

minimize the burden of the collection of the 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 regarding this information collection requirement may be directed to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs of OMB, Attention: Desk Officer for USDA, Washington, DC 20503, and to Timothy P. Mehl, Chief, Planning and Analysis Division, Kansas City Commodity Office, 9200 Ward Parkway, Kansas City, Missouri 64114, telephone (816) 926-3536, fax (816) 926-6767.

All comments will become a matter of public record.

Signed at Washington, DC, April 24, 1998.

**Keith Kelly,**

*Executive Vice President, Commodity Credit Corporation.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Commodity Credit Corporation

#### Uniform Grain and Rice Storage Agreement Fees

**AGENCY:** Commodity Credit Corporation, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of fees.

**SUMMARY:** The purpose of this notice is to publish a schedule of fees to be paid to Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) by grain and rice warehouse operators requesting to enter into a storage agreement; increase the capacity of an existing storage agreement; or renew an existing storage agreement.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** April 1, 1998.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Howard Froehlich, Chief, Storage Contract Branch, Warehouse and Inventory Division, Farm Service Agency, United States Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., STOP 0553, Washington, D.C. 20250-0553, telephone (202) 720-7398, FAX (202) 690-3123.

In accordance with the provisions of the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act (15 U.S.C. 714 *et seq.*), CCC enters into storage agreements with private grain and rice warehouse operators to provide for the storage of commodities owned by CCC or pledged as security to CCC for marketing assistance and price support loans.

Specifically, 7 CFR 1421.5558 provides that all grain and rice warehouse operators who do not have an existing agreement with CCC for

storage and handling of CCC-owned commodities or commodities pledged to CCC as loan collateral, but who desire such an agreement, must pay an application and examination fee for each warehouse for which CCC approval is sought prior to CCC conducting the original warehouse examination.

A review of the revenue collected for application and examination fees indicates that the fees collected are insufficient to meet costs incurred by CCC for warehouse examinations and contract origination administrative functions. Accordingly, beginning April 1 with the start of the 1998-99 contract year, the fees are changed by increasing by 10 percent those fees applicable to the 1997-98 contract year. The fee will be computed at the rate of \$15 for each 10,000 bushels of storage capacity or fraction thereof, but the fee will be not less than \$150 nor more than \$1,500.

Further, each warehouse operator who has a non-federally licensed grain or rice warehouse in States that do not have a cooperative agreement with CCC for warehouse examinations must pay an annual fee to CCC for each such warehouse which is approved by CCC or for which CCC approval is sought. The collection of the annual fee by CCC is currently suspended. CCC continues to suspend collection of the annual fee, but CCC may reinstate the annual fee by future notice to the industry.

Signed at Washington, DC, on April 27, 1998.

**Keith Kelly,**

*Executive Vice President, Commodity Credit Corporation.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Rural Housing Service

### Rural Business-Cooperative Service

### Rural Utilities Service

### Farm Service Agency

#### Notice of Request for Reinstatement of an Information Collection

**AGENCY:** Rural Housing Service, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, Rural Utilities Service, and Farm Service Agency, USDA.

**ACTION:** Proposed collection: Comments request.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Rural Housing Service (RHS), the Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS), Rural

Utilities Service (RUS), and the Farm Service Agency's (FSA) intention to request an extension for a currently approved information collection in support of compliance with Civil Rights laws.

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received by July 6, 1998 to be assured of consideration.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Jacqueline Micheli, Equal Opportunity Specialist, Rural Development, U.S. Department of Agriculture, STOP 0703, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, DC 20250-0703, Telephone (202) 690-9812 (voice) or 690-9809 (TDD).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title:* 7 CFR 1901-E, Civil Rights Compliance Requirements.

*OMB Number:* 0575-0018.

*Type of Request:* Reinstatement of an information collection.

*Abstract:* The information collection under OMB Number 0575-0018 enables the RHS, RBS, RUS, and FSA to effectively monitor a recipient's compliance with the civil rights laws, and to determine whether or not service and benefits are being provided to beneficiaries on an equal opportunity basis.

The RBS, RHS, RUS, and FSA, formerly the Farmers Home Administration, are required to provide Federal financial assistance through its farmer, housing, and community and business programs on an equal opportunity basis. The laws implemented in 7 CFR Part 1901, Subpart E ("1901-E"), require the recipients of RBS, RHS, RUS, and FSA's Federal financial assistance to collect various types of information, including information on participants in certain of these agencies' programs, by race, color, and national origin. While these agencies realize that the provisions of 1901-E are outdated as the result of statutory amendment and other processes of law, the information needed to be collected under this implementing regulation is not affected by the obsolete nature of the regulation. The RBS, RHS, RUS, and FSA use the information to monitor a recipient's compliance with the civil rights laws, and to determine whether or not service and benefits are being provided to beneficiaries on an equal opportunity basis. The agencies are in the process of revising 1901-E, and expect to publish for comment a **Federal Register** document proposing these revisions in 1998. The following laws implemented are 7 CFR 1901-E:

a. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 ("Title VI"). The implementing