

fax (202) 395-5806 and to Departmental Clearance Office, USDA, OCIO, Mail Stop 7602, Washington, DC 20250-7602. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling (202) 720-8958.

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Office of the Chief Financial Officer

Title: Information Collection Request; Representations Regarding Felony Conviction and Tax Delinquent Status for Corporate Applicants and Awardees. *OMB Control Number:* 0505-0025.

Summary of Collection: The Department of Agriculture (USDA) agencies and staff offices must comply with the restrictions set forth in Sections 744 and 745, in Division D—Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, Title VII: General Provisions—Governmentwide, Departments, Agencies, and Corporations of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2019, (Pub. L. 116-6, as amended and/or subsequently enacted), hereinafter Public Law 116-6. The restrictions apply to transactions with corporations that (1) have any “unpaid Federal tax liability that has been assessed, for which all judicial and administrative remedies have been exhausted or have lapsed, and that is not being paid in a timely manner pursuant to an agreement with the authority responsible for collecting the tax liability, where the awarding agency is aware of the unpaid tax liability and/or (2) were “convicted of a felony criminal violation under any Federal law within the preceding 24 months, where the awarding agency is aware of the conviction. The restrictions may not apply if a Federal agency considers suspension or debarment of the corporation and determines that such action is not necessary to protect the interests of the Government.

In fiscal years 2012-2014 the appropriation restriction provisions were not uniform across the government. To comply, USDA created two sets of forms—one set for use by all USDA agencies and offices, except the Forest Service (AD-3030, AD-3031) and one set for use by the Forest Service (AD-3030-FS and AD-3031-FS). In 2015, Congress eliminated the multiple versions of the appropriation restriction provisions and enacted a single set of

governmentwide provisions for all agencies and departments, thereby allowing USDA to collect this data with one set of forms—AD-3030 and AD-3031. The representations continue to be required as reflected in Public Law 116-6.

Need and Use of the Information: To comply with the appropriations restrictions, the information collection requires corporate applicants and awardees for USDA programs to represent accurately whether they have or do not have qualifying tax delinquencies or felony convictions which would prevent USDA from entering into a proposed business transaction with the corporate applicant. For nonprocurement programs and transactions, these representations will be submitted using the following forms:

- AD-3030—“Representations Regarding Felony Conviction or Tax Delinquent Status for Corporate Applicants”—This form will normally be included as part of the application package.
- AD-3031—“Assurance Regarding Felony Conviction or Tax Delinquent Status for Corporate Applicants”—This form is optional for agencies and staff offices to be included as part of the acknowledgement and acceptance package for nonprocurement contracts, grants, loans, loan guarantees, cooperative agreements and some memoranda of understanding/agreement. Some agencies and staff offices may choose to use the forms and others may choose to use the applicable boiler plate language.

This information assists the agencies and staff offices with identifying corporations and awardees with unpaid Federal tax liability and felony convictions status prior to entering into nonprocurement transactions for numerous Departmental programs.

Failure to collect this information may cause inappropriate use of funds and violation of the Anti-Deficiency Act.

Description of Respondents: Corporate applicants and awardees for USDA nonprocurement programs, including grants, cooperative agreements, loans, loan guarantees, some memoranda of understanding/agreement, and nonprocurement contracts.

Number of Respondents: 352,523.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Other: Corporations—each time they apply to participate in a multitude of USDA non-procurement programs; Awardees each time they receive an award.

Total Burden Hours: 242,360.

Ruth Brown,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

April 24, 2019.

The Department of Agriculture has submitted the following information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. Comments are requested regarding (1) 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) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) 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 regarding this information collection received by May 29, 2019 will be considered. Written comments should be addressed to: Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), New Executive Office Building, 725-17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20502. Commenters are encouraged to submit their comments to OMB via email to: OIRA_Submission@OMB.EOP.GOV or fax (202) 395-5806 and to Departmental Clearance Office, USDA, OCIO, Mail Stop 7602, Washington, DC 20250-7602. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling (202) 720-8958.

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Rural Housing Service

Title: 7 CFR 1970, Environmental Policies and Procedures.

OMB Control Number: 0575–0197.

Summary of Collection: The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.* and other applicable environmental and historic preservation statutes require all Federal agencies to consider the potential environmental consequences of their actions on the quality of the human environment and historic properties before agency decisions are made and prior to it taking an action.

