

- Proposals received by, but not later than, 5 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time, May 19, 2014, will be considered for funding with other proposals received by that date;

- Proposals not approved for funding during this review period will be reconsidered for funding after the review period only if the applicant specifically requests such reconsideration in writing, and only if funding remains available;

- Proposals received after 5 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time, May 19, 2014, will be considered in the order received for funding only if funding remains available.

**4. Other Submission Requirements:** All Internet-based applications must be properly submitted by 5 p.m., Eastern Daylight Time, May 19, 2014, in order to be considered for funding; late submissions received after the deadline will be considered only if funding remains available. All applications submitted by email must be received by 5 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time, May 19, 2014, at [podadmin@fas.usda.gov](mailto:podadmin@fas.usda.gov) in order to receive the same consideration.

**5. Funding Restrictions:** Proposals that request more than \$75,000 of CCC funding for individual projects will not be considered. Projects comprised of technical preparation seminars will be limited to \$15,000 in QSP funding. CCC will not reimburse expenditures made prior to approval of a proposal or unreasonable expenditures.

#### V. Application Review Information

**1. Criteria and Review Process:** Following is a description of the FAS process for reviewing applications and the criteria for allocating available QSP funds.

FAS will use the following criteria in evaluating proposals:

- The ability of the organization to provide an experienced staff with the requisite technical and trade experience to execute the proposal;
- The extent to which the proposal is targeted to a market in which the United States is generally competitive;
- The potential for expanding commercial sales in the proposed market;
- The nature of the specific market constraint or opportunity involved and how well it is addressed by the proposal;
- The extent to which the importer's contribution in terms of handling and processing enhances the potential outcome of the project;
- The amount of reimbursement requested and the organization's willingness to contribute resources, including cash, goods and services of

the U.S. industry, and foreign third parties; and

- How well the proposed technical assistance component assures that performance trials will effectively demonstrate the intended end-use benefit.

Proposals will be evaluated by the Commodity Branch offices in the FAS' Cooperator Programs Division. The Commodity Branches will review each proposal against the factors described above. The purpose of this review is to identify meritorious proposals, recommend an appropriate funding level for each proposal based upon these factors, and submit proposals and funding recommendations to the Deputy Administrator, Office of Trade Programs.

**2. Anticipated Announcement Date:** Announcements of funding decisions for QSP are anticipated during October 2014.

#### VI. Award Administration Information

**1. Award Notices:** FAS will notify each applicant in writing of the final disposition of the submitted application. FAS will send an approval letter and agreement to each approved applicant. The approval letter and agreement will specify the terms and conditions applicable to the project, including the levels of QSP funding, and any cost-share contribution requirements.

**2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements:** The agreements will incorporate the details of each project as approved by FAS. Each agreement will identify terms and conditions pursuant to which CCC will reimburse certain costs of each project. Agreements will also outline the responsibilities of the participant, including, but not limited to, procurement (or arranging for procurement) of the commodity sample at a fair market price, arranging for transportation of the commodity sample within the time limit specified in the agreement (organizations should endeavor to ship commodities within 6 months of the effective date of the agreement), compliance with cargo preference requirements (shipment on United States flag vessels, as required), compliance with the Fly America Act requirements (shipment on United States air carriers, as required), timely and effective implementation of technical assistance, and submission of a written evaluation report within 90 days of expiration or termination of the agreement.

QSP projects are subject to review and verification by FAS' Compliance, Security and Emergency Planning Division. Upon request, a QSP

participant shall provide to CCC the original documents that support the participant's reimbursement claims. CCC may deny a claim for reimbursement if the claim is not supported by adequate documentation.

**3. Reporting:** A written evaluation report must be submitted within 90 days of the expiration or termination of each participant's QSP agreement. Evaluation reports should address all performance measures that were presented in the proposal.

#### VII. Agency Contact(s)

For additional information and assistance, contact the Program Operations Division, Office of Trade Programs, Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

**Courier address:** Room 6512, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Washington, DC 20250, or **by phone:** (202) 720-4327, or **by fax:** (202) 720-9361, or **by email:** [podadmin@fas.usda.gov](mailto:podadmin@fas.usda.gov).

Signed at Washington, DC, on the 18th of March, 2014.

