

# 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. APHIS-2014-0094]

#### Availability of an Environmental Assessment for the Biological Control of Emerald Ash Borer

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

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

**SUMMARY:** We are advising the public that the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has prepared a draft environmental assessment relative to the control of emerald ash borer, *Agrilus planipennis*. The environmental assessment considers the effects of, and alternatives to, the field release of a parasitic wasp, *Spathius galinae*, into the continental United States for use as a biological control agent to reduce the severity of emerald ash borer infestations. We are making the environmental assessment available to the public for review and comment.

**DATES:** We will consider all comments that we receive on or before March 16, 2015.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments by either of the following methods:

- **Federal eRulemaking Portal:** Go to <http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=APHIS-2014-0094>.

- **Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery:** Send your comment to Docket No. APHIS-2014-0094, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3A-03.8, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238.

Supporting documents and any comments we receive on this docket may be viewed at <http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=APHIS-2014-0094> or in our reading room, which 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) 799-7039 before coming.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Shirley Wager-Pagé, Assistant Director, Pest Permitting Branch, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 133, Riverdale, MD 20737-1231; (301) 851-2323.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The emerald ash borer (EAB), *Agrilus planipennis*, is an invasive wood-boring beetle from Asia threatening the ash trees (*Fraxinus* spp.) in the United States. EAB larvae feed on ash phloem, cutting off the movement of resources within the tree and killing the tree in 4–5 years. EAB is able to attack and kill healthy trees in both natural and urban environments and is well suited for climate conditions in the continental United States. As a result, EAB infestations have been detected in 24 states: Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is proposing to issue permits for the field release of a parasitic wasp, *Spathius galinae*, into the continental United States to reduce the severity of EAB infestations.

APHIS' review and analysis of the proposed action are documented in detail in a draft environmental assessment (EA) entitled "Field Release of the Parasitoid *Spathius galinae* for the Biological Control of the Emerald Ash Borer (*Agrilus planipennis*) in the Continental United States" (January 2014). We are making the EA available to the public for review and comment. We will consider all comments that we receive on or before the date listed under the heading **DATES** at the beginning of this notice.

The EA may be viewed on the Regulations.gov Web site or in our reading room (see **ADDRESSES** above for a link to Regulations.gov and information on the location and hours of the reading room). You may request paper copies of the draft EA by calling or writing to the person listed under **FOR**

**FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT.** Please refer to the title of the EA when requesting copies.

The EA has been prepared in accordance with: (1) The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*); (2) regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality for implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA (40 CFR parts 1500–1508); (3) USDA regulations implementing NEPA (7 CFR part 1b); and (4) APHIS' NEPA Implementing Procedures (7 CFR part 372).

Done in Washington, DC, this 6th day of February 2015.

**Kevin Shea,**

Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 2015-02914 Filed 2-11-15; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-34-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### National Agricultural Statistics Service

#### Notice of Intent To Seek Approval To Revise and Extend a Currently Approved Information Collection

**AGENCY:** National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

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

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the intention of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) to request revision and extension of a currently approved information collection, the Agricultural Resources Management Survey and Chemical Use Surveys. A revision to burden hours will be needed due to changes in the size of the target population, sampling design, and/or questionnaire length.

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received by April 13, 2015 to be assured of consideration.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments, identified by docket number 0535-0218, by any of the following methods:

- **Email:** [ombofficer@nass.usda.gov](mailto:ombofficer@nass.usda.gov).

Include docket number above in the subject line of the message.

- **eFax:** (855) 838-6382.

- **Mail:** Mail any paper, disk, or CD-ROM submissions to: David Hancock, NASS Clearance Officer, U.S.

Department of Agriculture, Room 5336 South Building, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250–2024.

- *Hand Delivery/Courier:* Hand deliver to: David Hancock, NASS Clearance Officer, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 5336 South Building, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250–2024.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** R. Renee Picanso, Associate Administrator, National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, (202) 720–4333. Copies of this information collection and related instructions can be obtained without charge from David Hancock, NASS—OMB Clearance Officer, at (202) 690–2388 or at [ombofficer@nass.usda.gov](mailto:ombofficer@nass.usda.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title:* Agricultural Resources Management Survey and Chemical Use Surveys.

*OMB Control Number:* 0535–0218.

