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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 01-045-1]

#### Notice of Request for Approval of an Information Collection

**AGENCY:** Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** New 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 initiate a new information collection activity to support the National Animal Health Monitoring System's national Sheep 2001 study. The objectives of the study, which will be conducted in 22 States, are to estimate the regional and national prevalence of specific diseases of sheep, conduct genomic testing for genetic factors that may be related to health conditions in sheep, describe baseline health and management practices employed by sheep producers, evaluate nutritional practices by region, and describe the frequency of health-related management practices.

**DATES:** We invite you to comment on this docket. We will consider all comments that we receive by August 28, 2001.

**ADDRESSES:** Please send four copies of your comment (an original and three copies) to: Docket No. 01-045-1, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Suite 3C03, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238.

Please state that your comment refers to Docket No. 01-045-1.

You may read any comments that we receive on this docket in our reading room. The reading room 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) 690-2817 before coming.

APHIS documents published in the **Federal Register**, and related information, including the names of organizations and individuals who have commented on APHIS dockets, are available on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppd/rad/webrepor.html>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For information on the national Sheep 2001 study, contact Ms. Marj Swanson, Management Analyst, Centers for Epidemiology and Animal Health, VS, APHIS, 555 S. Howes, Fort Collins, CO 80521; (970) 490-7978. For copies of more detailed information on the information collection, contact Mrs. Celeste Sickles, APHIS Information Collection Coordinator, at (301) 734-7477.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Title: National Animal Health Monitoring System, Sheep 2001.

*OMB Number:* 0579-XXXX.

*Type of Request:* Approval of new information collection.

*Abstract:* The United States Department of Agriculture is responsible for protecting the health of our Nation's livestock and poultry populations by preventing the introduction and interstate spread of contagious, infectious, or communicable diseases of livestock and poultry and for eradicating such diseases from the United States when feasible. In connection with this mission, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) operates the National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS), which collects, on a national basis, statistically valid and scientifically sound data on the prevalence and economic importance of livestock and poultry diseases. Information from the studies conducted by NAHMS is disseminated to and used by livestock and poultry producers, consumers, animal health officials, private veterinary practitioners, animal industry groups, policy makers, public health officials, media, educational institutions, and others to improve the productivity and competitiveness of U.S. agriculture.

NAHMS' national studies have evolved into a collaborative industry and government initiative to help improve product quality and to determine the most effective means of producing animal and poultry products. APHIS is the only agency responsible for collecting national data on animal and poultry health. Participation in any NAHMS study is voluntary, and all data are confidential.

NAHMS will initiate the first national data collection for sheep through a national study, Sheep 2001. The study will take place in the following 22 States, which represent 88.8 percent of the U.S. sheep population according to the 1997 Census of Agriculture: Arkansas, California, Colorado, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

NAHMS personnel have completed a needs assessment, which was a collaborative effort with producers, industry, extension specialists, Federal and State personnel, and university researchers. The information gathered through this effort was used to determine the objectives of the study, i.e.: (1) Estimating the regional and national prevalence of specific diseases of sheep, such as Johne's disease, ovine progressive pneumonia, intestinal parasites, and some of the major causes of ovine abortion, such as *Toxoplasma gondii*, Chlamydia, and *Campylobacter* (Note: *Toxoplasma gondii* is one of the three major causes of sheep abortion in the United States. There are known risk factors for infection that could be measured and serve as recommendations to producers to avoid infection risks.); (2) conducting genomic testing to correlate certain genetic traits with possible health conditions in sheep, including measuring possible risk factors associated with the occurrence of scrapie infection; (3) describing baseline management practices used by sheep producers and evaluating their potential impact on selected health problems of sheep and potential productivity losses; (4) evaluating nutritional supplementation practices by sheep producers, variations in practices by region, and the impact on sheep health; and (5) describing the frequency of health-related management practices, including animal movement

and identification, feeding practices, biosecurity procedures, use of veterinary services, source of health information, and vaccination and treatment practices.

We are asking the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve the information collection activity for the national Sheep 2001 study.

The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public (as well as affected agencies) concerning these information collection activities. 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 information collection, 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 information collection 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 0.82564 hours per response.

*Respondents:* Industry personnel, private veterinary practitioners, company and independent producers, academicians, State veterinary medical officers, State public health officials, and other interested parties involved with animal health and management practices in the United States.

*Estimated annual number of respondents:* 10,731.

*Estimated annual number of responses per respondent:* 1.

*Estimated annual number of responses:* 10,731.

*Estimated total annual burden on respondents:* 8,860 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 25th day of June 2001.

**Bobby R. Acord,**

*Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.*

[FR Doc. 01-16401 Filed 6-28-01; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-34-U**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Foreign Agricultural Service

#### Notice of Request for Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

**AGENCY:** Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA.

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

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces that the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) intends to request an extension for a currently approved information collection procedure for Sugar Import Licensing Programs described in 7 CFR part 1530.

**DATES:** Comments should be received on or before August 28, 2001 to be assured of consideration.

**ADDRESSES:** Mail or deliver comments to Richard J. Blabey, Director, Import Policies and Programs Division, Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Stop 1021, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20250-1021.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Richard J. Blabey, at the address above, or telephone at (202) 720-2916 or e-mail at Blabey@fas.usda.gov.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** *Title:* The Reinforced Sugar Re-Export Program, The Sugar Containing Products Re-Export Program, and the Polyhydric Alcohol Program.

*OMB Number:* 0551-0015.

*Expiration Date of Approval:* August 31, 2001.

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

*Abstract:* The primary objective of the Sugar Import Licensing Program is to permit entry of raw cane sugar exempt from the sugar tariff-rate quota for re-export in refined form or in a sugar containing product or for the production of certain polyhydric alcohols. These programs are in use by as many as 400 licensees currently eligible to participate. Under 7 CFR part 1530, licensees are required to submit the following: (1) "Application for a license" information required for participation as outlined in sections

1530.104; (2) "Regular reporting" of import, export, transfer, or use for charges and credits to licenses under section 1530.109; and (3) "miscellaneous submission" of bonds or letters of credit under section 1530.107, appeals to determinations by the licensing authority under section 1530.12, or requests to the licensing authority for waivers under section 1530.113. In addition, each participant must maintain records on all programs reports as set forth in section 1530.110. The information collected is used by the licensing authority to manage, plan, evaluate and account for program activities. The reports and records are required to ensure the proper operation of these programs.

*Estimate of Burden:* (1) "application for a license" would require 20 hours per response; (2) "regular reporting" would require between 10 and 15 minutes per transaction. The number of transactions per respondent will vary; (3) "miscellaneous submission" would require between 1 or 2 hours per bond or letter of credit, 2 to 10 hours per waiver request, and 10 to 100 hours per appeal.

*Respondents:* Sugar refiners, manufacturers of sugar containing products and producers of polyhydric alcohol.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 250.

*Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* New/Renew License: 1; Regular reporting: 75 transactions, average; Miscellaneous: Bonds/letters of credit: 50; Waiver requests: 20; Appeals: 0.

*Estimated Total Burden Hours on Respondents:* 8,230 hours.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Kimberly Chisley, the Agency Information Collection Coordinator, at (202) 720-2568.

*Request for Comments:* The public is invited to submit comments and suggestions to the above address regarding the accuracy of the burden estimate, ways to minimize the burden, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology, or any other aspect of this collection of information. Comments on issues covered by the Paperwork Reduction Act are most useful to OMB if received within 30 days of publication of the Notice and Request for Comments, but should be submitted no later than 60 days from the date of this publication to be assured of consideration. All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also be a matter of public record. Persons with disabilities who