

regionalization of bluetongue. The BSPP sentinel trial is a surveillance methodology development activity. In the surveillance trial, specific sentinel animals and farms will be tested serologically over time in contrast to the randomized on-farm and slaughter market surveillance currently practiced. Neither one-time, on-farm nor slaughter market surveillance allows animals to be tracked over time, and the geographic history of the origin of the animals is difficult to establish with consistent reliability.

The Center for Animal Health Monitoring is proposing the BSPP sentinel trial, which will use active serosurveillance, adult insect trapping, and soil sampling for insect larvae from suspect vector breeding sites. The objectives of this study include: (1) Develop a pilot sentinel system as a tool to substantiate disease freedom and compare it to other surveillance options; (2) test for bluetongue status in two demarcated populations (free and infected); and (3) develop data on the epidemiology of bluetongue in a seasonally infected area.

The ideal choice of States is a contiguous north-south group, (e.g., Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Nebraska) that transects the border between the disease-free (North Dakota) and the seasonally affected zone (Montana and Nebraska) with a transitional State (South Dakota) having both free and infected zones. This provides a continuous gradient of environmental determinants of vector distribution that can be measured when moving from north to south.

The Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement of the World Trade Organization provides that countries can create disease-free and low-prevalence zones. Determination of such areas must be based on factors such as geography, ecosystems, epidemiological surveillance, and the effectiveness of sanitary and phytosanitary controls. Further, it is up to the exporting country to develop a regionalization proposal with sufficient information to substantiate zoning for a disease. The importing country is charged with reviewing the proposal and providing a transparent and science-based decision. In the case of bluetongue, a vector-borne disease, it is largely the ecology of the vector that determines the distribution of the disease.

The potential benefits to trade from better bluetongue surveillance include access to new export markets and preservation of existing markets through increased confidence in disease freedom.

Information from this study will be disseminated and used by livestock producers, animal health officials, private veterinary practitioners, animal industry groups, policymakers, public health officials, the media, educational institutions, and others to improve agricultural productivity and competitiveness.

Participation in the BPSS sentinel trial is voluntary, and all data are confidential.

We are asking the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve the use of this information collection activity.

The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public (as well as affected agencies) concerning this information collection. These comments will help us:

(1) Evaluate whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(2) Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the burden of the information collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(3) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(4) Minimize the burden of the information collection on those who are to respond, through use, as appropriate, of automated, electronic, mechanical, and other collection technologies, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

Estimate of burden: The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .93814 hours per response.

Respondents: Industry personnel, private veterinary practitioners, company and independent producers, academicians, State veterinary medical officers, and State public health officials.

Estimated annual number of respondents: 1,365.

Estimated annual number of responses per respondent: 1.06593.

Estimated annual number of responses: 1,455.

Estimated total annual burden on respondents: 1,373 hours. (Due to rounding, the total annual burden hours may not equal the product of the annual number of responses multiplied by the average reporting burden per response.)

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

Done in Washington, DC, this 30th day of October 2000.

Bobby R. Acord,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

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BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Commodity Credit Corporation

Request for Reinstatement and Revision of a Previously Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Commodity Credit Corporation, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the intention of the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) and the Farm Service Agency (FSA) to request the reinstatement and revision of a previously approved information collection. This information collection is used by CCC and FSA to document or determine whether representatives or survivors of a producer are entitled to received payments earned by a producer who dies, disappears, or is declared incompetent before receiving payments or other disbursements.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received on or before January 2, 2001 to be assured consideration.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS: Contact David Tidwell, Agricultural Program Specialist, Production, Emergencies, and Compliance Division, USDA, FSA, STOP 0517, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-0517, telephone (202)720-4542.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Application for Payment of Amounts Due Persons Who Have Died, Disappeared, or Have Been Declared Incompetent.

OMB Control Number: 0560-0026.

Type of Request: Extension and revision of a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: Persons desiring to claim payment due a person who has died, disappeared, or has been declared incompetent must do so on Form FSA-325, "Application for Payment of Amounts Due Persons Who Have Died, Disappeared, or Have Been Declared Incompetent". This information is used by FSA county office employees to document the relationship of heirs or beneficiaries and determine the order of precedence for disbursing payments to

survivors of the person who has died, disappeared, or been declared incompetent.

Information is obtained only when a producer eligible to receive a payment or disbursement dies, disappears, or is declared incompetent, and documentation is needed to determine if any survivors are entitled to receive such payments or disbursements.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .5 hours (1/2 hour) per response.

Respondents: Individual producers.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 4,000.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: one.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 2,000.

Proposed topics for comment include:

(a) Whether the 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 burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information collected; or (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of the 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 should be sent to the Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503 and to David Tidwell, Agricultural Program Specialist, Production, Emergencies, and Compliance Division, USDA, FSA, STOP 0517, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-0517, (202)720-4542.

Copies of the information collection may be obtained from David Tidwell, at the above address.

A comment to OMB is best assured of having its full effect if OMB receives it within 30 days of publication. This does not affect the deadline for the public to comment to the Department of Agriculture on the substantive regulations that may be the subject of other notices.

Signed at Washington, DC, on October 26, 2000.

George Arredondo,

Acting Executive Vice President, Commodity Credit Corporation.

[FR Doc. 00-28264 Filed 11-2-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-05-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Commodity Credit Corporation

Request for Extension and Revision of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Commodity Credit Corporation, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the intention of the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) and the Farm Service Agency (FSA) to request an extension and revision for the Highly Erodible Land Conservation and Wetland Conservation certification requirements. This information is collected in support of the conservation provisions of Title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended by the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 and the Federal Agriculture, Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (the Statute).

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received on or before January 2, 2001 to be assured consideration.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS: Contact Sharon Biastock, Agricultural Program Specialist, Production, Emergencies, and Compliance Division, USDA, FSA, STOP 0517, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-0517, telephone (202)720-6336.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Highly Erodible Land Conservation and Wetland Conservation Certification.

OMB Control Number: 0560-0185.

Expiration Date: December 31, 2000.

Type of Request: Extension and revision of a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: Rules governing those requirements under Title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended by the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 and the Federal Agriculture, Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 relating to highly erodible lands and wetlands are codified in 7 CFR part 12. In order to ensure that persons who request benefits subject to conservation restrictions get the necessary technical assistance and are informed regarding the compliance requirements on their land, information is collected with regard to their intended activities on their land which could affect their eligibility for requested USDA benefits. Once technical determinations are made, producers are required to certify that

they will comply with the conservation requirements on their land to maintain their eligibility for certain programs.

Persons may request that certain activities be exempt according to provisions of the Statute. Information is collected from those who seek these exemptions for the purpose of evaluating whether the exempted conditions will be met.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .16 hours (10 minutes) per response.

Respondents: Individual producers.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 250,000

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 40,000.

Proposed topics for comment include:

(a) Whether the collection 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 burden, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of the information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments should be sent to the Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503 and to Sharon Biastock, Agricultural Program Specialist, Production, Emergencies, and Compliance Division, USDA, FSA, STOP 0517, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-0517, telephone (202)720-6336.

Signed at Washington, DC, on October 26, 2000.

George Arredondo,

Acting Executive Vice President, Commodity Credit Corporation.

[FR Doc. 00-28265 Filed 11-2-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-05-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

Protein Certification

AGENCY: Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, USDA.

ACTION: Final notice.