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Information Collection Request; Advancing Markets for Producers

Comment On: NRCS-2025-0236-0001

Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposals, Submissions, and Approvals: Advancing Markets for Producers (Formerly Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities)

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Comment on FR Doc # 2026-02625

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General Comment

I greatly appreciate the opportunity to provide commentary and feedback on the proposed revision of the information collection request that is associated with the Advancing Markets for Producers initiative. I respectfully submit the following feedback to specifically address key areas of which input was requested.

1. Necessity and Practicality of the Information Collection:

- a. The categories of information proposed producer participation, conservation practices, financial assistance, partnerships, outreach and market impacts are well aligned with the program's requirements and purpose of improving long term producer resilience and sustainability.
- b. Utilization of such information could be improved if reporting requirements more clearly distinguished the required elements of reporting versus optional or supplemental. In essence, a tiered reporting framework would increase the clarity while still allowing for diversity and inclusion of various project types and elements.

2. Accuracy of Burden Estimation:

- a. Within the notice, there are two different listings, one at 10 hours and one at 17 hours as the estimated average of time per response. Clarification is needed to gain a greater understanding of the actual expectation of burden. Based on comparable federal grant funding programs, these figures may be understated.
- b. For many awardees, including partnerships involving numerous producers or project partners, reporting is very likely to exceed 17 hours unless standardized templates and automated tools are developed to be suitable for this purpose.

3. Recommendations to Minimize Reporting Burden

- a. Templates and integrated digital reporting would be advantageous for grant recipients.
- b. Scaled reporting frequency would be an efficient measure for projects, level and cadence of reporting should match the project's specific milestones, whether monthly, quarterly, biannual, or annual, rather than a one size fits all reporting mechanism.
- c. Consideration of providing technical assistance or regional liaisons to support the reporting processes

and optimization would also be valuable to grant recipients. This is especially critical for first-time grant recipients who are learning to navigate the requirements.
Thank you again for the opportunity to comment and provide feedback for solutions that lead to efficiency for agricultural markets and producer sustainability.

Respectfully submitted,

Kierstan Rhodes