

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.

Dated: November 7, 2005.

Joanne Paskar,
Chief, Information and Records Division,
Office of Administrative Services, Bureau for
Management.

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AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Notice of Public Information Collection Requirements Submitted to OMB for Review

Summary: U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has submitted the following information collections to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. Comments regarding this information collection are best assured of having their full effect if received within 30 days of this notification. Comments should be sent via e-mail to David_Rostker@omb.eop.gov or fax to 202-395-7285. Copies of submission may be obtained by calling (202) 712-1365.

Supplementary Information:

OMB Number: OMB 0412-0514.

Form Number: N/A.

Title: USAID Regulation 1—Rules and Procedures Applicable to Commodity Transactions Financed by USAID (22 CFR part 201).

Type of Submission: Renewal of Information Collection.

Purpose: The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) finances transactions under Commodity Import Programs and needs to assure that the transaction complies with applicable statutory and regulatory requirements. In order to assure compliance and request refunds when appropriate, information is required from host country importers, suppliers receiving USAID funds, and banks making payments for USAID.

Annual Reporting Burden:

Respondents: 335.

Total annual responses: 2,643.

Total annual hours requested: 1,042 hours.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Farm Service Agency

Notice of Funds Availability Inviting Applications for Innovative Ways To Enhance the Economic Viability of Underserved and Limited-Resource Farmers and Ranchers

Announcement Type: Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) inviting applications from qualified organizations for fiscal year (FY) 2006 funding.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number and Program: 10.443 Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers.

SUMMARY: This is a request by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) for proposals for applications for cooperative agreements for FY 2006 to help underserved and limited resource farmers and ranchers become more efficient operators and more economically viable. FY 2005 funding for similar cooperative agreements was \$2 million. This notice is being issued prior to passage of a final Department of Agriculture Appropriations Bill to allow applicants sufficient time to prepare and submit proposals and give FSA sufficient time to process applications within FY 2006. An additional Notice of Funding Availability will be published announcing the funding level for FY 2006 once an appropriations act has been enacted. FSA requests proposals from eligible 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, land grant institutions, including Tuskegee University, State governments, and Federally-Recognized Indian Tribal Governments, interested in competitively awarded cooperative agreements, to demonstrate innovative and unique approaches to equip underserved and limited-resource farmers and ranchers, including beginning farmers and ranchers, to become more efficient and economically viable.

Proposals should demonstrate innovative and unique ways to help underserved and limited-resource farmers and ranchers improve their economic viability through training, technical assistance, improved farming practices, and more effective marketing approaches.

Underserved and limited-resource farmers and ranchers have different challenges to economic viability due to location, educational assets, age, and landownership. The need to properly address these challenges through education, training, technical assistance and the most creative ways of outreach is critical to the continued existence of the small farm.

People in, or entering into, farming have an array of backgrounds and varied levels of current farm and farm business experience and knowledge. More and more qualified alien immigrants are entering American farming. Often, they are unfamiliar with productive marketing practices, acquisition of land, government assistance, and crop and animal production diversity.

While there are no significant legal obstacles to becoming a farmer in the United States, many barriers to successful farming exist. Among those barriers are (1) increasing capital expenses, (2) progressive managerial requirements, and (3) competition with large-scale producers.

Among limited-resource farmers, a subgroup, the underserved farmer, faces even more barriers to achieving success. In recognition of the dynamic needs of limited-resource and underserved farmers, FSA solicits proposals for innovative approaches to assisting the diverse limited-resource and underserved farm community.

DATES: Applications should be submitted as soon as possible, but no later than 5 p.m. eastern time, December 19, 2005. Applications received after that date will not be accepted and will be returned to the applicant. Applicants must ensure that the service they use to deliver their applications can do so by the deadline. Due to security concerns, packages sent to the Agency by mail have been delayed several days or even weeks.

I. Paperwork Reduction Act

This notice requires a new collection of information only for the Project Proposal. An emergency request for