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Zach Ducheneaux,

Administrator, Farm Service Agency.

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. FSIS-2024-0016]

#### Notice of Request To Renew an Approved Information Collection: Petitions for Rulemaking

**AGENCY:** Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations, FSIS is announcing its intention to renew an approved information collection regarding petitions for rulemaking. There are no changes to the existing information collection. The approval for this information collection will expire on December 31, 2024.

**DATES:** Submit comments on or before September 20, 2024.

**ADDRESSES:** FSIS invites interested persons to submit comments on this **Federal Register** notice. Comments may be submitted by one of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* This website provides commenters the ability to type short comments directly into the comment field on the web page or to attach a file for lengthier comments. Go to <https://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the on-line instructions at that site for submitting comments.

- *Mail:* Send to Docket Clerk, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Mailstop 3758, Washington, DC 20250-3700.

- *Hand- or courier-delivered submittals:* Deliver to 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Jamie L. Whitten Building, Room 350-E, Washington, DC 20250-3700.

*Instructions:* All items submitted by mail or electronic mail must include the Agency name and docket number FSIS-2024-0016. Comments received in response to this docket will be made available for public inspection and posted without change, including any personal information, to <https://www.regulations.gov>.

*Docket:* For access to background documents or comments received, call 202-720-5046 to schedule a time to visit the FSIS Docket Room at 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250-3700.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Gina Kouba, Office of Policy and Program Development, Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Mailstop 3758, South Building, Washington, DC 20250-3700; 202-720-5046.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title:* Petitions for Rulemaking.

*OMB Number:* 0583-0136.

*Type of Request:* Renewal of an approved information collection.

*Abstract:* FSIS has been delegated the authority to exercise the functions of the Secretary (7 CFR 2.18, 2.53), as specified in the Federal Meat Inspection Act (FMIA) (21 U.S.C. 601, *et seq.*), the Poultry Products Inspection Act (PPIA) (21 U.S.C. 451, *et seq.*), and the Egg Products Inspection Act (EPIA) (21 U.S.C. 1031, *et seq.*). These statutes mandate that FSIS protect the public by verifying that meat, poultry, and egg products are safe, wholesome, and properly labeled.

FSIS is requesting renewal of an approved information collection regarding petitions for rulemaking. There are no changes to the existing information collection. The approval for this information collection will expire on December 31, 2024.

The Administrative Procedure Act requires that Federal agencies give interested persons the right to petition for issuance, amendment, or repeal of a rule (5 U.S.C. 553(e)). FSIS has regulations to govern the submission to the Agency of petitions for rulemaking (9 CFR part 392). These regulations are designed to encourage the filing of well-supported petitions that contain information that the Agency needs to evaluate a requested rulemaking in a timely manner. FSIS uses the information associated with a petition to assess the merits of the requested action and to determine whether to issue, amend, or rescind regulations in response to the petition.

FSIS has made the following estimates based upon an information collection assessment:

*Estimate of Burden:* FSIS estimates that it takes respondents an average of 40 hours per year to complete and submit a petition.

*Respondents:* Official establishments, official plants, firms, trade associations, and public interest groups.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 10.

*Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* 1.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 400 hours.

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. Copies of this information collection assessment can be obtained from Gina Kouba, Office of Policy and Program Development, Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Mailstop 3758, South Building, Washington, DC 20250-3700; 202-720-5046.

*Comments are invited on:* (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of FSIS' functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of FSIS' estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the method and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques, or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to both FSIS, at the addresses provided above, and the Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Washington, DC 20253.

#### Additional Public Notification

Public awareness of all segments of rulemaking and policy development is important. Consequently, FSIS will announce this **Federal Register** publication on-line through the FSIS web page located at: <https://www.fsis.usda.gov/federal-register>.

FSIS will also announce and provide a link to this **Federal Register** publication through the FSIS *Constituent Update*, which is used to provide information regarding FSIS policies, procedures, regulations, **Federal Register** notices, FSIS public meetings, and other types of information that could affect or would be of interest to our constituents and stakeholders. The *Constituent Update* is available on the FSIS web page. Through the web page, FSIS can provide information to a much broader, more diverse audience. In addition, FSIS offers an email subscription service which provides automatic and customized access to selected food safety news and information. This service is available at: <https://www.fsis.usda.gov/subscribe>.

Options range from recalls to export information, regulations, directives, and notices. Customers can add or delete subscriptions themselves and have the option to password protect their accounts.

