

maintaining livestock movement records, and collecting blood and tissue samples. These agreements and procedures include information collection activities such as Approved Livestock Facility Agreements, Requests for Appeal of Denial of Agreement, Withdrawal of Livestock Facility Agreements, Requests for Appeal of Withdrawal of Agreements, Listing Agreements for Slaughter or Rendering Establishments, Slaughter or Rendering Facility Inspection Reports, Requests for Appeal of Denial of Listings, Requests for Appeal of Withdrawal of Listing, Schedules of Sales Days, Diseased Animal Notifications, Quarantine Signs, and maintaining animal movement records.

Need and Use of the Information: The collection of this information identifies and prevents the interstate movement of unhealthy livestock animals with diseases within the United States. The information collected is used to: (1) establish Livestock Facility Agreements and Listing Agreements between APHIS and owners and operators of slaughtering and rendering establishments and livestock marketing facilities, (2) rapidly confirm livestock disease occurrences through reporting and sampling, (3) trace the sources of diseases, as well as the movement of other potentially infected animals, and (4) provide epidemiological data for new or updated risk analyses in support of disease control programs, and, as required, opening international markets for animal products. Without the agreements and sampling/reporting procedures, the risk of contagious disease spread becomes very high with serious consequences for U.S. meat industries and export markets.

Description of Respondents: Business or other-for profit; State, Local or Tribal Government.

Number of Respondents: 1,914.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 3,352.

Levi S. Harrell,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS-2023-0077]

Reclassification of Nuevo León, Mexico to Level V for Bovine Tuberculosis

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: We are advising the public that we have reclassified the region of Nuevo León, Mexico as Level V for bovine tuberculosis. Previously, the Nuevo León region was classified as Level IV for bovine tuberculosis. We took this action based on an onsite review of the bovine tuberculosis control and eradication program in Nuevo León.

DATES: The revised classification was effective December 1, 2023.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Kari Coulson, Import Risk Analyst, Regionalization Evaluation Services, Strategy and Policy, VS, APHIS, USDA, 920 Main Campus Drive, Raleigh, NC 27606; (919) 480-9876; AskRegionalization@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The regulations in 9 CFR part 93, subpart D (§§ 93.400 through 93.442, referred to below as part 93 or the subpart), contain requirements for the importation of ruminants into the United States to address the risk of introducing or disseminating diseases of livestock within the United States. Part 93 currently contains provisions that address the risk that imported bovines (cattle or bison) may introduce or disseminate bovine tuberculosis within the United States. Within part 93, § 93.437 contains the requirements for classification of foreign regions for bovine tuberculosis and § 93.438 contains the process for requesting regional classification for bovine tuberculosis.

In accordance with § 93.437(f), the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) maintains lists of all Level I, Level II, Level III, Level IV, and Level V regions for bovine tuberculosis and makes changes to the lists in accordance with § 93.438. In accordance with § 93.437(e), regions that do not

have a program that meets APHIS requirements for bovine tuberculosis classification, have a prevalence of bovine tuberculosis in their domestic bovine herds equal to or greater than 0.5 percent, or are unassessed by APHIS with regard to bovine tuberculosis are considered to be Level V.

Paragraph (d) of § 93.438 provides that a region may be required to allow APHIS to conduct additional information collection activities in order for that region to maintain its classification for bovine tuberculosis. If APHIS determines that a region's classification is no longer accurate, APHIS will publish a notice in the **Federal Register** announcing the revised classification and setting forth the reasons for the reclassification.

In March 2023, APHIS conducted an onsite review of the bovine tuberculosis control and eradication program in Nuevo León. At the time of this review, APHIS recognized the Nuevo León region as Level IV status for bovine tuberculosis. The review determined that the region no longer has a program that meets APHIS minimum requirements for Level IV status due to deficiencies in the following areas: Veterinary control and oversight; epidemiological investigations; management of affected herds; regulatory controls on the movement of livestock; and surveillance. These findings support reclassifying Nuevo León as Level V for bovine tuberculosis.

With the publication of this notice, we are announcing the revised classification of the Nuevo León region of Mexico to Level V for bovine tuberculosis, effective December 1, 2023. This notice serves as an official record and public notification of this action.

Pursuant to the Congressional Review Act (5 U.S.C. 801 *et seq.*), the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs designated this action as not a major rule, as defined by 5 U.S.C. 804(2).

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 1622 and 8301-8317; 21 U.S.C. 136 and 136a; 31 U.S.C. 9701; 7 CFR 2.22, 2.80, and 371.4.

Done in Washington, DC, this 4th day of January 2024.

Donna Lalli,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

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