

that date all of which were supportive of the environmental release of the blister mite, *A. salsolae*, for the biological control of Russian thistle within the contiguous United States. One commenter recommended APHIS coordinate the field release with other Federal land management agencies to ensure the field release can occur on all affected public lands. We have revised the final EA, where appropriate, and our full response to comments can be found in Appendix 3 of the final EA.

In this document, we are advising the public of the availability of the final EA and our FONSI regarding the field release of blister mite, *Aceria salsolae* De Lillo and Sobhian (Acari: Eriophyidae), for the biological control of Russian thistle (*Salsola tragus* L.) within the contiguous United States. Based on the analysis in the final EA, APHIS determined that the field release of *A. salsolae* for the biological control of Russian thistle within the contiguous United States will not have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment. As a result of this finding, we will issue permits for the field release *A. salsolae* for the biological control of Russian thistle within the contiguous United States.

The final EA and FONSI may be viewed on the *Regulations.gov* website (see footnote 1). Copies of the final EA and FONSI are also available for public inspection at 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. Persons wishing to inspect copies are requested to call ahead at (202) 799-7039 to facilitate entry into the reading room. In addition, copies may be obtained by calling or writing to the individual listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

The final EA and FONSI have been prepared in accordance with: (1) The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321-4370m-11); (2) the former regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality for implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA (40 CFR parts 1500-1508) as of February 25, 2021; (3) U.S. Department of Agriculture regulations implementing NEPA (7 CFR part 1b) effective through July 2, 2025; and (4) APHIS' NEPA Implementing Procedures (7 CFR part 372) effective through July 2, 2025.

Done in Washington, DC, this 9th day of September 2026.

Kelly Moore,

Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food and Nutrition Administration

[FNA-2026-0302]

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: State of Indiana SNAP Demonstration Project

AGENCY: Food and Nutrition Administration, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

ACTION: Notice of request for public comments.

SUMMARY: This notice invites the public to comment on the State of Indiana's demonstration project authorized under section 17(b) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, 7 U.S.C. 2026(b). The Food and Nutrition Administration (FNA) will take appropriate action as necessary in response to comments.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before October 15, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Comments on this notice may be submitted to FNA by one of the following methods:

- **Federal eRulemaking Portal:** Go to <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.
- **Website:** Go to <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.
- All written comments submitted in response to this notice will be included in the record and will be made available to the public. Please be advised that the substance of the comments and the identity of the individuals or entities submitting the comments will be subject to public disclosure. FNA will make the written comments publicly available on the internet via <http://www.regulations.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Shiela Corley, Acting FNA Administrator, at SM.FN.RPMDHQ-WEB@usda.gov with subject line of "IN SNAP Demonstration Project".

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 17(b) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, 7 U.S.C. 2026(b), authorizes FNA to approve demonstration projects to test changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) that may increase programmatic efficiency and improve the delivery of

SNAP benefits to raise levels of nutrition among eligible households. This demonstration project is implemented by the State, and FNA will carefully review the results of the project based on the State's evaluation data. All relevant documents, including the State's demonstration project request, can be found in the supporting document section. Additionally, to support implementation and ensure transparency, FNA created a central web page on May 21, 2025, to post State agencies' project requests and approvals and provide exact implementation timelines. That web page is accessible at the following address: <https://www.fna.usda.gov/snap/waivers/foodrestriction>.

Discussion of Demonstration Project

State of Indiana Demonstration Project Request

The State of Indiana requested to conduct a demonstration project to amend the SNAP definition of food for purchase to exclude "soft drinks". The State formally requested to conduct this project on April 15, 2025. The State requested to implement the project on January 1, 2026. The State's project request can be found in the supporting document section and on the FNA website at the following address: <https://www.fna.usda.gov/snap/waivers/foodrestriction/indiana>.

Request for Public Comments: Although not required by statute, interested parties are invited to submit written comments regarding the State of Indiana's demonstration project. FNA is particularly interested in comments regarding the state's implementation and operation of the demonstration project. Further information related to the implementation of the demonstration project is included on the FNA website (<https://www.fna.usda.gov/snap/waivers/foodrestriction>) and the State's website (<https://www.in.gov/fssa/dfr/snap-food-assistance/smart-snap/smart-snap-retailers/>).

Shiela Corley,

Acting Administrator, Food and Nutrition Administration, USDA.

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