

or food crediting. The current CNP meal pattern requirements and food crediting were established in alignment with the existing statutory and regulatory framework. FNS seeks public input to properly assess the feasibility of potentially pursuing an update to guidance, technical assistance resources, and food crediting in the future. If data compelling FNS is available, the Agency would take such information into account as it considers the range of factors relevant to meal pattern requirements and food crediting.

Collection of Information

Requirements: This document does not impose information collection requirements, that is, reporting, recordkeeping or third-party disclosure requirements. However, this document does contain a general solicitation of comments in the form of a request for information. In accordance with implementing regulations of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, specifically 5 CFR 1320.3(h)(4), this general solicitation is exempt from the Paperwork Reduction Act. Facts or opinions submitted in response to general solicitations of comments from the public, published in the **Federal Register** or other publications, regardless of the form or format thereof, provided that no person is required to supply specific information pertaining to the commenter other than that necessary for self-identification, as a condition of the Agency's full consideration, are not generally considered information.

Tameka Owens,

Acting Administrator and Assistant Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service.

[FR Doc. 2024-30710 Filed 12-23-24; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

National Agricultural Statistics Service

Notice of Intent To Request Revision and Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the intention of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) to request revision and extension of a currently approved information collection, the Vegetable Surveys Program. A revision to burden hours will be needed due to changes in

the size of the target population, sampling design, and/or questionnaire length.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by February 24, 2025 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by docket number 0535-0037, by any of the following methods:

- *Email:* ombofficer@nass.usda.gov.

Include docket number above in the subject line of the message.

- *E-fax:* (855) 838-6382.

- *Mail:* Mail any paper, disk, or CD-ROM submissions to: Richard Hopper, NASS Clearance Officer, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 5336 South Building, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250-2024.

- *Hand Delivery/Courier:* Hand deliver to: Richard Hopper, NASS Clearance Officer, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 5336 South Building, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250-2024.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Joseph J. Prusacki, Associate Administrator, National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 202-720-2707. Copies of this information collection and related instructions can be obtained without charge from Richard Hopper, NASS—OMB Clearance Officer, at 202-720-2206 or at ombofficer@nass.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Vegetable Surveys Program.

OMB Control Number: 0535-0037.

Expiration Date of Approval: June 30, 2027.

Type of Request: Intent to Seek Approval to Revise and Extend an Information Collection for 3 years.

Abstract: The primary objective of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is to collect, prepare, and issue State and national estimates of crop and livestock production, prices, and disposition; as well as economic statistics, environmental statistics related to agriculture and also to conduct the Census of Agriculture. The Vegetable Surveys Program obtains basic agricultural statistics for fresh market and processing vegetables in major producing States. Vegetable statistics are used by the U.S.

Department of Agriculture to help administer programs and by growers, processors, and marketers in making production and marketing decisions.

Every 5 years NASS conducts a program review following the completion of the Census of Agriculture. The primary purpose is to ensure that the NASS annual estimating program targets commodities and states most

relevant based on the latest available information. The last program reviewed occurred after the 2022 Census of Agriculture. The supporting statements, burden, questionnaires, and other documents (from 2022) will be revised in this renewal. All questionnaires included in this information collection will be voluntary.

Authority: These data will be collected under authority of 7 U.S.C. 2204(a). Individually identifiable data collected under this authority are governed by Section 1770 of the Food Security Act of 1985 as amended, 7 U.S.C. 2276, which requires USDA to afford strict confidentiality to non-aggregated data provided by respondents. This Notice is submitted in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-113) and Office of Management and Budget regulations at 5 CFR part 1320.

All NASS employees and NASS contractors must also fully comply with all provisions of the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act (CIPSEA) of 2018, Title III of Public Law 115-435, codified in 44 U.S.C. Ch. 35. CIPSEA supports NASS's pledge of confidentiality to all respondents and facilitates the agency's efforts to reduce burden by supporting statistical activities of collaborative agencies through designation of NASS agents, subject to the limitations and penalties described in CIPSEA.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to be between 5 and 20 minutes per respondent per survey.

Respondents: Farms and businesses.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 11,200

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 5,000 hours.

Comments: 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, through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, technological or other forms of information technology collection methods.

All responses to this notice will become a matter of public record and be summarized in the request for OMB approval.

Signed at Washington, DC, December 18, 2024.