Need and Use of the Information: Environmental information and data needed for NEPA reviews is not completed on a periodic basis, but on an application-by-application or project-by-project basis. Failure to collect the information would result in the Agency's noncompliance with NEPA and numerous other Federal environmental statutes, regulations, and Executive Orders, which are integrated and coordinated into the agency's NEPA process. RD would not be legally allowed to approve or obligate Federal funds without complying with these laws, regulations, and Executive Orders. The purpose of this information is to evaluate and document the environmental implications of applicant's proposals.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit; State, Local & Tribal Governments; Individuals.

Number of Respondents: 2,000.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Annually; On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 192,700.

Kimble Brown,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2019–08584 Filed 4–26–19; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Commodity Credit Corporation****Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) for the Organic Certification Cost Share Program**

AGENCY: Commodity Credit Corporation and Farm Service Agency, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Farm Service Agency (FSA), on behalf of the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC), is announcing the availability of funding under the Organic Certification Cost Share Program (OCCSP) for eligible certified organic producers and handlers. FSA is also announcing the opportunity for

State Agencies to apply for grant agreements to administer the OCCSP program in fiscal year (FY) 2019. State Agencies that establish agreements for FY 2019 may be given the opportunity to extend their agreements and receive additional funds to administer the program in future years. Through this notice, FSA is providing the requirements for producers and handlers to apply for OCCSP payments, and for State Agencies to establish agreements to receive funds in order to provide cost share assistance to eligible producers and handlers.

DATES:

Applications for State Agency Agreements: FSA will accept applications from State Agencies for funds for FY 2019 cost-share assistance between the period of April 29, 2019, and May 29, 2019.

Producer and Handler Applications: FSA county offices will accept applications for OCCSP payments from producers and handlers for FY 2019 until October 31, 2019. For FY 2020 through 2023, FSA will accept applications from October 1 of the applicable FY through October 31 of the following FY.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Tona Huggins, Program Policy Branch Chief, (202) 720–7641, Tona.Huggins@wdc.usda.gov.

Background

OCCSP provides cost share assistance to producers and handlers of agricultural products for the costs of obtaining or maintaining organic certification under the National Organic Program (NOP). USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) administers NOP, which was established under the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6501–6524) and the regulations in 7 CFR part 205. FSA has administered OCCSP beginning with FY 2017.

The purpose of this NOFA is to announce funding availability and general eligibility and administrative provisions for FY 2019 through 2023. FSA is not making substantive changes to OCCSP.

FSA will accept applications from State Agencies interested in overseeing reimbursements to producers and handlers in their States. In order for a State agency to receive a new fund allocation for FY 2019, it must establish a new agreement with FSA. FY 2019 agreements will include provisions that allow FSA to extend the agreements to provide additional funds and allow State Agencies to continue to administer OCCSP for future years. FSA has not yet

determined whether an additional application period will be announced for later years for State Agencies that choose not to participate in FY 2019; State Agencies that would like to administer OCCSP for future years are encouraged to establish an agreement for FY 2019 to ensure that they will be able to continue to participate.

All producers and handlers can apply for OCCSP through their local FSA offices. In States where State Agencies choose to administer OCCSP, a producer or handler may apply to either the State agency or the local FSA office; they cannot receive payment from both. Producers and handlers are subject to the same eligibility criteria and calculation of cost share payments regardless of whether they apply for OCCSP through an FSA local office or a participating State agency. FSA will coordinate with participating State Agencies to ensure there are no duplicate payments. If a duplicate payment is inadvertently made, then FSA will inform the participant and require that funds be returned to CCC.

Availability of Funds

Funding for OCCSP is provided through two authorizations: (1) National Organic Certification Cost Share Program (National OCCSP) funds and (2) Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) funds.

Section 10105 of the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018 (2018 Farm Bill, Pub. L. 115–334) amended section 10606(d) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 6523(d)), authorizing \$2 million from CCC to be used for National OCCSP funds for each of FYs 2019 and 2020, \$4 million for FY 2021, and \$8 million for each of FYs 2022 and 2023, to remain available until expended. In addition, approximately \$16.4 million in National funding remains available from previous FYs and will be used to fund OCCSP in 2019 and later years as needed.

National OCCSP funds will be used for cost share payments to certified operations in the 50 United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The USDA organic regulations recognize four separate categories, or “scopes,” that must be individually inspected for organic certification: Crops, livestock, wild crops, and handling (that is, processing). A single operation may be certified under multiple scopes. For example, a certified organic vegetable farm that also has certified organic chickens and