**Bryce Quick,**

*Acting Administrator, Foreign Agricultural Service, and Vice President, Commodity Credit Corporation.*

[FR Doc. 2014-08622 Filed 4-15-14; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-05-P**

#### DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

##### National Institute of Food and Agriculture

##### Application Package and Reporting Requirements for the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)

**AGENCY:** National Institute of Food and Agriculture, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations (5 CFR part 1320), which implements the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), this notice announces the National Institute of Food and Agriculture's (NIFA) intention to request an extension for the currently approved information collection for the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP). This notice initiates a 60-day comment period. The NIFA may not conduct or sponsor, and the respondent is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a valid OMB control number.

**DATES:** Comments regarding this information collection must be received on or before June 16, 2014 to be assured of having their full effect.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

*Federal eRulemaking Portal:* <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

*Email:* [vmlrp@nifa.usda.gov](mailto:vmlrp@nifa.usda.gov). Include the text "VMLRP Application Forms" in the subject line of the message.

*Fax:* (202) 401-7752.

*Mail:* paper, disk or CD-ROM submissions should be submitted to National Institute of Food and Agriculture; U.S. Department of Agriculture; STOP 2299; 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250-2299.

*Hand Delivery/Courier:* National Institute of Food and Agriculture; U.S. Department of Agriculture; Room 2308, Waterfront Centre; 800 9th Street SW., Washington, DC 20024.

*Instructions:* All comments received will be posted without change to <http://www.regulations.gov>, including any personal information provided.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Gary Sherman; National Program Leader, Veterinary Science; National Institute of Food and Agriculture; U.S. Department of Agriculture; STOP 2220; 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250-2220; Voice:

202-401-4952; Fax: 202-401-6156; Email: [gsherman@nifa.usda.gov](mailto:gsherman@nifa.usda.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title:* Application Package and Reporting Requirements for the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)

*OMB Number:* 0524-0047.

*Expiration Date of Current Approval:* October 31, 2014.

*Type of Information Collection Request:* Intent to extend currently approved information collection for three years.

*Abstract:* These application forms and reporting requirements are for the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP) as authorized under section 1415A of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (NARETPA). This information collection applies to Subpart B of 7 CFR part 3431.

*Need and Use of the Information:* The NIFA will carry out NVMSA by entering into educational loan repayment agreements with veterinarians who agree to provide veterinary services in veterinarian shortage situations for a determined period of time. The information collection allows the NIFA to request from VMLRP applicants information related to eligibility, qualifications, career interests, and recommendations necessary to evaluate their applications for repayment of educational indebtedness in return for

agreeing to provide veterinary services in veterinarian shortage situations. This information collection is also used to determine an applicant's eligibility for participation in the program. NIFA publishes a Request for Applications (RFA) to request VMLRP loan repayment applications from individual veterinarians on an annual basis. These forms are made available at the NIFA VMLRP Web site as a PDF-fillable document (to be printed and then returned by fax or mail), and includes questions requiring check boxes or text with a word limitation to minimize the burden for applicants and reviewers. Submitted application forms are reviewed and evaluated by a peer panel according to the criteria identified in the published RFA.

*Method of Collection:* Collection allows program applicants to make all submissions by fax, courier, or regular mail. The information collection is required of all applicants who request to enter into an agreement with the Secretary of Agriculture for VMLRP participation.

*Frequency of Response:* Annual application

*Affected Public:* Applicants, recommenders, and financial institutions.

*Type of Respondents:* Veterinarians and organizational officials.

The estimated annual reporting burden is as follows:

Type of respondents	Number of respondents	Estimated number of responses per respondent	Average burden hours per response	Annual burden hours requested
<i>Applicants:</i>				
Applicant Information .....	100	1	1	100
Personal Statement .....	100	1	6	600
List of Recommenders .....	100	1	.5	50
Loan Information .....	100	2	.5	100
Contract .....	100	1	.25	25
Certification for Applications .....	100	1	.25	25
Intent of Employment .....	100	1	1	100
Applicants subtotal .....	100	.....	.....	1,000
<i>Recommenders:</i>				
Recommendation .....	300	1	1	300
Recommenders subtotal .....	300	1	1	300
<i>Financial Institutions:</i>				
Loan Information .....	200	1	.25	50
Financial Institutions subtotal .....	200	1	.25	50
Grand Total .....	600	.....	.....	1,350

*Request for Comments:* Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of the

information collection. All comments will become a matter of public record. Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the information collection is necessary

for the proper performance of the functions of the VMLRP, including whether the information has practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the public

burden estimate (the estimated amount of time needed for individual respondents to provide the requested 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; (d) ways to minimize the public burden through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and (e) estimates of capital or start-up costs and costs of operation, maintenance, and purchase of services to provide information.

