



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Farm Production
And Conservation
(FPAC)

Farm Service
Agency (FSA)

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DATE: February 27, 2018

TO: Julie A. Wise
OMB Desk Officer

THROUGH: Ruth Brown
USDA Information Collection Officer

FROM: Bradley Karmen *Sean Meil*
FSA Acting Deputy Administrator Farm Programs

SUBJECT: Request for Emergency Approval on a Cotton Ginning Cost-Share (CGCS) Program Information Collection Request under a previously approved OMB Control Number 0560--287

This request is for Office of Management Budget (OMB) to review and reinstate with a change a previously approved collection under OMB control number 0560-0287 through an emergency request. It is necessary to process one-time Cotton Ginning Cost-Share (CGCS) payments to cotton producers for the 2016 Crop year. FSA is requesting the emergency approval because using normal clearance procedures will delay the collection of information, and the USDA Secretary is announcing the program on March 2, which is considered essential to the mission of the agency.

The Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) is announcing the availability of cost-share funds to cotton producers of the United States for cost-sharing of cotton ginning expenses for harvest 2016 cotton crop incurred by cotton producers in the States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and Washington, D.C. CGCS applicants receive a one-time cost-share payment on a per acre basis by certifying to the number of 2016 acres they reported as planted to cotton on a FSA-578 Crop Acreage Report, and the percentage of shares they had in the ginned cotton, not to exceed 20% of the calculated 2016 ginning costs. The funds may be used to assist cotton producers in marketing ginned cotton, as there is no commerce for un-ginned cotton. Funds for CGCS are limited to \$220 million. FSA is expected to publish the Notice of Fund Availability (NOFA) on March 5, 2018.

The collection is needed for FSA to identify eligible producers requesting cotton ginning cost-share assistance. FSA requires each cotton producer to provide application. Cotton producers will also report the number acres planted to cotton for the 2016 crop year, and their respective share in the cotton acres. CCC expects to disburse funds to eligible cotton producers before August 31, 2018. The funds available as indicated in the NOFA will not be subject to sequestration if the funds are obligated by CCC during fiscal year.

FSA is requesting for OMB approval by March 2, 2018. If there are any questions or concerns, please call Deirdre Holder at 202-205-5851 or Mary Ann Ball at 202-720-4283.