

# 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–2025–0013]

#### Notice of Availability of a Pest Risk Analysis for the Importation of Fresh Sweet Potato (*Ipomoea batatas* (L.)) Roots From the Republic of Korea Into the United States

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

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** We are advising the public that we have prepared a pest risk analysis that evaluates the risks associated with importation of fresh sweet potato (*Ipomoea batatas* (L.)) roots from the Republic of Korea into the United States for consumption. Currently, fresh sweet potato roots are authorized into Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Based on the analysis, we have determined that the application of one or more designated phytosanitary measures will be sufficient to mitigate the risks of introducing or disseminating plant pests or noxious weeds via the importation of fresh sweet potato roots from the Republic of Korea into the rest of the United States. We are making the pest risk analysis available to the public for review and comment.

**DATES:** We will consider all comments that we receive on or before May 12, 2026.

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

- *Federal Rulemaking Portal:* Go to [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov). Enter APHIS–2025–0013 in the Search field. Select the Documents tab, then select the Comment button in the list of documents.
- *Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery:* Send your comment to Docket No. APHIS–2025–0013, Regulatory Analysis

and Development, PPD, APHIS, 5601 Sunnyside Ave., #AP760, Beltsville, MD 20705.

Supporting documents and any comments we receive on this docket may be viewed at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) or in our reading room, which is located in Room 1620 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:** Ms. Gina Stiltner, Senior Regulatory Policy Specialist, Regulatory Coordination and Compliance, PPQ, APHIS, 1400 Independence SW, Washington, DC 20250; (518) 760–2468.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

Under the regulations in “Subpart L—Fruits and Vegetables” (7 CFR 319.56–1 through 319.56–12, referred to below as the regulations), the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) prohibits or restricts the importation of fruits and vegetables into the United States from certain parts of the world to prevent plant pests from being introduced into or disseminated within the United States.

Section 319.56–4 contains a performance-based process for approving the importation of fruits and vegetables that, based on the findings of a pest risk analysis, can be safely imported subject to one or more of the five designated phytosanitary measures listed in paragraph (b) of that section. Paragraph (c) of that section provides that the name and origin of all fruits and vegetables authorized importation into the United States, as well as the requirements for their importation, be listed on the internet in APHIS’ Agricultural Commodity Import Requirements database, or ACIR (<https://acir.aphis.usda.gov/s/>).

Currently, fresh sweet potato roots from the Republic of Korea are listed in ACIR as authorized importation into Guam and Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

APHIS received a request from the national plant protection organization of the Republic of Korea to allow the importation of fresh sweet potato roots from the Republic of Korea into the rest

of the United States.<sup>1</sup> As part of our evaluation of the Republic of Korea’s request, we have prepared a pest risk assessment to identify the pests of quarantine significance that could follow the pathway of the importation of fresh sweet potato roots into the United States from the Republic of Korea. Based on the pest risk assessment, a risk management document (RMD) was prepared to identify phytosanitary measures that could be applied to the fresh sweet potato roots to mitigate the pest risk.

Therefore, in accordance with § 319.56–4(c), we are announcing the availability of our pest risk assessment and RMD for public review and comment. Those documents, as well as a description of the economic considerations associated with the importation of fresh sweet potato roots from the Republic of Korea, may be viewed on the *Regulations.gov* website 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 pest risk assessment and RMD by calling or writing to the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. Please refer to the subject of the analysis you wish to review when requesting copies.

After reviewing any comments we receive, we will announce our decision regarding the import status of fresh sweet potato roots from the Republic of Korea in a subsequent notice. If the overall conclusions of our analysis and the Administrator’s determination of risk remain unchanged following our consideration of the comments, then we will authorize<sup>2</sup> the importation of fresh sweet potato roots from the Republic of Korea into the rest of the United States subject to the requirements specified in the RMD.

(Authority: 7 U.S.C. 1633, 7701–7772, and 7781–7786; 21 U.S.C. 136 and 136a; 7 CFR 2.22, 2.80, and 371.3.)

<sup>1</sup> The United States includes all states, the District of Columbia, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and any other territory or possession of the United States. For this notice, “rest of the United States” does not include Guam or Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

<sup>2</sup> This notice will not impact the current import authorization to Guam and Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Done in Washington, DC, this 4th day of March 2026.

