

5. When adjudications involve unusually complex or novel issues of law, fact, or discretion, agencies should develop mechanisms for intervention or amicus participation when doing so would be helpful to resolve the individual case or set agency-wide policy.

6. When adjudicating questions involving grants or denials of permission, such as permit applications, or nonadversarial discretionary policy matters involving, among other things, specific public projects, agencies should solicit public input by, for example:

- a. Hosting public forums available through different media;
- b. Convening focus groups;
- c. Issuing requests for information in the **Federal Register**;
- d. Conducting targeted outreach to facilitate opportunities for meeting with interested and potentially affected persons;
- e. Using ombuds; and
- f. Holding virtual or hybrid public meetings, hearings, and listening sessions with interested members of the public.

7. Agencies should determine whether there are opportunities for broader and more innovative forms of public engagement in their adjudicative processes that involve interactive discussion and ongoing dialogue between agencies and interested members of the public. For example, in appropriate circumstances, agencies should consider establishing procedures that provide opportunities for public participation by interested or affected persons prior to the filing of applications for grants or denials of permission, such as permit applications. Such enhanced forms of public participation may also be useful when adjudicating discretionary policy determinations regarding important public projects.

Communication and Transparency

8. Agencies should publicize administrative adjudications that may affect members of the public, alert potentially affected persons that their interests may be at stake, and provide advance notice of available opportunities to participate in adjudications to interested members of the public through means that are likely to reach them, including, for example:

- a. Social media posts;
 - b. Email alerts;
 - c. Press releases;
 - d. **Federal Register** notices;
 - e. Direct mailings and advertisements in the area where the affected public is located;
 - f. Targeted outreach to groups that are likely to be interested in and able to represent otherwise unrepresented interests and views; and
 - g. Coordination with other federal agencies; state, local, and tribal governments; and community-based organizations and businesses, trade and professional associations, advocacy groups, and other nongovernmental organizations that can help distribute and publicize information about administrative adjudications and available opportunities to participate to interested or potentially affected members of the public.
9. Agencies should establish and make available to the public procedural rules and

general policies for public participation that address their practices for involving members of the public in their adjudications.

10. Agencies should maintain dedicated web pages that include: (a) explanatory materials that educate the public on how to participate effectively in administrative adjudications, and (b) information in plain language about opportunities for interested members of the public to participate in specific adjudications.

11. As appropriate and subject to available resources, agencies should provide the public with access to electronic dockets for individual cases that contain comprehensive information about all filings and decisions, as well as relevant public input, public comments, and reports or recommendations from federal advisory committees.

Data Collection and Retrospective Review

12. Agencies should solicit and collect feedback and suggestions from members of the public who have participated in their adjudications, as well as agency adjudicators and staff, about their experiences. Subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act and any other legal requirements, agencies should consider using surveys, focus groups, listening sessions and other meetings, and online feedback forms and complaint portals. Agencies also should consider consulting with nongovernmental organizations, advocacy groups, and other private sector representatives who assist members of the public to obtain this information.

13. Agencies should periodically evaluate the effectiveness of their rules and policies addressing public participation in their adjudications, consider feedback from public participants and agency adjudicators and staff, and revise their rules and policies as appropriate.

[FR Doc. 2025–11862 Filed 6–26–25; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6110–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request; Reinstatement

The Department of Agriculture will submit the following information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and reinstatement under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104–13 on or after the date of publication of this notice. Comments are requested regarding: (1) 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) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the

use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments regarding these information collections are best assured of having their full effect if received by July 28, 2025. Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be submitted within 30 days of the publication of this notice on the following website www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain. Find this particular information collection by selecting “Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments” or by using the search function.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number and the agency informs potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information that such persons are not required to respond to the collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)

Title: Organic Survey.

OMB Control Number: 0535–0249.

Summary of Collection: The primary objective of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is to prepare and issue State and national estimates of crop and livestock production, prices, and disposition as well as economic statistics, farm numbers, land values, on-farm pesticide usage, pest crop management practices, as well as the Census of Agriculture. Originally, the Organic Survey was designed to be conducted once every five years as a mandatory follow-on-survey to the 2007 Census of Agriculture and then every five years after that.

Need and Use of the Information: This collection of data will support requirements within the Agricultural Act of 2014. Under Section 11023 some of the duties of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC) are defined as “(i) IN GENERAL—As soon as possible, but not later than the 2015 reinsurance year, the Corporation shall offer producers of organic crops price elections for all organic crops produced in compliance with standards issued by the Department of Agriculture under the national organic program established under the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6501 *et seq.*) that reflect the actual retail or wholesale prices, as appropriate, received by producers for organic crops, as

determined by the Secretary using all relevant sources of information.

