

Notices

Federal Register

Vol. 85, No. 123

Thursday, June 25, 2020

This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS-2020-0058]

Notice of Request for Revision to and Extension of Approval of an Information Collection; Blood and Tissue Collection and Recordkeeping at Slaughtering, Rendering, and Approved Livestock Marketing Establishments and Facilities

ACTION: Revision to and extension of approval of an information collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's intention to request a revision to and extension of approval of an information collection associated with the regulations governing approval and maintenance of livestock marketing establishments and facilities, listing blood and tissue collection and recordkeeping, and withdrawal or denial of livestock marketing facilities and slaughtering and rendering facilities.

DATES: We will consider all comments that we receive on or before August 24, 2020.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by either of the following methods:

- **Federal eRulemaking Portal:** Go to <http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=APHIS-2020-0058>.
- **Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery:** Send your comment to Docket No. APHIS-2020-0058, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3A-03.8, 4700 River Road, Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238.

Supporting documents and any comments we receive on this docket may be viewed at <http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=APHIS-2020-0058> or in our reading

room, which is located in Room 1141 of the USDA South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC. Normal reading room hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. To be sure someone is there to help you, please call (202) 799-7039 before coming.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information on the regulations for slaughtering and rendering facilities, contact Dr. Debra Cox, Senior Staff Veterinarian (Surveillance), Ruminant Health Center, VS, APHIS, USDA, Strategy & Policy, 4700 River Road, Unit 43, Riverdale, MD 20737; (301) 851-3504; email: Debra.C.Cox@usda.gov. For information on the regulations for livestock marketing establishments, contact Dr. Alexander Turner, Assistant Director, National Animal Disease Traceability & Veterinary Accreditation Center, VS, APHIS, USDA, Strategy & Policy, 2150 Centre Avenue, Building B, Mailstop 3E86, Room 3E100, Fort Collins, CO 80526; Office: (970) 494-7353; Mobile: (970) 556-3568; email: Alexander.K.Turner@usda.gov. For information on the information collection process, contact Mr. Joseph Moxey, APHIS Information Collection Coordinator, at (301) 851-2483; joseph.moxey@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Blood and Tissue Collection and Recordkeeping at Slaughtering, Rendering, and Approved Livestock Marketing Establishments and Facilities.

OMB Control Number: 0579-0212.

Type of Request: Revision to and extension of approval of an information collection.

Abstract: The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is authorized to prevent the interstate spread of livestock diseases and to eradicate such diseases from the United States when feasible under the Animal Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8301 *et seq.*). Under 7 U.S.C. 8301, the USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), carries out this prevention and eradication mission, and APHIS' Veterinary Services (VS) program conducts animal disease surveillance and testing using procedures and agreements prescribed in 9 CFR part 71.

Disease prevention is the most effective method for maintaining a healthy animal population and for enhancing the United States' ability to

compete in international animal and animal product trade. A key element of this approach is the restricted interstate movement of livestock within the United States to mitigate the spread of diseases, allowing APHIS to use livestock movement records to conduct disease surveillance to protect the health of livestock and poultry populations. Epidemiological data from blood and tissue sampling is used to assess the prevalence of disease and to identify its source. Coupled with animal identification, blood and tissue test results are used to trace the movement of an animal that tests positive and identify other animals it may have come into contact with that may also be diseased.

When a disease is suspected in a given area, sampling is used to determine its presence or absence and to estimate the incidence or prevalence if it is present. The amount of sampling may increase in selected areas when a disease outbreak is suspected, then reduced in that area when sufficient tests have been done to prove the suspicion was unfounded or, if found, after the disease is eradicated. Sampling is also used to provide data for new or updated risk analyses in support of disease control programs, and, as required, opening international markets for animal products.

Regulations in §§ 71.20 and 71.21 authorize APHIS to conduct disease surveillance and blood and tissue sampling activities using livestock facility agreements and listing agreements between APHIS and owners and operators of slaughtering and rendering establishments and livestock marketing facilities. APHIS requires all livestock facilities that enter into approval of livestock facility agreements (which are voluntary) to record animal identification, make timely notifications, keep certain records, and take other actions that facilitate tracking animal movements and identifying possible disease occurrences. APHIS requires all slaughtering and rendering establishments that receive livestock or poultry interstate to enter listing agreements that permit the Agency to conduct blood and tissue sampling at the facilities. The agreements are critical during disease outbreaks as they reduce delays in assessments and, subsequently, disease spread.