*Expiration Date of Current Approval:* October 31, 2015.

*Type of Request:* Intent to revise and extend a currently approved information collection.

*Abstract:* The Agricultural Resource Management Survey(s) (ARMS) are the primary source of information for the U.S. Department of Agriculture on a broad range of issues related to: production practices, costs and returns, pest management, chemical usage, and contractor expenses. Data is collected on both a whole farm level and on selected commodities.

ARMS is the only source of information available for objective evaluation of many critical issues related to agriculture and the rural economy, such as: whole farm finance data, including data sufficient to construct estimates of income for farms by: type of operation, loan commodities, income for operator households, credit, structure, and organization; marketing information; and other economic data on input usage, production practices, and crop substitution possibilities.

Data from ARMS are used to produce estimates of net farm income by type of commercial producer as required in 7 U.S.C. 7998 as amended and estimates of enterprise production costs as required in 7 U.S.C. 1441(a) as amended. Data from ARMS are also used as weights in the development of the Prices Paid Index, a component of the Parity Index referred to in the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938, as amended. These indexes are used to calculate the annual federal grazing fee rates as described in the Public Rangelands Improvement Act of 1978

and Executive Order 12548 and as promulgated in regulations found at 36 CFR 222.51, as amended.

In addition, ARMS is used to produce estimates of sector-wide production expenditures and other components of income that are used in constructing the estimates of income and value-added which are transmitted to the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, by the USDA Economic Research Service (ERS) for use in constructing economy-wide estimates of Gross Domestic Product. This transmittal of data, prepared using the ARMS, is undertaken to satisfy a 1956 agreement between the Office of Management and Budget and the Departments of Agriculture and Commerce that a single set of estimates be published on farm income.

Chemical Use Surveys: Congress has mandated that NASS and ERS build nationally coordinated databases on agricultural chemical use and related farm practices; these databases are the primary vehicles used to produce specified environmental and economic estimates. The surveys will help provide the knowledge and technical means for producers and researchers to address on-farm environmental concerns in a manner that maintains agricultural productivity.

In this approval request, there are three significant program changes. First, the Fruit Chemical Use Survey will be reinstated in rotation with the Vegetable Chemical Use Survey. These two surveys will be conducted in alternating years. Second, starting in October 2015, data on Microbial Food Safety Practices used by farmers will be collected on both the Vegetable and Fruit Chemical Use Surveys. Finally, a new annual survey will be added to collect data on the Microbial Food Safety Practices—Packer Survey.

**Authority:** These data will be collected under the authority of 7 U.S.C. 2204(a). Individually identifiable data collected under this authority are governed by section 1770 of the Food Security Act of 1985, 7 U.S.C. 2276, which requires USDA to afford strict confidentiality to non-aggregated data provided by respondents. This Notice is submitted in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (at 44 U.S.C. 3501, *et seq.*) and Office of Management and Budget regulations at 5 CFR part 1320.

NASS also complies with OMB Implementation Guidance, “Implementation Guidance for Title V of the E-Government Act, Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2002 (CIPSEA).” **Federal Register**, Vol. 72, No. 115, June 15, 2007, p. 33362.

*Estimate of Burden:* Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average approximately 45 minutes per survey.

*Respondents:* Farmers, ranchers, farm managers, farm contractors, and farm households.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* Approximately 90,000 respondents will be sampled each year. Over half of these respondents will be contacted more than one time in a single year.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* Approximately 85,000 hours per year.

*Comments:* Comments are invited on: (a) 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; (b) the accuracy of the agency’s estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, technological or other forms of information technology collection methods.

All responses to this notice will become a matter of public record and be summarized in the request for OMB approval.

Signed at Washington, DC, January 30, 2015.

**R. Renee Picanso,**  
Associate Administrator.

[FR Doc. 2015–02943 Filed 2–11–15; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410–20–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### National Agricultural Statistics Service

#### Notice of Invitation for Nominations to the Advisory Committee on Agriculture Statistics

**AGENCY:** National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS).

**ACTION:** Solicitation of Nominations to the Advisory Committee on Agriculture Statistics.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. 2, this notice announces an invitation from the Office of the Secretary of Agriculture for nominations to the Advisory Committee on Agriculture Statistics.

On September 2, 2014, the Secretary of Agriculture renewed the Advisory