

Notices

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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. 97-074-1]

Notice of Request for Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

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 in support of the Acute Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome study.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by November 14, 1997 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Send comments regarding the accuracy of burden estimate, ways to minimize the burden (such as through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology), or any other aspect of this collection of information to: Docket No. 97-074-1, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, suite 3C03, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238. Please send an original and three copies, and state that your comments refer to Docket 97-074-1. Comments received may be inspected at USDA, room 1141, South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Persons wishing to inspect comments are requested to call ahead on (202) 690-2817 to facilitate entry into the comment reading room.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: For information regarding Porcine

Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome, contact Dr. Larry White, Veterinary Medical Officer, Emergency Programs Staff, VS, APHIS, 555 S. Howes, Suite 300, Fort Collins, CO 80521, (970) 490-7824. For copies of more detailed information on the information collection, contact Ms. Cheryl Jenkins, Agency Support Service Specialist, at (301) 734-5360.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Acute Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome

OMB Number: 0579-0125.

Expiration Date of Approval: December 31, 1997.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: The mission of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services, is to protect and improve the health, quality, and marketability of our Nation's animals and animal products by preventing, controlling, and monitoring animal diseases. Veterinary Services' Emergency Programs is charged with coordinating APHIS' roles and responsibilities in planning for and responding to emerging or exotic animal diseases.

During the last 12-to-15 months, a severe form of Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS) has appeared in the United States. It is not known if this is a new emerging pathogen, a more virulent strain of the conventional PRRS virus, or if risk factors have changed resulting in a more severe clinical expression of conventional PRRS virus. Based on information reported by the American Association of Swine Practitioners (AASP) and the National Pork Producers Council (NPPC), approximately 100 herds in 7 States have experienced an episode prior to January 1997, of what APHIS and the swine industry are calling acute PRRS.

Conventional PRRS is an Office International des Epizooties (OIE) List B disease and was first described in the United States in 1987 and reported shortly thereafter in Europe and Asia. Data from the APHIS, Veterinary Services, National Animal Health Monitoring Systems' Swine '95 study showed that 68.5 percent of hog operations had conventional PRRS virus on the premises.

When acute PRRS strikes a producer's herd, the herd experiences immediate and severe production losses. Losses due to abortion as great as 25 percent of the annual pig crop have been reported, with an associated loss of adult breeding animals as great as 5 percent, and preweaning piglet mortality up to 75 percent. Should acute PRRS reach the same level of herd infection as conventional PRRS, producer surplus could decrease by \$583 million per year. Consumer surplus could decrease \$121 million per year. The price of pork could increase by \$15.93 per metric ton. The hog and pork export market is severely threatened by the existence and spread of this undefined pathogen.

Cases of acute PRRS are being reported to Veterinary Services' Emergency Programs Staff. It is imperative that data on management practices and environmental conditions, along with blood and tissue samples, continue to be collected and analyzed during the seasonal episodes. Analysis could identify the transmission mechanism and risk factors and provide a means to prevent disease spread to other herds and States. Information provided by this study would aid in the early control or eradication of acute PRRS and could save millions of dollars of lost production and increased regulatory costs associated with a later control or eradication program.

Samples from herds experiencing high abortion rates will be submitted by private practitioners to seven participating diagnostic laboratories. If the herd for which the samples were submitted qualifies for the study, the diagnostic laboratory will contact the submitting private practitioner. If the private practitioner agrees to participate in the study, he or she will contact the producer. If the producer agrees to participate, the private practitioner and APHIS veterinary medical officer will visit the premises to collect additional data. If the private practitioner or producer chooses not to participate, no further contact will be made.

We are asking the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve the continued use of this information collection activity.

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

(1) Evaluate whether the proposed 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 proposed 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 reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1.78 hours per response.

Respondents: Swine producers, veterinary practitioners, State and private diagnostic laboratories, and swine-related industries.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 268.

Estimated Number of Responses Per Respondent: 2.47.

Estimated Annual Number of Responses: 662.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 1,179 hours. (Due to rounding, the total annual burden hours may not equal the product of the annual number of responses multiplied by the average 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 9th day of September 1997.

Craig A. Reed,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 97-24391 Filed 9-12-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 96-016-23]

Agency Information Collection Activities; OMB Approval Received

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this

notice announces the Office of Management and Budget's approval of a collection of information contained in the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service final rule amending the regulations pertaining to compensation for Karnal bunt in the 1995-1996 crop season.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Cheryl Jenkins, APHIS Information Collection Coordinator, AIM, APHIS, suite 2C42, 4700 River Road Unit 103, Riverdale, MD 20737-1235, (301) 734-5360.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On May 6, 1997, we published in the **Federal Register** (62 FR 24745-24753, Docket No. 96-016-17) a final rule amending the regulations at 7 CFR 301.89, "Subpart—Karnal Bunt." This rule contains information collection requirements. On August 6, 1997, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approved the collection of information requirements with respect to this final rule under OMB control number 0579-0121 (expires April 30, 2000).

Done in Washington, DC, this 9th day of September 1997.

Craig A. Reed,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 97-24389 Filed 9-12-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Commodity Credit Corporation

Notice of Request for Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Commodity Credit Corporation, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the intention of the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) to reduce the number of information collection dockets assigned to CCC by requesting an extension and revision of Office of Management and Budget (OMB) docket number 0560-0052 and consolidate with 0560-0052 those collections cleared under OMB docket number 0560-0009 and 0560-0010. These information collections are authorized by 7 CFR part 1421, Standards for Approval of Warehouses for Grain, Rice, Dry Edible Beans, and Seed, 7 CFR part 1423, Standards for

Approval of Dry and Cold Storage Warehouses for Processed Agricultural Commodities, Extracted Honey, and Bulk Oils, and 7 CFR part 1427, Standards for Approval of Warehouses for Cotton or Cotton Linters.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received on or before November 14, 1997, to be assured consideration.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS:

Contact Shirlene Engle, USDA, Farm Service Agency, Warehouse and Inventory Division, Storage Contract Branch, STOP 0553, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-0553, (202) 720-7397; e-mail sengle@wdc.fsa.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Standards for Approval of Warehouses, Reporting and Recordkeeping Requirements.

OMB Control Number: 0560-0052.

Expiration Date: January 31, 1998.

Type of Request: Extension and revision of a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: The information collected under OMB Control Number 0560-0052, as identified above, allows CCC to effectively administer storage agreements authorized by the CCC Charter Act. The information collected allows CCC to contract for warehouse storage and related services and to monitor and enforce all provisions of 7 CFR parts 1421, 1423, and 1427. The forms approved by this information collection are furnished to interested warehouse operators or used by warehouse examiners employed by CCC to secure and record information about the warehouse operator and the warehouse. The information collected is necessary to provide those charged with executing contracts for CCC a basis to determine whether the warehouse and the warehouse operator meet applicable standards for a contract and to determine compliance once the contract is approved.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this information collection is estimated to average .7 hours per response.

Respondents: Warehouse Operators.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 3,580.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 2.3.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 461,400 hours.

Proposed topics for comment include: (a) Whether the continued collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the CCC's estimate of