

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**National Institute of Food and Agriculture****Notice of Intent to Renew an Existing Information Collection**

AGENCY: National Institute of Food and Agriculture, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations, that implement the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the National Institute of Food and Agriculture's (NIFA) intention to request a renewal of an existing information collection.

DATES: Written comments on this notice must be received on or before September 21, 2015 to be assured of having their full effect.

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

Federal Rulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov> Follow the instructions for submitting comments.
Email: rmartin@nifa.usda.gov *Fax:* (202) 720-0857

Mail: Office of Information Technology (OIT), NIFA, USDA, STOP 2216; 1400 Independence Avenue SW.; Washington, DC 20250-2216.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robert Martin; Records Officer; Email: rmartin@nifa.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Proposed Collection**

Title: Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP) Veterinarian Shortage Situation Nomination.

OMB Number: 0524-0046.

Type of Request: Request renewal of an existing information collection for three years.

Abstract: NIFA established a process to designate veterinarian shortage situations for the 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 A of 7 CFR part 3431.

Estimate of Burden: NIFA used burden estimates from the current REEPOR collection to estimate the burden, but anticipates the transactions for project initiation may be reduced because grant application information will be used to prepopulate many fields. The total annual burden for the non Research Performance Progress Report

(RPPR) portion of this collection is 36,760 hours and 23,490 hours for the RPPR.

Method of Collection: The information collection (nomination form) is available on the NIFA Web site and nominators are required to make submissions by emailing the completed forms to vmrlp@nifa.usda.gov.

Frequency of Response: Annual nominations.

Type of Respondents: Animal Health Official of each state and insular area.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 57 respondents.

Estimated Number of Responses: 267 respondents (range of 1 to 8 for each nominating entity).

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 534 hours.

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 proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the VMLRP, including whether the information will have 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; and (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.

Obtaining a Copy of the Information Collection: A copy of the information collection and related instructions may be obtained free of charge by contacting Robert Martin by telephone, (202) 401-5924, or by email, rmartin@nifa.usda.gov. Information is also available at: <http://www.nifa.usda.gov/vmrlp>.

Done in Washington, DC this 15 day of July, 2015.

Ann Bartuska,

Deputy Under Secretary Research, Education, and Economics.

[FR Doc. 2015-18061 Filed 7-22-15; 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, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development mission area, invites comments on this information collection for which approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) will be requested.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by July 23, 2015.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Thomas P. Dickson, Acting Director, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, USDA Rural Development, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., STOP 1522, Room 5162 South Building, Washington, DC 20250-1522. Telephone: (202) 690-4492. Fax: (202) 720-8435. Email: Thomas.Dickson@wdc.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) regulation (5 CFR 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 will be submitted to OMB for approval. *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: Thomas P. Dickson, Acting Director, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, USDA Rural Development, STOP 1522, 1400 Independence Ave.

SW., Washington, DC 20250-1522. Fax: (202) 720-8435.

Title: RUS Form 675, Certification of Authority.

OMB Control Number: 0572-0074.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) manages loan programs in accordance with the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, as amended (7 U.S.C. 901 *et seq.*) (RE Act). A major factor in managing loan programs is controlling the advance funds, including assuring that actual borrowers receive their funds. OMB Circular A-123, Management Accountability and Control, provides that information should be maintained on a current basis and that funds should be protected from unauthorized use. The use of RUS Form 675 allows effective control against unauthorized release of funds by providing a list of authorized borrower signatures against which signatures requesting funds are compared. Form 675 allows borrowers to keep RUS up to-date of changes in signature authority and controls release of funds only to authorized borrower representatives.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting for this collection of information is estimated to average .10 hours per response.

Respondents: Not-for-profit institutions; Business or other for-profit.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 250.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 25.0 hours.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Thomas P. Dickson, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, at (202) 690-1078. Fax: (202) 720-3485. Email: Thomas.Dickson@wdc.usda.gov.

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.

Dated: July 16, 2015.

Brandon McBride,

Administrator, Rural Utilities Service.

[FR Doc. 2015-18109 Filed 7-22-15; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE

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 United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Utilities Service (RUS) invites comments on the following information collections for which the RUS intends to request approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by September 21, 2015.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Thomas P. Dickson, Acting Director, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, USDA Rural Utilities Service, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., STOP 1522, Room 5164, South Building, Washington, DC 20250-1522. Telephone: (202) 690-4492. Fax: (202) 720-8435 or email Thomas.Dickson@wdc.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) regulation (5 CFR 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 information collections that USDA Rural Development is submitting to OMB for extension.

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether this 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 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 respondents, 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 Thomas P. Dickson, Acting Director, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, USDA Rural Utilities Service, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., STOP 1522, Room 5164, South Building, Washington, DC 20250-1522. Telephone: (202) 690-4492. Fax: (202) 720-8435 or email Thomas.Dickson@wdc.usda.gov.

Title: Mergers and Consolidations of Electric Borrowers, 7 CFR 1717, subpart D.

OMB Control Number: 0572-0114.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: The Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 901 *et seq.*), as amended (RE Act) authorizes and empowers the administration of RUS to make and guarantee loans to furnish and improve electric service in rural areas. Due to deregulation and restructuring activities in the electric industry, RUS borrowers may find it advantageous to merge or consolidate to meet the challenges of industry change. This information collection addresses the requirements of RUS policies and procedures for mergers and consolidations of electric program borrowers.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1.32 hours per response.

Respondents: Not for profit institutions; business or other for-profit entities.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 10.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 10.6.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 140 hours.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Rebecca Hunt, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, at (202) 205-3660, Facsimile: (202) 720-8435, or email: rebecca.hunt@wdc.usda.gov. 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.

Dated: July 17, 2015.

Brandon McBride,

Administrator, Rural Utilities Service.

[FR Doc. 2015-18055 Filed 7-22-15; 8:45 am]

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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 the following information collections for which RUS intends to request approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by September 21, 2015.