



## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The Department of Agriculture has submitted the following information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and approval under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. Comments are requested regarding: 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; the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and 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 [INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER] will be considered.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be submitted within 30 days of the publication of this notice on the following website [www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain](http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain). Find this particular information collection by selecting "Currently under 30-day Review - Open for Public Comments" or by using the search function.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number and the agency informs potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information that such persons are not required to respond to the collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

### **Rural Business-Cooperative Service**

*Title:* Annual Survey of Farmer Cooperatives.

*OMB Control Number:* 0570-0007.

*Summary of Collection:* The Rural Business Cooperative Service (RBS) was mandated the responsibility to acquire and disseminate information pertaining to agricultural cooperatives under the Cooperative Marketing Act of 1926: 7 U.S.C. 451-457 and Public Law 450. The primary objective of RBS is to promote understanding, use and development of the cooperative form of business as a viable option for enhancing the income of agricultural producers and other rural residents. The annual survey collects basic statistics on cooperative business volume, net income, members, financial status, employees, and other selected information to support RBS' objective and role. RBS will use a variety of forms to collect information.

*Need and Use of the Information:* RBS uses the information collected to summarize for program planning, evaluation service work and cooperative analysis and education. The information collected and published in the annual report on farmer cooperatives supports and enhances most of the major functions of RBS. By not collecting this information, the RBS would have difficulties in carrying out its policy on farmer cooperatives.

*Description of Respondents:* Business or other for-profit.

*Number of Respondents:* 1,035.

*Frequency of Responses:* Reporting: Annually.

*Total Burden Hours:* 806.

## **Rural Business-Cooperative Service**

*Title:* Voluntary Labeling Program for Biobased Products.

*OMB Control Number:* 0570-0072.

*Summary of Collection:* The Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBCS or the Agency), a Rural Development agency of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), announced the availability of approximately \$450 million, under section 22003 of the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, in competitive grants to eligible entities for activities designed to expand the sales and use of renewable fuels under the Higher Blends Infrastructure Incentive Program (HBIIP). Cost-share grants of up to 75 percent of total eligible project costs, but not more than \$5 million,

are made available to assist transportation fueling facilities and fuel distribution facilities with converting to higher blend friendly status for ethanol (i.e., greater than 10 percent ethanol) and biodiesel (greater than 5 percent biodiesel) by sharing the costs related to the installation, and/or retrofitting, and/ or otherwise upgrading of fuel dispenser or pumps and related equipment, storage tank system components, and other required infrastructure. All applicants are responsible for expenses incurred in developing their applications.

HBIIP is intended to encourage a more comprehensive approach to marketing higher blends biofuels by sharing the costs related to building out biofuel-related infrastructure. To be eligible for this program, a project's sole purpose must be to assist transportation fueling and biodiesel distribution facilities with converting to higher ethanol and biodiesel blend friendly status by sharing the costs related to the installation, and/or retrofitting, and/or otherwise upgrading of fuel storage, dispenser/pumps, related equipment, and infrastructure. An eligible project must conform to all applicable Federal, State and local regulatory requirements.

*Need and Use of the Information:* Pursuant to section 22003 of the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (Pub. L. 117–169), RBCS will collect information to determine whether participants meet the eligibility requirements to be a recipient of grant funds, project eligibility, conduct the technical evaluation, calculate a priority score, rank and compete the application, as applicable, in order to be considered. Lack of adequate information to make the determination could result in the improper administration and appropriation of Federal grant funds.

*Description of Respondents:* Business or other for-profit.

*Number of Respondents:* 641.

*Frequency of Responses:* Recordkeeping; Reporting: Other (once).

*Total Burden Hours:* 84,177.

**Levi S. Harrell,**  
*Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.*

\*Billing Code 3410-XY