

Estimated annual number of responses: 45.

Estimated total annual burden on respondents: 21 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 respondent.)

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 18th day of September 1997.

Craig A. Reed,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 97-25326 Filed 9-23-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 97-078-1]

Notice of Request for Extension of Approval of an 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 State-Federal Brucellosis Eradication Program.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by November 24, 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. 97-078-1, 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 97-078-1.

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 the State-Federal Brucellosis Eradication Program, contact Dr. James Davis, Senior Staff Veterinarian, National Animal Health Programs, VS, APHIS, Suite 3B08, 4700 River Road Unit 43, Riverdale, MD 20737-1236, (301) 734-5970. For copies of more detailed information on the information collection, contact Ms. Celeste Sickles, Agency Support Service Specialist, at (301) 734-7477.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: State-Federal Brucellosis Eradication Program.

OMB Number: 0579-0047.

Expiration Date of Approval: January 31, 1998.

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

Abstract: The State-Federal Brucellosis Eradication Program is a national program to eliminate this serious disease of livestock. Brucellosis also affects humans through contacts with infected animals or their byproducts. The program is conducted under the various States' authorities, and by Federal authorities regulating interstate movement of affected animals.

Uniform program standards (Brucellosis Eradication Recommended Uniform Methods and Rules) are developed by organizations representing the livestock industry, State animal health agencies, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Recommendations affecting the program standards are submitted by the executive committee of the U.S. Animal Health Association for consideration and approval by USDA. If the recommendations are accepted as part of the program standards, the Brucellosis Eradication Recommended Uniform Methods and Rules (UMR) are amended to incorporate the change.

The UMR forms the basis for the program in each State. The UMR states, in part, that a "concerted effort through effective screening programs and extensive epidemiologic investigations to locate infection and to eradicate the disease is required." A national epidemiology form is needed to fulfill an individual State's commitment to report and review epidemiologic data.

The information for report forms is obtained from State veterinarians, livestock inspectors, and herd owners. The information obtained is used to continue the search for other infected herds, maintain identification of livestock, monitor deficiencies in identification of animals for movement, and monitor program deficiencies in

suspicious and infected herds. This information is used to determine brucellosis area status and aids herd owners by speeding up the detection and elimination of serious disease conditions in their herds.

In most instances, information is collected at the time of testing, herd tagging, or branding of infected animals.

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: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .00855 hours per response.

Respondents: State veterinarians, livestock inspectors, and herd owners.

Estimated number of respondents: 7,278.

Estimated number of responses per respondent: 858.5119.

Estimated annual number of responses: 6,248,250.

Estimated total annual burden on respondents: 52,395 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.)

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Done in Washington, DC, this 18th day of September 1997.

Craig A. Reed,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

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