

approve our use of this information collection activity for an additional 3 years.

The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public (as well as affected 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 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: The public burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 0.50 hours per response.

Respondents: Growers, pesticide applicators, and State department of agriculture personnel.

Estimated annual number of respondents: 110.

Estimated annual number of responses per respondent: 20.

Estimated annual number of responses: 2,200.

Estimated total annual burden on respondents: 1,100 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 19th day of May 2020.

Michael Watson,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS-2020-0027]

Notice of Request for Reinstatement of an Information Collection; Conditions for Payment of Avian Influenza Indemnity Claims

ACTION: Reinstatement 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 the reinstatement of an information collection associated with the regulations for payment of avian influenza indemnity claims.

DATES: We will consider all comments that we receive on or before July 21, 2020.

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

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to <http://www.regulations.gov#!/docketDetail;D=APHIS-2020-0027>.

- *Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery:* Send your comment to Docket No. APHIS-2020-0027, 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-2020-0027> 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: For information on the regulations related to avian influenza indemnity, contact Dr. Elena Behnke, Senior Coordinator, National Poultry Improvement Plan, Veterinary Services, APHIS, 1506 Klondike Road SW, Suite 101, Conyers, GA 30094; (770) 922-3496; Elena.Behnke@usda.gov. Alternatively, contact Dr. Patricia Fox-Turner, National Epidemiology Officer—Avian Health, Veterinary Services, APHIS, 6 Thorn Brook Court, Durham, NC 27703; (919) 855-7258; patricia.e.fox@usda.gov. For further information on the information collection process, contact Mr. Joseph Moxey, APHIS Information

Collection Coordinator, at (301) 851-2483.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Conditions for Payment of Avian Influenza Indemnity Claims.

OMB Control Number: 0579-0440.

Type of Request: Reinstatement of an information collection.

Abstract: The Animal Health Protection Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8301 *et seq.*) is the primary Federal law governing the protection of animal health. The law gives the Secretary of Agriculture broad authority to detect, control, or eradicate pests or diseases of livestock or poultry. The Secretary may also prohibit or restrict import or export of any animal or related material if necessary to prevent the spread of any livestock or poultry pest or disease.

U.S. animal health policy calls for elimination of the avian influenza virus (both highly pathogenic and low pathogenicity strains) when found through depopulation (*i.e.*, euthanasia and disposal) of affected poultry. The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) works with State and local animal health officials to euthanize poultry, clean and disinfect premises and equipment, and test for elimination of the virus to ensure that farms can be safely restocked. To accomplish this, APHIS Veterinary Services assists State and local animal health officials and poultry producers with creating and applying biosecurity and response plans, developing and enforcing flock plans and compliance agreements, preparing and processing appraisal and indemnity claims and worksheets, developing restocking and testing agreements, and submitting reports.

This information collection was previously titled "Conditions for Payment of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Indemnity Claims". We are changing the name to "Conditions for Payment of Avian Influenza Indemnity Claims".

We are asking the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve our use of these information collection activities, as described, for 3 years.

The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public (as well as affected 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 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: The public burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 2.5 hours per response.

Respondents: State and local animal health officials and poultry producers.

Estimated annual number of respondents: 18,950.

Estimated annual number of responses per respondent: 1.

Estimated annual number of responses: 19,763.

Estimated total annual burden on respondents: 48,714 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 19th day of May 2020.

Michael Watson,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS-2019-0034]

Oral Rabies Vaccine Program; Notice of Availability of Decision and Finding of No Significant Impact for the Environmental Assessment

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: We are advising the public that the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has prepared a Decision and Finding of No Significant Impact for the final environmental assessment, relative to an oral rabies vaccination program in Maine, New Hampshire, New York, Ohio, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, and West Virginia. Based on our decision and finding of no significant impact, the

Animal and Plant Health Inspection has determined that an environmental impact statement need not be prepared.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Richard Chipman, Rabies Program Coordinator, Wildlife Services, APHIS, 59 Chenell Drive, Suite 2, Concord, NH 03301; (603) 223-9623. To obtain copies of the environmental assessment and the finding of no significant impact, contact Ms. Beth Kabert, Environmental Coordinator, Wildlife Services, APHIS, 59 Chenell Drive, Suite 2, Concord, NH 03301; (908) 442-6761, email: beth.e.kabert@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Wildlife Services (WS) program in the Animal and Plant Inspection Service (APHIS) cooperates with Federal agencies, State and local governments, and private individuals to research and implement the best methods of managing conflicts between wildlife and human health and safety, agriculture, property, and natural resources. Wildlife-borne diseases that can affect domestic animals and humans are among the types of conflicts that APHIS-WS addresses. Wildlife is the dominant reservoir of rabies in the United States.

Since 2011, WS has been conducting field trials to study the immunogenicity and safety of an experimental oral rabies vaccine, a human adenovirus type 5 rabies glycoprotein recombinant vaccine called ONRAB (produced by Artemis Technologies Inc., Guelph, Ontario, Canada). The field trials began in portions of West Virginia, including U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service National Forest System lands. Beginning in 2012, WS expanded field trials into portions of New Hampshire, New York, Ohio, Vermont, and new areas of West Virginia, including additional National Forest System lands, in order to further assess the immunogenicity of ONRAB in raccoons and skunks for raccoon rabies virus variant.

On July 9, 2019, we published in the **Federal Register** (84 FR 32700-32701, Docket No. APHIS-2019-0034)¹ a notice in which we announced the availability, for public review and comment, of an environmental assessment (EA) that examined the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed expanded use of ONRAB vaccine-baits throughout the oral rabies vaccination (ORV) distribution zone in Maine, New Hampshire, New York, Ohio, Tennessee,

Texas, Vermont, Virginia, and West Virginia.

We solicited comments on the EA for 30 days ending August 8, 2019. We received 6 comments by that date. The comments were from private individuals supporting and opposing the oral rabies vaccination program. The comments, and APHIS' responses to the comments, are presented in an appendix to the Decision and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

In the EA, we identified a number of alternatives for consideration. Our proposed alternative recommended the expanded use of ONRAB throughout the ORV zone in Maine, New Hampshire, New York, Ohio, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, and West Virginia. This alternative involves the continued or expanded use of Federal funds by APHIS-WS to purchase ONRAB oral vaccine baits and to participate in the distribution of vaccine baits under the authorities of the appropriate State agencies in selected areas of the States listed above to stop or prevent raccoon, gray fox, and coyote rabies, and to assist with monitoring and surveillance efforts by capturing and releasing or killing target species for the purposes of obtaining biological samples.

In this document, we are advising the public of our decision, as well as availability of a final EA and FONSI, regarding the implementation of the continued and expanded APHIS-WS ORV programs using the ONRAB wildlife rabies vaccine to eliminate or stop the spread of raccoon rabies variant in the eastern United States and prevent the reintroduction of the dog-coyote rabies variants from Mexico in the Southwestern United States, including National Forest System lands, in Maine, New Hampshire, New York, Ohio, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, and West Virginia. The finding, which is based on the proposed alternative in the EA, reflects our determination that the distribution of the ONRAB wildlife rabies vaccine will not have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment.

The final EA and FONSI may be viewed on the APHIS website at https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/wildlifedamage/programs/nepa/ct_nepa_regulations_assessments and on the [Regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) website. Copies of the EA and FONSI are also available for public inspection 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 copies are requested to call ahead at (202) 799-7039 to facilitate entry into

¹ The EA, Decision/FONSI, and comments we received may be viewed at <https://www.regulations.gov/docket?D=APHIS-2019-0034>.