

## Ehrhart, Connie - FAS

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**From:** Lynsey Kennedy <LKennedy@usapears.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 24, 2015 4:17 PM  
**To:** FAS-RMB-PodAdmin  
**Cc:** Jeff Correa  
**Subject:** RE: Federal Register Notice re: FMD/MAP Information Collection Process

**Importance:** High

Hello,

Below please find Pear Bureau Northwest's comments on the MAP information collection process. Please contact us if any additional information or clarifications are needed. We are willing and available to work with/provide feedback to FAS on any improvements to the process and the UES system.

- Time will vary by size of each participant's program, but with 18 countries/regions, as well as being the lead of 1-2 GBI or additional grant programs, PBNW estimates the UES submission process to require an estimate of 40 hours. The current system segments each plan to an extreme, requiring an excess of fields, clicks, and screens in order to enter the required information. The process is particularly burdensome for the entry of performance measures. Once allocations have been announced, each of PBNW's approximately 100 activities must be opened individually in order to enter the budgets.
- As per our understanding of how the UES online system is currently being utilized based on discussions with several FAS personnel (who have reported to refer solely to the hard copy plans), it would make sense to simplify the process for applicants by providing a "copy/paste in spreadsheet mode" function to enter activity codes and budget figures, with the remainder of the plans uploaded as PDFs, or pasting in the content of the plans as "text only" for searchability purposes. This would allow for claims processing, which currently appears to be the primary function of the online system.
- There has been no paperwork reduction, as cooperators still need to submit hard copies of the UES plan (which was supposed to be eliminated with the adoption of the online submissions). The amount of information that FAS is asking cooperators to include in the UES has increased, which makes each marketing plan longer and therefore a more time-consuming document to upload. Throughout the season, cooperators need to edit the marketing plans because the plans (for July-June groups) are submitted 15 months in advance of execution. This process can take upwards of 10 hours each year.

Thanks and best regards,

**Lynsey Kennedy**  
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Pear Bureau Northwest

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**From:** Annie Durbin [<mailto:ADurbin@usaedc.org>]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 28, 2015 1:04 PM  
**To:** Annie Durbin

**Cc:** [Meyra.Mendoza-Reeder@fas.usda.gov](mailto:Meyra.Mendoza-Reeder@fas.usda.gov)

**Subject:** Federal Register Notice re: FMD/MAP Information Collection Process

TO: USAEDC Members

FROM: Annie Durbin

RE: Federal Register Notice re: FMD/MAP Information Collection Process

DATE: September 28, 2015

This Federal Register Notice for MAP and FMD programs was released last Friday. The link to the Federal Register web page is:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2015/09/25/2015-24394/notice-of-request-for-revision-of-currently-approved-information-collection>

Summary: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Commodity Credit Corporation's (CCC) intention to request a revision from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for a currently approved information collection process in support of the Foreign Market Development Cooperator (Cooperator) Program and the Market Access Program (MAP).

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received by November 24, 2015

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*"There are only two days in the year that nothing can be done. One is called yesterday and the other is called tomorrow, so today is the right day to love, believe, do and mostly live."* –Dalai Lama