Celeste Sickles, APHIS’ Information Collection Coordinator, at (301) 851–2908.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: National Animal Health Monitoring System; Swine 2012 Study.

OMB Number: 0579–0315.

Type of Request: Reinstatement of an information collection.

Abstract: Under the Animal Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8301 et seq.), the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is authorized, among other things, to protect the health of our Nation’s livestock and poultry populations by preventing the introduction and interstate spread of serious diseases and pests of livestock and for eradicating such diseases from the United States when feasible. In connection with this mission, APHIS would like to reinstate the Swine Study which will be used to:

• Describe current U.S. swine production practices including general management practices, housing practices, productivity, disease prevention, and mortality for five phases of production: gestation, farrowing, nursery, grow/finish, and wean-to-finish;
• Describe trends in swine health and management practices;
• Determine the prevalence and associated risk factors for select respiratory, neurologic, gastrointestinal, systemic, and food-borne pathogens found in weaned market hogs;
• Describe antibiotic usage patterns in weaned market hogs to control and treat disease and promote growth;
• Evaluate presence of or exposure to select pathogens and characterize isolated organisms from the collection of biological specimens; and
• Estimate the economic cost of a selected respiratory, neurologic, gastrointestinal, systemic, or food-borne pathogen found in commercial swine herds.

The Swine 2012 Study will consist of a screener questionnaire, several on-farm questionnaires, and biologic sampling. All of these activities will be administered by National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA, designated data collectors. The information collected through the Swine 2012 Study will be analyzed and used to:

• Direct producer education;
• Identify research gaps;
• Facilitate education of future producers and veterinarians;
• Assess quality assurance programs; and
• Help with policy formation.

We are asking the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve our use of this information collection activity for 2 years.

The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public (as well as agencies) concerning our information collection. 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 0.4104183 hours per response.

Respondents: Swine producers.

Estimated annual number of respondents: 24,380.

Estimated annual number of responses per respondent: 1.

Estimated total annual burden on respondents: 10,006 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 17th day of August 2011.

Gregory L. Parham, Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:


Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1–800–877–8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Meetings are open to the public. The following business will be conducted: review and make recommendations for approval of remaining project proposals.

Dated: August 16, 2011.

Dan S. Dallas, Acting Forest Supervisor.
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Natural Resources Conservation Service
[Docket No. NRCS–2011–0018]

Notice of Proposed Changes to the National Handbook of Conservation Practices for the Natural Resources Conservation Service

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

ACTION: Notice of availability of proposed changes in the NRCS National Handbook of Conservation Practices for public review and comment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of the intention of NRCS to issue a series of revised conservation practice standards in the National Handbook of Conservation Practices. These standards include: Dam or Pond Removal (Code 403), Dry Hydrant (Code 432), Feed Management (Code 592), Fishpond Management (Code 399), Land Clearing (Code 460), Livestock Pipeline (Code 516), Pond Sealing or Lining, Flexible Membrane (Code 521A), Fuel Break (Code 383), Stream Crossing (Code 578), and Subsurface Drain (Code 606).

NRCS State Conservationists who choose to adopt these practices for use within their States will incorporate them into section IV of their respective electronic Field Office Technical Guide. These practices may be used in conservation systems that treat highly erodible land (HEL) or on land determined to be a wetland. Section 343 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 requires NRCS to make available for public review and comment all proposed revisions to conservation practice standards used to carry out HEL and wetland provisions of the law.

DATES: Effective Date: This is effective August 23, 2011.

Comment Date: Submit comments on or before September 22, 2011. Final versions of these new or revised conservation practice standards will be adopted after the close of the 30-day period, and after consideration of all comments.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be submitted, identified by Docket Number NRCS–2011–0018, using any of the following methods:
- E-mail: Public.comments@wdc.usda.gov. Include Docket Number NRCS–2011–0018 or “comment on practice standards” in the subject line of the message.

All comments received will become a matter of public record and will be posted without change to http://www.regulations.gov, including any personal information provided.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Wayne Bogovich, National Agricultural Engineer, Conservation Engineering Division, Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Room 6136 South Building, Washington, DC 20250.

Electronic copies of these standards can be downloaded or printed from the following Web site: http://ftp.fc.sc.egov.usda.gov/NRIC/practice-standards/federal-register/. Requests for paper versions or inquiries may be directed to Wayne Bogovich, National Agricultural Engineer, Conservation Engineering Division, Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Room 6136 South Building, Washington, DC 20250.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The amount of the proposed changes varies considerably for each of the Conservation Practice Standards addressed in this notice. To fully understand the proposed changes, individuals are encouraged to compare these changes with each standard’s current version as shown at: http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/Standards/nhcp.html. To aid in this comparison, following are highlights of the proposed revisions to each standard:
- Dam or Pond Removal (Code 403)—This is a new conservation practice standard for the purpose of removing existing dams or ponds.
- Dry Hydrant (Code 432)—The Criteria section was clarified, Plans and Specification section added a list of items to include, and references were added.
- Feed Management (Code 592)—The units changed from Animal Units (AUs) or Number to only AUs. The Purpose changed to include pathogen, odor, particulate matter, and greenhouse gas mitigation. Additions to Conditions Where Practice Applies, Criteria, Considerations, Operations and Maintenance, and References were made to support the change in Purpose.