



United States
Department of
Agriculture

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Farm and Foreign
Agricultural
Services

Farm Service
Agency

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TO: Nathan J. Frey
Office of Management and Budget Desk Officer

THROUGH: Ruth Brown
Department Clearance Officer

FROM: Chris Beyerhelm *Chris P. Beyerhelm*
Deputy Administrator for Farm Loan Programs

SUBJECT: Request for Emergency Approval of a New Information Collection Package – 2008 Farm Bill - Conservation Loan (CL) Program

The Farm Loan Programs (FPL) of the Farm Service Agency (FSA) has been tasked with implementing the Conservation Loan (CL) Program authorized by Section 5002 of the 2008 Farm Bill (Pub. L. 110-246), which amends section 304 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (CONACT) (7 U.S.C. 1924).

Conservation of natural resources is a high priority of the current administration. There is strong interest and participation from farmers in programs that support and encourage conservation practices. However, many farmers do not have the up front capital to implement these conservation projects.

The 2010 Agricultural Appropriations Bill (Pub. L. 111-80) provided funding for this Farm Bill program in fiscal year 2010. Therefore, we are requesting emergency approval of a new information collection package by August 1, 2010 to meet these new conservation initiatives.

FSA is expediting the publication of CL Program as an interim rule, to be effective on publication. FSA believes that advance solicitation of comments for this rulemaking would be impractical and contrary to public interest, as it would delay implementation of conservation projects that are critical to accomplishment of conservation objectives.

The existing forms and processing of the loans in FLP will be used for the CL Program. The CL Program's burden hours will be related to new applicants for loans, not new or different information.

If there are any questions or concerns, please call Deirdre Holder at 202-205-5851.