We are asking the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve our use of these information collection activities, as described, for an additional 3 years.

The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public (as well as affected agencies) concerning our information collection. These comments will help us:

(1) Evaluate 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) Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the burden of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(3) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(4) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, through use, as appropriate, of automated, electronic, mechanical, and other collection technologies; *e.g.*, permitting electronic submission of responses.

Estimate of burden: The public burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 0.15 hour per response.

Respondents: State animal health officials, accredited veterinarians, and livestock marketing, slaughtering, and rendering establishment owners and employees.

Estimated annual number of respondents: 784.

Estimated annual number of responses per respondent: 8.5.

Estimated annual number of responses: 6,635.

Estimated total annual burden on respondents: 993 hours. (Due to averaging, the total annual burden hours may not equal the product of the annual number of responses multiplied by the reporting burden per response.)

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Done in Washington, DC, this 22nd day of June 2020.

Mark Davidson,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 2020-13735 Filed 6-24-20; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS-2020-0055]

Notice of Request for Extension of Approval of an Information Collection; Bees and Related Articles

ACTION: Extension of approval of an information collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's intention to request an extension of approval of an information collection associated with the regulations for the importation of bees and related articles into the United States.

DATES: We will consider all comments that we receive on or before August 24, 2020.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by either of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to <http://www.regulations.gov/#/docketDetail;D=APHIS-2020-0055>.
- *Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery:* Send your comment to Docket No. APHIS-2020-0055, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3A-03.8, 4700 River Road, Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238.

Supporting documents and any comments we receive on this docket may be viewed at <http://www.regulations.gov/#/docketDetail;D=APHIS-2020-0055> or in our reading room, which is located in Room 1141 of the USDA South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC. Normal reading room hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. To be sure someone is there to help you, please call (202) 799-7039 before coming.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information on the regulations for the importation of bees and related articles, contact Mr. Wayne Wehling, Senior Entomologist, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road, Unit 133, Riverdale, MD 20737; (301) 851-2336; wayne.f.wehling@usda.gov. For information on the information collection process, contact Mr. Joseph Moxey, APHIS Information Collection Coordinator, at (301) 851-2483; joseph.moxey@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Bees and Related Articles.
OMB Control Number: 0579-0207.
Type of Request: Extension of approval of an information collection.

Abstract: The Plant Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 7701 *et seq.*) authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to restrict the importation, entry, or interstate movement of plants, plant products, and other articles to prevent the introduction of plant pests into the United States or their dissemination within the United States.

Under the Honeybee Act (7 U.S.C. 281 through 286), the Secretary is authorized to prohibit or restrict the importation of honeybees and honeybee semen to prevent the introduction into the United States of diseases and parasites harmful to honeybees and of undesirable species such as the African honeybee. This authority has been delegated to the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The establishment of certain bee diseases, parasites, or undesirable species and subspecies of honeybees in the United States could cause substantial reductions in pollination by bees. These reductions could cause serious damage to crops and other plants and result in substantial financial losses to American agriculture.

Regulations for the importation of honeybees and honeybee semen and regulations to prevent the introduction of exotic bee diseases and parasites through the importation of bees other than honeybees, certain beekeeping products, and used beekeeping equipment are contained in 7 CFR part 322, "Bees, Beekeeping Byproducts, and Beekeeping Equipment." These regulations require the use of certain information collection activities, including application for a permit, State consultation, written agreement to permit conditions, appealing denial of a permit application or revocation of permit, packaging and labeling, notice of arrival for shipments from approved regions, transit shipment, port of entry inspection, notification of escaped organisms, emergency action notification, request for release, request for risk assessment, request for facility approval, and recordkeeping for containment facilities.

We are asking the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve our use of these information collection activities for an additional 3 years.

The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public (as well as affected agencies) concerning our information collection. These comments will help us:

(1) Evaluate whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the