**Kelly Moore,**

*Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.*

[FR Doc. 2026-04922 Filed 3-12-26; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS-2026-0232]

#### Notice of Request for Revision to and Extension of Approval of an Information Collection; Cooperative State-Federal Brucellosis Eradication Program

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

**ACTION:** Revision to and extension of approval 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 a revision to and extension of approval of an information collection associated with the Cooperative State-Federal Brucellosis Eradication Program.

**DATES:** We will consider all comments that we receive on or before May 12, 2026.

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

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov). Enter APHIS-2026-0232 in the Search field. Select the Documents tab, then select the Comment button in the list of documents.

- *Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery:* Send your comment to Docket No. APHIS-2026-0232, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, 5601 Sunnyside Ave., #AP760, Beltsville, MD 20705.

Supporting documents and any comments we receive on this docket may be viewed at [regulations.gov](http://regulations.gov) or in our reading room, which is located in Room 1620 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 Cooperative State-

Federal Brucellosis Eradication Program, contact Dr. Jennifer Siembieda, Assistant Director, Ruminant Health Center, Strategy and Policy, Veterinary Services, APHIS, 2150 Centre Ave., Bldg. B, Fort Collins, CO 80526; (970) 278-7893. For more information on the information collection reporting process, contact Ms. Sheniqua Harris, APHIS' Paperwork Reduction Act Coordinator, at (301) 851-2528 or email [APHIS.PRA@usda.gov](mailto:APHIS.PRA@usda.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Title:* Cooperative State-Federal Brucellosis Eradication Program.

*OMB Control Number:* 0579-0047.

*Type of Request:* Revision to and extension of approval of an information collection.

*Abstract:* The Animal Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8301 *et seq.*) of 2002 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.

Disease prevention and disease surveillance are the most effective methods for maintaining a healthy animal population and for enhancing the United States' ability to compete in the world market of animal and animal product trade. The Veterinary Services (VS) unit of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is responsible for administering regulations intended to protect the health of the U.S. livestock population.

Brucellosis is an infectious disease of animals and humans caused by bacteria of the genus *Brucella*. The disease is characterized by abortions and impaired fertility in its principal animal hosts. The disease infects humans through contact with infected animals or with certain body fluids of infected animals. Usually *Brucella abortus* is associated with the disease in cattle or bison, *Brucella suis* with the disease in swine, and *Brucella melitensis* with the disease in sheep and goats. The continued presence of brucellosis in a herd seriously threatens the health, welfare, and economic viability of the livestock industry. There is no economically feasible treatment for brucellosis in livestock.

The Cooperative State-Federal Brucellosis Eradication Program is a national program to eliminate this serious disease of livestock. The program is conducted under the authority of the various States and supplemented by Federal authorities

regulating interstate movement of infected animals. Regulations in 9 CFR part 78 outline the Cooperative State-Federal Brucellosis Eradication Program. The regulations include required surveillance, epidemiological investigation, annual reporting, and interstate movement activities that must be documented.

Minimum program standards known as the Brucellosis Eradication Uniform Methods and Rules (UM&R) have been developed cooperatively by organizations representing the livestock industry, State animal health agencies, and the USDA. State and Federal officials in charge of program activities in each State are responsible for continuously evaluating the efficiency of local procedures in locating and eliminating infected livestock. The minimum standards in the UM&R must be met or exceeded throughout the certification period to maintain continuous classification status. Meeting these standards requires information collection.

Information is generally collected by State and Federal animal health officials through interviews or reviewing records. In addition, the information on some documents may be collected by private veterinary practitioners (*i.e.*, test charts, vaccination records, and official Certificates of Veterinary Inspection) or blood collection personnel on contract (*i.e.*, market cattle slaughter surveillance blood collection forms and brucellosis ring testing milk sample collection forms). The information is collected at the time each appropriate event occurs. In most instances, information is collected when testing or vaccinating individual animals or herds, applying official identification to animals, or conducting surveillance or epidemiological investigation activities. Some events, such as market cattle slaughter surveillance, occur daily. Other events, such as on-farm blood testing and vaccination, occur as part of routine animal health management. A few events, such as infected-herd investigations, occur only a few times a year.

In addition, the bovine brucellosis program regulations in part 78 provide a system for classifying States or portions of States according to the rate of *B. abortus* infection present and the general effectiveness of a brucellosis control and eradication program. The program also provides for the creation of brucellosis management areas within a State and for testing and movement mitigation activities before regulated animals are permitted to move interstate. This system enhances the ability of States to move healthy,