

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.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service

Notice of Intent To Revise a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104–13) and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations at 5 CFR part 1320 (60 FR 44977, August 29, 1995), this notice announces the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service's (CSREES) intention to revise a currently approved information collection entitled, "Reporting Requirements for State Plans of Work for Agricultural Research and Extension Formula Funds." The only proposed change to the information collection is that the initial five year plan of work will no longer be required.

DATES: Written comments on this notice must be received by March 2, 2009 to be assured of consideration. Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by Docket ID# CSREES_FRDOC_0001, by any of the following methods: *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* <http://regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

E-mail: bhewitt@csrees.usda.gov;
Mail: Bart Hewitt, USDA/CSREES/OPA, STOP 2214, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250–2214;

Fax: (202) 720–7714.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bart Hewitt, (202) 720–0747.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: *Title:* Reporting Requirements for State Plans

of Work for Agricultural Research and Extension Formula Grants.

OMB Number: 0524–0036.

Expiration Date of Current Approval: May 31, 2009.

Type of Request: Revision of a currently approved information collection for three years.

Abstract: The purpose of this collection of information is to continue implementing the requirements of sections 202 and 225 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (AREERA) which require that a plan of work must be submitted by each institution and approved by the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) before formula funds may be provided to the 1862 and 1890 land-grant institutions. The formula funds are authorized under the Hatch Act for agricultural research activities at the 1862 land-grant institutions, under the Smith-Lever Act for the extension activities at the 1862 land-grant institutions, and under sections 1444 and 1445 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (NARETPA) for research and extension activities at the 1890 land-grant institutions. The plan of work must address critical agricultural issues in the State and describe the programs and projects targeted to address these issues using the CSREES formula funds. The plan of work also must describe the institution's multistate activities as well as their integrated research and extension activities.

This collection of information also includes the reporting requirements of section 102(c) of AREERA for the 1862 and 1890 land-grant institutions. This section requires the 1862, 1890, and 1994 land-grant institutions receiving agricultural research, education, and extension formula funds from CSREES of the Department of Agriculture (USDA) to establish and implement processes for obtaining input from persons who conduct or use agricultural research, extension, or education concerning the use of such funds by October 1, 1999. Section 102(c) further requires that the Secretary of Agriculture promulgate regulations that prescribe what the institutions must do to meet this requirement and the consequences of not complying with this requirement. See 65 FR 5993, Feb.

8, 2000 (7 CFR 3418) on Stakeholder Input Requirements for Recipients of Agricultural Research, Education, and Extension Formula Funds. This rule applies not only to the land-grant institutions which receive formula funds but also to the veterinary and forestry schools that are not land-grant institutions but which receive forestry research funds under the McIntire-Stennis Act of 1962 and Animal Health and Disease Research funds under section 1433 of the NARETPA. Failure to comply with the requirements of this rule may result in the withholding of a recipient institution's formula funds and redistribution of its share of formula funds to other eligible institutions. The institutions are required to annually report to CSREES: (1) The actions taken to seek stakeholder input to encourage their participation; (2) a brief statement of the process used by the recipient institution to identify individuals and groups who are stakeholders and to collect input from them; and (3) a statement of how collected input was considered. There is no legislatively prescribed form or format for this reporting requirement. However, the 1862 and 1890 land-grant institutions are required to report on their Stakeholder Input Process annually as part of their Annual Report of Accomplishments and Results.

Section 103(e) of AREERA requires that the 1862, 1890, and 1994 land-grant institutions establish a merit review process, prior to October 1, 1999, in order to obtain agricultural research and extension funds. Section 104(h) of AREERA also stipulated that a scientific peer review process be established for research programs funded under section 3(c)(3) of the Hatch Act (commonly referred to as Hatch Multistate Research Funds).

I. Initial 5-Year Plan of Work

Estimate of the Burden: The Initial 5-Year Plan of Work was submitted for the FY 2007–2011 Plan of Work in 2006. Thus, this reporting burden has been satisfied and will no longer be collected. Consequently, the total reporting and record keeping requirements for the submission of the "Initial 5-Year Plan of Work" is estimated to average 0 hours per response.

