

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 10 to 15 minutes per respondent.

Respondents: Potential Farmers and Ranchers.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 260,000 (annual average).

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: With an estimated response rate of approximately 65% NASS estimates the burden to be approximately 60,000 hours (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, 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 1, 2021.

Kevin L. Barnes,
Associate Administrator.

[FR Doc. 2021-26940 Filed 12-10-21; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-20-P

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 custom works surveys. This clearance allows NASS to conduct custom works surveys in a timely manner for the cooperating institutions providing funding for the

surveys. There will be no revision to annual burden hours for the surveys.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by February 11, 2022 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by docket number 0535-0266, 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: David Hancock, 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: David Hancock, NASS Clearance Officer, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 5336, South Building, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250-2024.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Kevin L. Barnes, Associate Administrator, National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 202-720-5142. Copies of this information collection and related instructions can be obtained without charge from David Hancock, NASS-OMB Clearance Officer, at 202-690-2388 or at ombofficer@nass.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Custom Works Surveys.

OMB Control Number: 0535-0266.

Type of Request: Intent to Seek

Approval to Revise and Extend an Information Collection for a period of three 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 Custom Works program will survey farmers who potentially paid for custom services during a specified reference period to collect information on how much they paid for those services. These services include land tillage, application of fertilizers and chemicals, planting, harvesting, hauling, various livestock tasks, and many more tasks. The program will provide farm operators with estimates of the average prices paid for different custom services in their state and/or local area. All questionnaires included in this information collection will be voluntary. This project is conducted as a cooperative effort between NASS and

state agricultural departments and/or universities. Funding will be provided by the cooperating institutions under full cost recovery. The time between when funding for an individual survey is secured and the desired start of data collection is expected often to be too short to allow for a separate OMB approval for each survey. With this request, NASS will be able to provide services in a timelier manner.

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, 44 U.S.C. 3501, *et seq.*) 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 information collection is based on similar surveys with expected response time of 20 minutes. The estimated sample size will be approximately 42,000. The frequency of data collection for each survey is as needed by the cooperating institution. The estimated number of responses per respondent is 1. Publicity materials and instruction sheets will account for approximately 5 minutes of additional burden per respondent. Respondents who refuse to complete a survey will be allotted 2 minutes of burden per attempt to collect the data.

Respondents: Farmers who potentially paid for custom services during the reference period.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 42,000.

Frequency of Responses: On occasion.

Estimated Total Burden on Respondents: 16,000 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 1, 2021.

Kevin L. Barnes,

Associate Administrator.

[FR Doc. 2021-26941 Filed 12-10-21; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-20-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

[Docket #RBS-21-BUSINESS-0026]

Notice of Funding Opportunity for the Biofuel Producer Program for Fiscal Year 2021

AGENCY: Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBCS or Agency), an agency of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), announces the application window, application requirements and the availability of up to \$700 million in payments to eligible biofuel producers for unexpected market losses as a result of COVID-19 in order to maintain a viable and significant biofuels market for agricultural producers that supply biofuel producers. The Biofuel Producer Program is authorized under Title I of Division B of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. All applicants are responsible for any expenses incurred in developing their applications.

DATES: Applications for the Biofuel Producer Program must be received by 11:59 p.m. EDT on February 11, 2022.

ADDRESSES: Application materials, requirements and other important information is available on the Biofuel Producer Program's website at <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/energy-programs/biofuel-producer-relief-payments-program>. Application

materials may also be obtained by contacting the Agency at EnergyPrograms@usda.gov.

Application submission: Applications must be submitted electronically to EnergyPrograms@usda.gov by the deadline stated in the **DATES** section of this Notice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lisa Noty, USDA Rural Development, Rural Business-Cooperative Service. Telephone: (712) 254-4366, email: lisa.noty@usda.gov. Persons with disabilities that require alternative means for communication should contact the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Target Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Overview

Federal Agency: Rural Business-Cooperative Service.

Funding Opportunity Title: Notice of Funding Opportunity for the Biofuel Producer Program for Fiscal Year 2021.

Announcement Type: Notice of Funding Opportunity.

Assistance Listings Number: 10.378.

Due Date for Applications:

Applications must be submitted electronically to EnergyPrograms@usda.gov and must be received by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) February 11, 2022.

A. Program Description

1. **Purpose of the program.** The Biofuel Producer Program will make payments to eligible producers of eligible biofuel for unexpected market losses as a result of COVID-19. These payments to biofuel producers support the maintenance and viability of a significant market for agricultural producers of products such as corn, soybean or biomass that supply biofuel production. Payment to a biofuel producer will be based upon the volume of market loss the biofuel producer experienced in calendar year 2020. The producer's volume of market loss will be calculated by comparing the amount of fuel (gallons of eligible biofuel) they produced in calendar year 2020 to the amount of fuel (gallons of eligible biofuel) produced in calendar year 2019. Eligible biofuel (gallons of biofuel) produced by the eligible producer in 2020 to meet required contractual commitments resulting in a gross profit loss will be deducted from 2020 production by the Agency's calculation of program payments. Quantities of gaseous biofuel will be converted into gallons based on the British Thermal Unit (BTU) equivalent of one gallon of biodiesel using factors published by the

Energy Information Administration (EIA).

The payments will be based on a fixed amount per gallon for all eligible producers. The fixed amount per gallon will be calculated by dividing the amount of program funding available by the total volume of market loss reported by eligible program applicants. USDA may limit the payment fixed amount per gallon.

2. **Statutory authority.** The CARES Act (Pub. L. 116-136) authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus by providing support for agricultural producers impacted by coronavirus. This authority includes supporting agricultural producers that rely on biofuels producers as a market for their agricultural products such as corn, soybeans and biomass, by making payments to producers of biofuels in order to maintain a viable and significant market for such agricultural products in light of the adverse effects on that market from the coronavirus. In some cases, crops have been specifically developed for biofuel production, such as high-amylase corn varieties that are designed for the ethanol fermentation process. Many agricultural producers may be part of farmer-owned cooperatives that in some case require members to supply a certain amount of a crop to the plant.

3. **Definitions.** The following definitions are applicable to this Notice:

Agency means Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA, Rural Development.

Applicant means a sole proprietorship or legal entity who makes a request for payment under this Notice.

Eligible biofuel means renewable fuel that is produced from renewable biomass and that is used to replace or reduce the quantity of fossil fuel present in a transportation fuel, comprised of advanced biofuel, biomass-based diesel, cellulosic biofuel, or conventional biofuel, as such terms are defined in section 211(o)(1) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7545(o)(1)) produced in the United States.

Eligible producer means a sole proprietorship or legal entity that produces an eligible biofuel. A sole proprietorship or legal entity that produces eligible biofuel as a third-party producer under a toll/bailment arrangement production contract is considered an eligible producer under this Notice. The following are not considered an eligible producer under this Notice:

i. A sole proprietorship or legal entity that exclusively contracts for the production of biofuel by a third-party