### USDA Non-Discrimination Statement

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and USDA civil rights regulations and policies, USDA, its Mission Areas, agencies, staff offices, employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language) should contact the responsible Mission Area, agency, or staff office; the USDA TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY); or the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, *USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form*, which can be obtained online at <https://www.usda.gov/forms/electronic-forms>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

(1) *Mail*: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410;

(2) *Fax*: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or

(3) *Email*: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

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**Paul Kiecker,**

*Administrator.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Natural Resources Conservation Service

[Docket No. NRCS-2024-0008]

#### Proposed Revisions to Section 1 of the Field Office Technical Guide for Several States

**AGENCY:** Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Department of Agriculture (USDA).

**ACTION:** Notice of availability, request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** NRCS is giving notice that it is proposing revisions to Section 1—General Resource References of the Field Office Technical Guides in Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, and Virginia to include State Offsite Methods for Food Security Act Wetland Identification (SOSM). The proposed changes will replace the existing state wetland mapping conventions. The revisions are needed to clarify procedures and improve consistency in application. SOSM are used in completing wetland determinations for USDA program eligibility purposes.

**DATES:** We will consider comments that we receive by August 21, 2024.

**ADDRESSES:** We invite you to submit comments in response to this notice. You may submit your comments through:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal*: Go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and search for Docket ID NRCS-2024-0008. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments;

All comments received will be made publicly available on <http://www.regulations.gov>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** The appropriate person as listed below by State:

- *Connecticut*: Thomas L. Morgart; telephone: (860) 871-4011; email: [thomas.morgart@usda.gov](mailto:thomas.morgart@usda.gov);

- *Delaware*: Jayme Arthurs; telephone: (302) 678-4160; email: [jayme.arthurs@usda.gov](mailto:jayme.arthurs@usda.gov);

- *Florida*: Walter Albarran; telephone: (352) 338-9500; email: [walter.albarran@usda.gov](mailto:walter.albarran@usda.gov);

- *Kentucky*: Eric Allness; telephone: (859) 224-7391; email: [eric.allness@usda.gov](mailto:eric.allness@usda.gov).

- *Maryland*: Suzy Daubert; telephone: (410) 757-0861; email: [suzy.daubert@usda.gov](mailto:suzy.daubert@usda.gov);

- *Massachusetts*: Dan Wright; telephone: (413) 253-4350; email: [daniel.wright@usda.gov](mailto:daniel.wright@usda.gov);

- *New York*: Blake Glover; telephone: (315) 477-6504; email: [blake.glover@usda.gov](mailto:blake.glover@usda.gov);

- *North Carolina*: Julius George (Acting); telephone: (919) 873-2101; email: [juliusjulius.george@usda.gov](mailto:juliusjulius.george@usda.gov);

- *Pennsylvania*: Denise Coleman; telephone: (717) 237-2100; email: [denise.coleman@usda.gov](mailto:denise.coleman@usda.gov);

- *Rhode Island*: R. Phou Vongkhamdy; telephone: (401) 828-1300; email: [poo.h.vongkhamdy@usda.gov](mailto:poo.h.vongkhamdy@usda.gov);

- *South Carolina*: Jamie Keith (Acting); telephone: (803) 253-3935; email: [jamie.keith@usda.gov](mailto:jamie.keith@usda.gov); and

- *Virginia*: Dr. Edwin Martinez; (804) 287-1691; email: [edwin.martinez@usda.gov](mailto:edwin.martinez@usda.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Guidance contained in each state's SOSM will be part of the technical documents and procedures that NRCS uses to determine if wetlands are present on agricultural land as required by 16 U.S.C. 3822. NRCS is required by 16 U.S.C. 3862 to make available for public review and comment all proposed revisions to standards and procedures used to carry out highly erodible land and wetland provisions of the law.

NRCS is proposing revisions to Section 1—General Resource References of the Field Office Technical Guides in Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, and Virginia to include SOSM. The proposed SOSM will replace the following existing state wetland mapping conventions:

- "Delaware and Maryland Wetland Mapping Conventions for Agricultural Lands," November 2007 (Delaware and Maryland);

- "New England Soil Conservation Service Wetland Mapping Conventions," July 1994 (Connecticut and Massachusetts);

- "Food Security Act New York State Mapping Conventions for Certified Wetland Determinations on Agricultural Land," February 2021 (New York); and

- "Rhode Island Wetland Mapping Conventions," March 2010 (Rhode Island).