

most households, but the certification period may be lengthened to 24 months for households in which all adult members are elderly or disabled. Under the normal application process, we expect most cases to be under the new data collection requirement in 12 months. However, we understand that a small percentage of cases, the households with extended certification periods, may take up to 2 years to fall under the new data collection.

This rule is effective June 19, 2006. State agencies may implement the provisions of this rule anytime after June 19, 2006 but must implement the data collection no later than April 1, 2007 for all new applications. This will allow reporting of the new data for the report month of July 2007 for part of the caseload. The Form FNS-101 currently in use would remain in effect for the fiscal year 2006 reporting period for all State agencies.

List of Subjects in 7 CFR Part 272

Alaska, Civil rights, Food stamps, Grant programs-social programs, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

■ Accordingly, 7 CFR part 272 is amended as follows:

PART 272—REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATING STATE AGENCIES

■ 1. The authority citation for part 272 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 2011–2036.

■ 2. In § 272.6, paragraphs (g) and (h) are revised to read as follows:

§ 272.6 Nondiscrimination compliance.

* * * * *

(g) *Data collection.* The State agency must obtain racial and ethnic data on participating households in the manner specified by FNS. The application form must clearly indicate that the information is voluntary, that it will not affect the eligibility or the level of benefits, and that the reason for the information is to assure that program benefits are distributed without regard to race, color, or national origin. The State agency must develop alternative means of collecting the ethnic and racial data on households, such as by observation during the interview, when the information is not provided voluntarily by the household on the application form.

(h) *Reports.* As required by FNS, the State agency must report the racial and ethnic data on participating household contacts on forms or formats provided by FNS.

Dated: May 10, 2006.

Roberto Salazar,

Administrator.

[FR Doc. 06–4662 Filed 5–17–06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–34–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

9 CFR Part 94

[Docket No. APHIS–2006–0010]

Add Kazakhstan, Romania, Russia, Turkey, and Ukraine To List of Regions In Which Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Subtype H5N1 is Considered To Exist

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Affirmation of interim rule as final rule.

SUMMARY: We are adopting as a final rule, without change, an interim rule that amended the regulations concerning the importation of animals and animal products by adding Kazakhstan, Romania, Russia, Turkey, and Ukraine to the list of regions in which highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) subtype H5N1 is considered to exist. We took that action because there have been outbreaks of HPAI subtype H5N1 in those countries. The interim rule was necessary to prevent the introduction of HPAI subtype H5N1 into the United States.

DATES: Effective on May 18, 2006, we are adopting as a final rule the interim rule that became effective on February 7, 2006.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Julie Garnier, Staff Veterinarian, Technical Trade Issues Team, National Center for Import and Export, VS, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 39, Riverdale, MD 20737–1231; (301) 734–5677.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The regulations in 9 CFR parts 93, 94, and 95 (referred to below as the regulations) govern the importation of certain animals, birds, poultry, meat, other animal products and byproducts, hay, and straw into the United States in order to prevent the introduction of various animal diseases, including highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) subtype H5N1.

In an interim rule effective on February 7, 2006, and published in the *Federal Register* on February 13, 2006

(71 FR 7401–7402, Docket No. APHIS–2006–0010), we amended the regulations in part 94 by adding Kazakhstan, Romania, Russia, Turkey, and Ukraine to the list in § 94.6(d) of regions where HPAI subtype H5N1 exists.

Comments on the interim rule were required to be received on or before April 14, 2006. We received one comment by that date, from a private citizen. The commenter supported the interim rule. Therefore, for the reasons given in the interim rule, we are adopting the interim rule as a final rule.

This action also affirms the information contained in the interim rule concerning Executive Order 12866 and the Regulatory Flexibility Act, Executive Order 12988, and the Paperwork Reduction Act.

Further, for this action, the Office of Management and Budget has waived its review under Executive Order 12866.

List of Subjects in 9 CFR Part 94

Animal diseases, Imports, Livestock, Meat and meat products, Milk, Poultry and poultry products, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

PART 94—RINDERPEST, FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE, FOWL PEST (FOWL PLAGUE), EXOTIC NEWCASTLE DISEASE, AFRICAN SWINE FEVER, CLASSICAL SWINE FEVER, AND BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY: PROHIBITED AND RESTRICTED IMPORTATIONS

Accordingly, we are adopting as a final rule, without change, the interim rule that amended 9 CFR part 94 and that was published at 71 FR 7401–7402 on February 13, 2006.

Done in Washington, DC, this 12th day of May 2006.

Kevin Shea,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 06–4650 Filed 5–17–06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–34–P