Joseph J. Prusacki,
Associate Administrator.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Business Cooperative Service

[DOCKET #: RBS-24-BUSINESS-0008]

Notice of Funding Opportunity for the Timber Production Expansion Guaranteed Loan Program for Fiscal Year 2024

AGENCY: Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBCS or Agency), a Rural Development (RD) agency of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), announces the acceptance of applications and availability of funding under the Timber Production Expansion Guaranteed Loan Program (TPEP) for fiscal year (FY) 2024. These guaranteed funds will be made available to eligible lenders to make loans to eligible borrowers seeking to establish, reopen, retrofit, expand, or improve a sawmill or other wood processing facility, in close proximity to a unit of United States Forest Service (USFS) National Forest System lands, including Indian forest land or rangeland, identified as high priority or very high priority on the map accessible using the following link: www.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/5d6d9d9922a8486f83d51d40835f1870. This program will have in excess of \$200 million available beginning in FY 2025 utilizing funding provided under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. All applicants are responsible for any expenses incurred in developing their applications.

DATES: Completed applications may be submitted beginning December 26, 2024. Applications will be accepted until funds are exhausted.

ADDRESSES: Applicants are encouraged to contact the Agency to discuss projects and ask any questions about the program or application process. Entities wishing to apply for assistance may download the application documents and requirements delineated in this notice from: rd.usda.gov/onerdguarantee. Applications will only be accepted electronically.

Applicants are encouraged to contact their respective RD State Office for an email contact to submit an electronic application. A list of the USDA RD State

Office contacts can be found at: rd.usda.gov/about-rd/state-offices.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Shaun Stehr at TPEP@usda.gov, Loan and Grant Analyst, RBCS, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Mail Stop 3201, Room 5803-South, Washington, DC 20250-3201; or call 717-675-0038.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Overview

Federal Awarding Agency Name: Rural Business-Cooperative Service.
Funding Opportunity Title: Timber Production Expansion Guaranteed Loan Program.

Announcement Type: Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO).

Assistance Listing: 10.385.

Dates: Applications will be accepted beginning December 26, 2024.

Applications will be accepted until all funds are expended.

Rural Development Key Priorities: The Agency encourages applicants to consider projects that will advance the following key priorities (more details available at www.rd.usda.gov/priority-points):

- Addressing Climate Change and Environmental Justice; Reducing climate pollution and increasing resilience to the impacts of climate change through economic support to rural communities.
- Advancing Racial Justice, Place-Based Equity, and Opportunity; Ensuring all rural residents have equitable access to RD programs and benefits from RD funded projects.
- Creating More and Better Market Opportunities; Assisting rural communities recover economically through more and better market opportunities and through improved infrastructure.

A. Program Description

1. *Purpose of the Program.* The TPEP will provide financial assistance through loan guarantees to lenders providing loans to entities seeking to establish, reopen, retrofit, expand, or improve a sawmill or other wood processing facility in close proximity to a unit of USFS National Forest System lands, including Indian forest land or rangeland, that has been identified as high or very high priority for ecological restoration if the presence of a sawmill or other wood-processing facility would substantially decrease or does substantially decrease the cost of conducting ecological restoration projects involving vegetation removal on the unit of land. These units of USFS National Forest System lands must be classified as being a high or very high

priority for ecological restoration involving vegetation removal, due to the risk of unnaturally severe wildfires, or insect or disease infestation. The Agency will consider a facility to be in close proximity of the requisite unit of land if it is within two hundred fifty (250) miles of the area identified as high or very high priority for ecological restoration. TPEP facilities will purchase and process byproducts from ecosystem restoration projects.

2. Statutory and Regulatory Authority:

The TPEP program is authorized by section 40804(d)(3)—Ecosystem Restoration—of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Pub. L. 117-58) which directs USFS to provide financial assistance to entities seeking to establish, reopen, retrofit, expand, or improve a sawmill or other wood processing facility that is in close proximity to a unit of United States Forest Service (USFS) National Forest System lands, including Indian forest land or rangeland, that has been identified as high or very high priority for ecological restoration and that is using ecological byproducts from the unit of land. Further, the TPEP program is in response to White House Executive Order 14081 on advancing the domestic bioeconomy, the USDA report Building a Resilient Biomass Supply, (usda.gov/media/press-releases/2024/03/14/usda-outlines-vision-strengthen-american-bioeconomy-through-more), and the subsequent deliverables outlined in the report's Implementation Framework. The TPEP program is operating as a pilot program and will be administered under 7 CFR part 5001. TPEP is designed and implemented in a manner similar to the Business and Industry (B&I) Guaranteed loan program with minor changes to meet the needs of the timber industry. An interagency agreement between the USFS and RBCS will allow RBCS to implement the TPEP program in the interest of the USFS.

3. *Definitions.* The definitions applicable to this notice are published in 7 CFR 5001.3. For the purpose of this notice only:

(a) *Wood Processing Facility* means a facility that produces solid wood products (including lumber, posts and poles), engineered wood products (including plywood, veneer panels, and mass timber products), biomass energy products (heat, power, combined heat and power, and biochar), and fuel products (firewood, wood pellets, briquettes, and liquid biofuels).

(b) *High Priority for Ecological Restoration* means publicly owned USFS National Forest System lands, including Indian forest land or rangeland, that have been identified by