues pertaining to small farms should the Commission consider?

Interested parties wishing to testify must contact the office of the National Commission on Small Farms by August 15, 1997 in order to be placed on a list of witnesses. Oral presentations will be limited to 5 minutes. Those wishing to testify, but unable to notify the Commission office by August 15, will be able to sign up as a presenter August 22. Sign up will begin at 12:30 p.m. and end at 2:00 p.m. These presenters will testify on a first come, first served basis and comments will be limited based on the time available and the number of presenters. Written statements will be accepted at the meeting or may be mailed or faxed to the Commission office by September 12, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Comments and statements should be sent to National Commission on Small Farms, U.S. Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 2890, Room 5237, South Building, Washington, D.C. 20013.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jennifer Yezak Molen, Director, National Commission on Small Farms, at the address above or at (202) 690-0648 or