II. Annual Update to 5-Year Plan of Work

Estimate of the Burden: The total reporting and record keeping requirements for the submission of the "Annual Update to the 5-Year Plan of Work" is estimated to average 64 hours per response. There are five components of this "5-Year Plan of Work": "Planned Programs," "Stakeholder Input Process," "Program Review Process," "Multi-state Activities," and "Integrated Activities."

Estimated Number of Respondents: 75.

Estimated Number of Responses: 150.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 9,600 hours.

Frequency of Responses: Annually.

III. Annual Report of Accomplishments and Results

Estimate of the Burden: The total annual reporting and record keeping requirements of the "Annual Report of Accomplishments and Results" is estimated to average 260 hours per response.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 75.

Estimated Number of Responses: 150.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 39,000 hours.

Frequency of Responses: Annually.

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, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

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

Obtaining a Copy of the Information Collection: A copy of the information collection and related instructions may be obtained free of charge by contacting Bart Hewitt by telephone, (202) 720-0747, or by e-mail, bhewitt@csrees.usda.gov.

Done in Washington, DC, this 23rd day of December 2008.

Joseph Dunn,

Deputy Under Secretary, Research, Education, and Economics.

[FR Doc. E8-31143 Filed 12-30-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

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

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), USDA.

ACTION: Correction and request for comments.

SUMMARY: NRCS published in the **Federal Register** notice of October 22, 2008 (73 FR 62949), a document stating "Notice to Reinstate a Previously Approved Information Collection." This notice corrects the previously published document. In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), this notice announces the intention of NRCS to request an extension for, and a revision to, the currently approved information collection, Volunteer Program—Earth Team. The collected information will help NRCS match the skills of individuals who apply for volunteer work that will further the Agency's mission. Information will be collected from potential volunteers who are at least 14 years of age.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received within 60 days after publication in the **Federal Register** to be assured of consideration.

Additional Information or Comments: Contact Michele Eginoire, National Volunteer Coordinator, at (515) 289-0325, extension 102. Submit comments to Michele by fax at (515) 289-4561, or by e-mail: michele.eginoire@ia.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Collection of this information is necessary to match volunteer assignments to Agency mission as required by Federal Personnel Manual Supplement 296-33, Subchapter 3. Agencies are authorized to recruit, train, and accept, with regard to Civil Service classification laws, rules or regulations, the services of individuals to serve without compensation. Volunteers may assist in any Agency program/project and may perform any activities that Agency employees are allowed. Volunteers must be at least 14 years of age. Persons interested in volunteering will have to

write, call, e-mail, or visit an NRCS office, or visit the NRCS Web site at: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/feature/volunteers/> to complete and submit the forms.

Title: Volunteer Program—Earth Team.

OMB Number: 0578-0024.

Expiration Date of Approval: May 31, 2009.

Type of Request: Notice to Request for Extension and Revision of Currently Approved Information Collection.

Abstract: NRCS-PER-001, Volunteer Application and NRCS-PER-003, Agreement for Sponsored Voluntary Services, are discontinued. The information collected on these forms has been added to the Forest Service collection packet, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Control Number 0596-0080.

Form NRCS-PER-002, Volunteer Interest and Placement Summary, is an optional form and assists the volunteer's supervisor in placing the volunteer in a position which is beneficial to the volunteer and the Agency. The form is placed in a volunteer "case file" and will be destroyed 3 years after the volunteer has completed service. In the event that the volunteer is injured, the "case file" will be transferred to an Official Personnel Folder (OPF).

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 3 minutes per response.

Respondents: Retirees, students, teachers, persons with disabilities, or senior citizens.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 500.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 25 hours.

Form NRCS-PER-004, Time Sheet, is also an optional form and provides the volunteer or their supervisor a simplified method for tracking the volunteer's time. The form is placed in a volunteer "case file" and will be destroyed 3 years after the volunteer has completed service. In the event that the volunteer is injured, the "case file" will be transferred to an OPF.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1 minute per response.

Respondents: Retirees, students, teachers, persons with disabilities, or senior citizens.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 20,480.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 2.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 683 hours.