

help you, please call (202) 799-7039 before coming.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information on the regulations for phytosanitary export certification for plants and plant products being exported to foreign countries, contact Mr. Christian Dellis, Deputy Director, Phytosanitary Issues Management, PPQ, PHP, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 131, Riverdale, MD 20737; (301) 851-2154; christian.b.dellis@usda.gov. For information about the information collection process, contact Mr. Joseph Moxey, APHIS' Paperwork Reduction Act Coordinator; (301) 851-2483; joseph.moxey@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Phytosanitary Export Certification.

OMB Control Number: 0579-0052.

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 certify as to the freedom of plants, plant products, or biological control organisms from plant pests or noxious weeds, or the exposure of plants, plant products, or biological control organisms to plant pests or noxious weeds, according to the phytosanitary or other requirements of the countries to which the plants, plant products, or biological control organisms may be exported.

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), among other things, provides export certification services to assure other countries that the plants and plant products they are receiving from the United States are free of plant pests specified by the receiving country. Our regulations do not require that we engage in export certification activities. However, we perform this work as a service to exporters who are shipping plants or plant products to countries that require phytosanitary certification as a condition of entry.

The export certification regulations in 7 CFR part 353 describe the procedures for obtaining certification for plants and plant products offered for export or re-export. To request that we perform a phytosanitary inspection, an exporter must complete and submit an Application for Inspection and Certification of Plants and Plant Products for Export. After assessing the condition of the plants or plant products intended for export (*i.e.*, after conducting a phytosanitary inspection), an inspector (who may be an APHIS employee or a State or county plant regulatory official) will issue an internationally recognized

phytosanitary certificate or a phytosanitary certificate for re-export. All of these forms are critical to our ability to certify plants and plant products for export. Without them, we would be unable to conduct an export certification program.

In addition, APHIS uses the following information collection activities, such as recordkeeping, a compliance agreement for State inspectors, requests for APHIS to negotiate with national plant protection organizations for industry-issued certificates or documentation, memorandum of understanding with industry for inspection and use of International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures Guidelines for Regulating Wood Packaging Material in International Trade (ISPM 15), and the application of an ISPM 15 mark.

We are asking 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 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 0.007 hours per response.

Respondents: State, local, and county plant regulatory officials, U.S. growers, shippers, and exporters.

Estimated annual number of respondents: 9,101.

Estimated annual number of responses per respondent: 6,162.

Estimated annual number of responses: 56,080,454.

Estimated total annual burden on respondents: 401,228 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 13th day of December 2022.

Anthony Shea,

Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 2022-27283 Filed 12-15-22; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS-2022-0071]

Notice of Request for Extension of Approval of an Information Collection; Case-Control Study on Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Turkeys

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

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 case-control study on highly pathogenic avian influenza in U.S. commercial turkey flocks.

DATES: We will consider all comments that we receive on or before February 14, 2023.

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

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to www.regulations.gov. Enter APHIS-2022-0071 in the Search field. Select the Documents tab, then select the Comment button in the list of documents.

- *Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery:* Send your comment to Docket No. APHIS-2022-0071, 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 regulations.gov or in our reading room, which is located in Room 1620 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 HPAI in turkeys

study, contact Dr. Victoria Fields, Veterinary Medical Officer, Center for Epidemiology and Animal Health, VS, APHIS, 2150 Centre Avenue, Building B, Fort Collins, CO 80526; (970) 286-1514; Victoria.Fields@usda.gov. For information on the information collection process, contact Mr. Joseph Moxey, APHIS' Paperwork Reduction Act Coordinator, at (301) 851-2483; joseph.moxey@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Case-Control Study on Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Turkeys.
OMB Control Number: 0579-0484.

Type of Request: Extension of approval of an information collection.

Abstract: Under the Animal Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8301 *et seq.*), the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to protect the health of livestock, poultry, and aquaculture populations in the United States by preventing the introduction and interstate spread of serious diseases and pests of livestock, poultry, and aquaculture, and for eradicating such diseases within the United States when feasible. This authority has been delegated to the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS).

Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) is an infectious and fatal disease of poultry. Between February and September 2022, APHIS mobilized over 1,300 employees to respond to outbreaks of HPAI within the United States. As of the end of May 2022, nearly \$800 million in Federal expenditures had been authorized to support emergency response work in relation to HPAI, which affected over 45 million birds. Commercial turkey farms comprise the highest percentage of affected commercial farms in the 2022 outbreak. In fact, over 70 percent of all affected commercial farms are turkey farms.

As the risk of a resurgence of new infections increases, it is critical to identify current risk factors to mitigate future outbreaks. Avian influenza viruses vary in transmissibility and ability to cause disease symptoms. Evidence suggests that the predominance of infections in 2022 have been due to independent wild bird introductions.

APHIS initiated an HPAI in turkey flocks study in 2022 and is seeking approval to continue it as needed to generate up-to-date information for determining current risk factors for infection with this environmentally hardy foreign animal disease pathogen. Current information on risk factors is critical for science-based updates to prevention and control recommendations.

The information collection activity associated with this study consists of a multi-question survey administered to commercial turkey producers.

APHIS requested and was granted emergency approval by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to use this information collection activity for 6 months. We are asking OMB to approve our use of this information collection activity for an additional 3 years so that we may continue collecting relevant data during unanticipated future outbreaks.

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 0.40 hours per response.

Respondents: State agricultural officials and turkey producers.

Estimated annual number of respondents: 920.

Estimated annual number of responses per respondent: 1.

Estimated annual number of responses: 920.

Estimated total annual burden on respondents: 364 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 13th day of December 2022.

Anthony Shea,

Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

[Docket #RBS-22-BUSINESS-0029]

Notice of Solicitation of Applications for the Rural Energy for America Program for Fiscal Year 2023

AGENCY: Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Rural Business-Cooperative Service (the Agency) Notice of Solicitation of Applications (NOSA) announces the acceptance of grant, guaranteed loan, and combined grant and guaranteed loan applications under the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP). The REAP program helps agricultural producers and rural small businesses reduce energy costs and consumption and helps meet the Nation's critical energy needs. Applications for REAP may be submitted at any time throughout the year. This notice announces the deadlines, dates, and times that applications must be received in order to be considered for federal Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 REAP funds. The NOSA is being issued prior to passage of a final appropriations act for FY 2023 to allow potential applicants time to submit applications for financial assistance under the program and to give the Agency time to process applications within the current FY. All REAP applications competing for FY 2023 funding will be evaluated and scored according to the provisions listed in this Notice, unless otherwise amended via a subsequent FY 2023 Notice. Applicants who have already filed REAP applications for FY 2023 will be allowed to modify their application to revise the amount of grant requested and project budget and to provide additional information if necessary for application evaluation and scoring; the modification will not be treated as a new application, nor will it alter the submission date of record if there are no changes to the scope of the project. A planned second notice for FY 2023 is expected to address such matters as additional application deadlines, dates, and times, scoring modifications, as well as additional funding, including technical assistance and an amendment to the Federal grant portion not to exceed 50 percent of total eligible project costs per Inflation Reduction Act language.

DATES: Application deadline dates and times are as outlined in 7 CFR 4280.122 and 4280.156(a). Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency