

**0National Institute of Food and Agriculture  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Information Collection OMB No. 0524-0026**

SUBJECT: Supporting Statement for Paperwork Reduction Act Submission to Revise and Extend OMB No. 0524-0026, Form NIFA-666, Organizational Information.

A. 1JUSTIFICATION

1. CIRCUMSTANCES MAKING COLLECTION OF INFORMATION NECESSARY

The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) has primary responsibility for providing linkages between the Federal and State components of a broad-based, national agricultural research, extension, and higher education system. Focused on national issues, its purpose is to represent the Secretary of Agriculture and the intent of Congress by administering formula and grant funds appropriated for agricultural research, extension, and higher education. Before awards can be made, certain information is required from applicants to assure compliance with the civil rights laws and to effectively assess the potential recipient's capacity to manage Federal funds.

Form CSREES-665—Assurance of Compliance with the Department of Agriculture Regulations Assuring Civil Rights Compliance has been discontinued and is no longer collected.

Form NIFA-666 (formerly CSREES-666)—*Organizational Information*: Section 450i of Title 7 of the U.S. Code and other grant authorities authorizes the Department of Agriculture to make Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research grants to improve agriculture in the United States. The information required by this form enables NIFA to determine that applicants recommended for awards are responsible recipients of Federal funds. The information pertains to organizational management and financial matters of the potential grantee. This form and the documents which the applicant attaches to it provide NIFA with information such as the legal name of the grantee, certification that the organization has the legal authority to accept Federal funding, identification and signatures of the key officials of the organization, the organization's practices in regard to compensation rates and benefits of employees, insurance for equipment, subcontracting with other organizations, etc., as well as the financial condition of the organization. All of this information is considered by NIFA prior to award to determine that grantees are both managerially and fiscally responsible.

2. HOW, BY WHOM, AND PURPOSE FOR WHICH INFORMATION IS TO BE USED

The collection of information is gathered by NIFA through the use of the "Organizational Information" (NIFA Form-666). NIFA uses this form to assure that the grantees are managerially and fiscally responsible.

If this information is not collected, it would not be possible to determine that the prospective grantees are responsible.

3. USE OF IMPROVED INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

NIFA will make these forms available on its web site. With regards to compliance with the Government Paperwork Elimination Act (44 U.S.C. 3504 note), NIFA is proposing to postpone making an electronic option available for this information collection until the Federal government-wide electronic process is developed for collecting organizational information and statutory certifications from new grantees. Under the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 1999 (P.L. No. 106-107), Federal agencies and OMB have been working together to streamline and simplify the award and administration of federal grants. NIFA continue to participate in these efforts.

4. DESCRIBE EFFORTS TO IDENTIFY DUPLICATION.

This information is only collected once by NIFA.

5. METHODS TO MINIMIZE BURDEN ON SMALL BUSINESSES OR OTHER SMALL ENTITIES.

This information is collected only once unless the grantee information changes and then only the updated information is requested.

6. CONSEQUENCES IF INFORMATION COLLECTION WERE LESS FREQUENT.

Since information is collected only when the grantee initially is funded through NIFA, or when that information changes, it would not be feasible to collect it less frequently.

7. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES FOR INFORMATION COLLECTION.

Information collected is consistent with regulations in 7 CFR Part 3015, 7 CFR Part 3016, and 7 CFR Part 3019. There are no additional requirements.

8. FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICE

Notice of intent to request an extension of a currently approved information collection was published in the Federal Register on October 14, 2009, pg. 52735. One comment was received from an individual, but it did not pertain to the information being collected.

CONSULTATION WITH PERSONS OUTSIDE THE AGENCY

With the exception of discontinuing the collection of the CSREES-665, NIFA has proposed no changes in this collection and has not consulted with others outside the agency since the previous approval.

9. EXPLAIN ANY DECISION TO PROVIDE ANY PAYMENT OR GIFT TO RESPONDENTS.

Payments or gifts are not given to any respondents.

10. CONFIDENTIALITY PROVIDED TO RESPONDENTS.

Forms received are maintained in the Awards Management Branch, Office of Extramural Programs, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, in accordance with agency responsibilities for maintenance of official records following the provisions of the Privacy Act.

11. QUESTIONS OF A SENSITIVE NATURE.

Information collected from grantees is not considered sensitive.

12. ESTIMATE OF BURDEN.

Total Annual Burden

	Number of Respondents	Number of Responses/Respondent	Hours/Response	Total Annual Burden Hours
NIFA-666	150	1	6.3	<b>945</b>

Total Annual Cost to the Respondents

	Hourly Rate	Hours Worked / Response	Cost / Response	Number of Responses	Total Annual Cost
NIFA-666 Administrative Support	\$20.00	1	\$20.00	150	\$3000.00
NIFA-666 Accountant	31.25	5.3	\$165.63	150	\$24,844.50
					<b>\$27,844.5</b>

\* Salary estimates were taken from the Department of Labor Employment and Wages, Annual Averages 2008.

13. CAPITAL/START UP COSTS

There is no capital/start up costs.

14. PROVIDE ESTIMATES OF ANNUALIZED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

Total Cost to Government

	Hourly Rate	Hours worked/Response	Cost / Response	Number of Responses	Total Cost to Government
NIFA-666	G2 12/5, \$40.66	2	81.32	150	<b>\$12,198.00</b>

Costs included in the above are used for publishing the form and reviewing the form to determine compliance.

15. REASONS FOR CHANGES IN BURDEN.

There is a program change resulting in the discontinuation of the collection of the CSREES-665. This resulted in a decrease of this collections annual burden by 75 hours.

16. TABULATION, ANALYSIS AND PUBLICATION PLANS.

The information collected is not planned for publication. It is used solely to administer the program.

17. REASONS DISPLAY OF EXPIRATION DATE OF OMB APPROVAL IS INAPPROPRIATE.

NIFA plans to display the expiration date on the forms.

18. EXCEPTIONS TO 83-I CERTIFICATION STATEMENT.

The agency is able to certify compliance with all provisions under Item 19 of OMB Form 83-I.