Description of Respondents: Farmers and Ranchers.

Number of Respondents: 27,000.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Annually.

Total Burden Hours: 18,727.

Levi S. Harrell,

Departmental Information Collection
Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2025–11963 Filed 6–26–25; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–20–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS–2024–0040]

Notice of Availability of an Environmental Assessment for Field Release of *Aceria salsolae* (Acari: Eriophyidae), a Mite for Biological Control of Russian Thistle (*Salsola tragus*), in the Contiguous United States

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 revised draft environmental assessment relative to permitting the release of the 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 revised draft environmental assessment and other relevant data, we have reached a preliminary determination that the release of this control agent within the contiguous United States will not have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment. We are making the revised draft environmental assessment available to the public for review and comment.

DATES: We will consider all comments that we receive on or before July 28, 2025.

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

- **Federal eRulemaking Portal:** Go to www.regulations.gov. Enter APHIS–2024–0040 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–2024–0040, 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 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. Kirsten Dyer, Agriculturist, Pests, Pathogens and Biocontrol Permitting, Pest Exclusion and Import Programs, PPQ, APHIS, 5601 Sunnyside Ave., Beltsville, MD 20705; (352) 554–0556; email: Kirsten.Dyer@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is proposing to issue permits for the release of the 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. The action is proposed to reduce the severity of infestations of Russian thistle in the central and western United States.

Russian thistle, or tumbleweed, is an alien weedy annual plant that infests about 41.3 million hectares (100 million acres) in the western United States. It is native to the mountainous regions of southwest Asia and was accidentally first introduced in the early 1870s in South Dakota. Since then, it has spread over most of the central and western United States and southern Canada. It grows primarily in fallow or disturbed soil, along roadsides and irrigation canals, and in waste areas in arid and semiarid zones. Russian thistle is listed as a noxious weed in five states and causes millions of dollars in damage by disrupting automobile traffic, clogging irrigation canals, displacing native plant species, providing habitat to insect pests of many fruits and vegetables, and is highly flammable, contributing to a rapid spread of wildfires.

Permitting the release of *A. salsolae* in the contiguous United States is necessary to help control invasive Russian thistle. *A. salsolae* is a recently discovered eriophyid mite species, which are usually extremely host specific and therefore generally pose low risk to nontarget plants, making them a likely candidate for classical biological control of weeds. *A. salsolae* has been reported only from *S. tragus* and is the only eriophyid mite collected from these plants. *A. salsolae* causes

severe damage to the plant by feeding on epidermal cells in the meristematic tissue, stunting growth and preventing development of branches and flowers needed for reproduction. Host-specificity testing indicates *A. salsolae* is unlikely to attack non-target species.

Russian thistle is very difficult to control as current chemical, mechanical, and cultural controls are not effective against this widespread weed. However, Russian thistle is an excellent target for biological control as it has no close taxonomic relatives in North America. Classical biological control is a potentially useful management strategy for an invasive pest species whenever effective resident natural enemies are lacking in the new distribution range.

On March 10, 2009, APHIS published a draft EA¹ in the **Federal Register** (74 FR 10223–10224, Docket No. APHIS–2008–0143) concluding that after reviewing host specific testing of 39 species and 12 varieties of host plants from 5 families, including 25 native species of North America, *A. salsolae* was not expected to directly harm any plants outside of the targeted Russian thistle and there was no population increase of *A. salsolae* on nontarget plant species. The draft EA was made available in the **Federal Register** for a 30-day comment period. However, because of comments APHIS received on the EA, a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) and, subsequently, permits allowing the environmental release of *A. salsolae* were never issued. Since that time, additional research has been conducted providing new host specificity information that enabled APHIS to strengthen its support for the release of *A. salsolae* within the contiguous United States for classical biological control of Russian thistle. Due to this additional research, we revised the prior EA and have decided to make the revised draft EA available to the public for a second round of public comments. APHIS' review and analysis of the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed release are documented in the revised draft environmental assessment (EA) titled "Field release of *Aceria salsolae* (Acari: Eriophyidae), a Mite for Biological Control of Russian Thistle (*Salsola tragus*), in the Contiguous United States" (March 2025). Based on our findings in the revised draft EA, we are proposing to issue permits for the release of the mite, *A. salsolae*, as a biological control agent to reduce the

¹ To view the notice, supporting documents, and the comments we received, go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and enter APHIS–2008–0143 in the Search field.