

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

Commodity Credit Corporation

Request for an Approval of a New Information Collection

AGENCY: Commodity Credit Corporation, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) is seeking approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to establish procedures for determining the computing capabilities of vendors, contractors, and other potential electronic commerce trading partners. Participants would include, but not be limited to: Contractors that supply bids to supply commodities for use under export donation programs; vendors that supply bids for transportation of commodities; and contractors that supply bids to store commodities.

An Electronic Commerce Capability Survey will provide for submission of computing capability information from the trade. Currently there is no procedure in place to allow for the collection of computing capability information. The new procedure will allow CCC to collect the information needed to target specific labor and paper intensive processes for migration towards electronic commerce.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received on or before July 6, 1998 to be assured consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: 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.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Electronic Commerce Capability Survey.

OMB Number: New submission.

Type of Request: Approval of a new information collection.

Abstract: CCC conducts a variety of programs under which information is submitted and manually entered by CCC. A brief description of each of these programs is explained below.

The Dairy and Domestic Operations Division (D&DOD) issues invitations for purchase of commodities for domestic and dairy programs on a monthly, multi-month, quarterly and yearly basis. Vendors respond by making offers using the form KC-327, Domestic Offer Form. D&DOD verifies that the KC-327 is responsive and manually enters the information on the form into the bid evaluation program. The keypunched data is then uploaded into the Processed Commodities Inventory Management System (PCIMS). As an alternative to keypunch, bids are entered manually by using PCIMS bid input screens.

Export Operations Division (EOD) issues invitations to purchase or process commodities for food donation programs monthly. Special invitations, however, are issued throughout the month. Steamship lines currently respond to these invitations with offers for transportation via hard copy form KC-324, Steamship Line Service Offer. Responsive offers are analyzed by Traffic Management Division; the lowest U.S. and foreign flag offers for each U.S. port and foreign discharge port are recorded on form KC-149, Ocean Rates. Form KC-149's are reviewed for accuracy and form KC-148, Commodity Requests, is attached. Ocean rate forms and commodity request forms are forwarded to Information Management Processing Division (IMPD) for data entry and proof lists are printed for review.

Bulk Grain Division (BGD) issues invitations as needed for purchase of grains for use in export donation programs. Grain export companies respond to these invitations for offers on form KC-331, Procurement Offer Form, which is a part of each invitation. At the same time BGD issues the invitation, EOD communicates with the Private Volunteer Organization (PVO) booking agent, to issue a freight tender for ocean freight. Once the steamship line's bid for ocean freight is received from the booking agent, the offers are manually recorded on a spread sheet. When the grain offers are evaluated, they are combined with the ocean freight

received from the booking agent to determine lowest landed cost to destination. Data entry requires dual bid entry for verification purposes.

CCC conducts a program to provide storage adequate to fulfill its program needs by contracting with commercial warehouses to store grain in country, sub-terminal, and terminal locations. CCC contracts for the use of privately owned facilities in carrying out this program. Grain, cotton, and processed commodity warehouse operators interested in storing and/or handling CCC-interest commodities are required to have entered into a Uniform Storage Agreement with CCC. Warehouse operators must meet certain standards and complete documents prior to receiving CCC approval. Information which is provided by warehouse operators is entered into the Grain Inventory Management System (GIMS) which is in turn used by numerous other Agency entities. CCC uses this data to develop policy and implement program operations.

The current keypunching processes require entering handwritten data and then verifying the results. This information collection will enable CCC to analyze the computing capability of its trading partners and move processes towards electronic commerce in a logical and orderly fashion.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for collecting information under this notice is estimated to average 15 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.

Respondents: Business and other for profit organizations.

Respondents: 3,750.

Estimated Number of Annual Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 937 hours.

Proposed topics for comment include: (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 collected; or (d) ways to

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.

[FR Doc. 98-11697 Filed 5-1-98; 8:45 am]

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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.

[FR Doc. 98-11695 Filed 5-1-98; 8:45 am]

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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