*Obtaining a Copy of the Information Collection:* A copy of the information collection is available at the VMLRP Web site: [www.nifa.usda.gov/vmlrp](http://www.nifa.usda.gov/vmlrp).

### VMLRP Application Forms and Reporting Requirements

Pursuant to the requirements enacted in the NVMSA of 2004 (as revised), and the implementing regulation for this Act, the National Institute of Food and Agriculture hereby proposes to continue its use of:

#### I. Application Forms

The following forms are to be completed and submitted by the applicant by the established deadline.

(a) **Applicant Information Form:** Collects relevant identifying, contact, and employment information from the applicant. Authorizes the disclosure of information that confirms the applicant is not under a service obligation or has a Federal judgment lien against his/her property.

(b) **Personal Statement:** Includes a discussion of applicant knowledge, skills, abilities, and experience relative to the shortage situation applied for.

(c) **List of Recommenders:** Identifies colleagues that can speak to the applicant's capability to fulfill program obligations. Three recommendations are required for each application.

(d) **Loan Information Form:** Authorizes the disclosure of information to the lenders and their authorized collection agents to confirm that the applicant's loans are current in their repayment status.

(e) **Contract:** A legal agreement that binds the applicant and the Secretary of USDA and/or NIFA Director to the terms and conditions for participation in the VMLRP, including obligations of both parties.

(f) **Certifications for Application:** Validates the contractual agreement, accuracy of information provided by the applicant, and request for confidential recommendations.

(g) **Intent of Employment:** Section 1 provides information on the shortage situation the applicant intends to fill upon receipt of a VMLRP award. Section 2 confirms the applicant's ability to secure an offer of employment or establish and/or maintain a practice in a veterinary shortage situation within the time period specified in the VMLRP service agreement offer.

#### II. Recommendation Form

To be completed and submitted by colleagues identified by the applicant by an established deadline. Includes ratings and short answers to assess applicant's capabilities to provide veterinary services in the specific shortage situation the applicant is applying for. Three separate recommendations are required.

#### III. Reporting Requirements

Program participants are required to verify that the terms of the VMLRP contract are being met on a quarterly basis. Subsequent quarterly loan repayments will not be disbursed until this verification is provided. This report must include:

(a) A listing of states, counties, and/or insular areas served

(b) A listing of veterinary services and activities provided in the shortage situation

(c) Percentage time (on a 40-hour week basis) providing service to veterinary shortage situation identified in the agreement. Program participants are responsible for notifying NIFA of any changes in the service being provided in the specified shortage situation during the three-year period. It is strongly recommended that program participants advise NIFA of these changes at least two months in advance to allow sufficient processing time. Failure to provide the updated information may result in the termination of the VMLRP contract and the program participant may be subject to penalties as outlined in Section C, Paragraph 3 of the contract.

Done in Washington, DC, this 9th day of April, 2014.

**Catherine E. Woteki,**

*Under Secretary, Research, Economics, and Education.*

[FR Doc. 2014-08575 Filed 4-15-14; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Rural Utilities Service

#### Information Collection Activity; Comment Request

**AGENCY:** Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended), the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) invites comments on this information collection for which RUS intends to request approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received by June 16, 2014.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Michele L. Brooks, Director, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, Rural Utilities Service, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., STOP 1522, Room 5162, South Building, Washington, DC 20250-1522. Telephone: (202) 690-1078, FAX: (202) 720-8435 or email [Michele.brooks@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:Michele.brooks@wdc.usda.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) regulation (5 CFR part 1320) implementing provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13) requires that interested members of the public and affected agencies have an opportunity to comment on information collection and recordkeeping activities (see 5 CFR 1320.8(d)). This notice identifies an information collection that RUS is submitting to OMB for reinstatement.

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. Comments may be sent to: Michele L. Brooks, Director, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, Rural Utilities Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, STOP 1522, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Washington, DC 20250-1522. Telephone (202) 690-1078, FAX: (202) 720-8435 or email [Michele.brooks@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:Michele.brooks@wdc.usda.gov).

*Title:* RUS Specification for Quality Control and Inspection of Timber Products.

*OMB Control Number:* 0572-0076.