

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service****[Docket No. APHIS–2023–0071]****Addition of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo to the List of Regions Affected by African Swine Fever****AGENCY:** Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.**ACTION:** Notice.

SUMMARY: We are advising the public that we have added Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo to the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) list maintained on the APHIS website of regions considered to be affected with African swine fever (ASF). We have taken this action because of the confirmation of ASF in those countries.

DATES: Bosnia and Herzegovina was added to the APHIS list of regions considered affected with ASF effective June 26, 2023. Kosovo was added to the APHIS list of regions considered affected with ASF effective August 7, 2023.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Heather Sriranganathan, APHIS Veterinary Services, Regionalization Evaluation Services, 4700 River Road, Riverdale, MD, 20747; phone: (717) 818–3582; email: AskRegionalization@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The regulations in 9 CFR part 94 (referred to below as the regulations) govern the importation of specified animals and animal products to prevent the introduction into the United States of various animal diseases, including African swine fever (ASF). ASF is a highly contagious disease of wild and domestic swine that can spread rapidly with extremely high rates of morbidity and mortality. A list of regions where ASF exists or is reasonably believed to exist is maintained on the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) website at <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-and-animal-product-import-information/animal-health-status-of-regions/>. This list is referenced in § 94.8(a)(2) of the regulations.

Section 94.8(a)(3) of the regulations states that APHIS will add a region to the list referenced in § 94.8(a)(2) upon determining ASF exists in the region or having reason to believe the disease exists in the region, based on reports APHIS receives of outbreaks of the disease from veterinary officials of the exporting country, from the World Organization for Animal Health

(WOAH),¹ or from other sources the Administrator determines to be reliable, or upon determining that there is reason to believe the disease exists in the region. Section 94.8(a)(1) of the regulations specifies the criteria on which the Administrator bases the reason to believe ASF exists in a region. Section 94.8(b) prohibits the importation of pork and pork products from regions listed in accordance with § 94.8 except if processed and treated in accordance with the provisions specified in that section or consigned to an APHIS-approved establishment for further processing. Section 96.2 restricts the importation of swine casings that originated in or were processed in a region where ASF exists, as listed under § 94.8(a).

On June 22, 2023, the veterinary authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina reported to WOAH the occurrence of ASF in that country. In response to that report, on June 26, 2023, APHIS added Bosnia and Herzegovina to the list of regions where ASF exists or the Administrator has reason to believe that ASF exists, in compliance with § 94.8(a)(3). This notice serves as an official record and public notification of that action.

On July 17, 2023, the veterinary authorities of Kosovo reported to the European Commission the confirmation of ASF in that country. In response to the European Union's Animal Diseases Information System report, on August 7, 2023, APHIS added Kosovo to the list of regions where ASF exists or the Administrator has reason to believe that ASF exists, in compliance with § 94.8(a)(3). This notice serves as an official record and public notification of that action.

As a result, pork and pork products from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo, including casings, are subject to APHIS import restrictions designed to mitigate the risk of ASF introduction into the United States.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 1633, 7701–7772, 7781–7786, 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 1st day of December 2023.

Michael Watson,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 2023–26865 Filed 12–6–23; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–34–P

¹ The World Organization for Animal Health internationally follows a British English spelling of “organisation” in its name; also, it was formerly the Office International des Epizooties, or OIE, but on May 28, 2022, the Organization announced that the acronym was changed from OIE to WOAH.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Rural Business-Cooperative Service****[Docket No. RBS–23–BUSINESS–0027]****Business and Industry (B&I) Priority Scoring Notice for Fiscal Year 2024****AGENCY:** Rural Business-Cooperative Service.**ACTION:** Notice.

SUMMARY: The Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBCS), Rural Housing Service (RHS), and the Rural Utilities Service (RUS), agencies of the Rural Development (RD) mission area within the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), hereinafter collectively referred to as the Agency, offer loan guarantees through four programs: Community Facilities (CF) administered by the RHS; Water and Waste Disposal (WWD) administered by the RUS; and Business and Industry (B&I) and Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) administered by the RBCS. This notice is establishing a minimum priority score of 20 points, not including administrative points, for B&I loan guarantees for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024, to be used when applying for guaranteed loans. This notice is being published prior to the passage of an FY 2024 appropriation.

DATES: The minimum priority score in this notice is effective October 1, 2023.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information specific to this notice contact Brenda Griffin, Chief, Underwriting Branch, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, Rural Development, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250–1522. Telephone: (202) 720–6802. Email: Brenda.Griffin@usda.gov. For information regarding implementation, contact your respective Rural Development State Office listed here: <http://www.rd.usda.gov/browse-state>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with 7 CFR 5001.315(c)(2), for FY 2024 the Agency is establishing a minimum priority score of 20 points, not including administrative points, for B&I loan guarantees due to strong demand for program funds. Priority points for B&I loan guarantee applications will be awarded in accordance with the priorities outlined in 7 CFR 5001.318, *B&I Priority Point System*. At the time of application, lenders must provide necessary information related to determining the priority score. To the greatest extent possible, lenders should consider the established priorities of the Agency

when submitting projects for a loan guarantee. All applications that meet the minimum priority score will be processed on an ongoing basis and funds will be awarded continuously through August 30, 2024, subject to the availability of funding.

Beginning on September 3, 2024, all remaining unfunded B&I applications will compete for funds remaining after all state allocations are pooled into the National Office. Applications that do not meet the minimum applicable score will be allowed to compete in this funding competition if funding remains available. Any applications that remain unfunded after the funding competition will be handled as described in 7 CFR 5001.315(e).

Administrative Points

In the event there are not enough funds available to fund all applications during the funding competition beginning on September 3, 2024, projects that have a tie score can be awarded administrative points as outlined in 7 CFR 5001.318(e). These Administrative points will be awarded to applications that help meet the FY2024 Rural Development Priorities to:

1. Assist rural communities to recover economically through more and better market opportunities and through improved infrastructure.

2. Ensure all rural residents have equitable access to RD programs and benefits from RD funded projects.

3. Reduce climate pollution and increase resilience to the impacts of climate change through economic support for rural communities.

The Agency will verify that the project is located in an area that addresses these three priorities using the maps at <https://www.rd.usda.gov/priority-points/rural-development-priorities-fy-2024>. If a tie remains, the Agency will give priority to the project that will create and/or save the most jobs.

Non-Discrimination Statement

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA Programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or

activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA through the 711 Relay Service. Program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a complainant should complete a Form, AD-3027, *USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form*, which can be obtained online at <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

- (1) *Mail*: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410; or

- (2) *Fax*: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or

- (3) *email*: program.intake@usda.gov.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Karama Neal,

Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA Rural Development.

[FR Doc. 2023-26802 Filed 12-6-23; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-XY-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Office of the Secretary

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Generic Clearance Program Performance Progress Reports

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of information collection, request for comment.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), invites the general public and

other Federal agencies to comment on proposed, and continuing information collections, which helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. The purpose of this notice is to allow for 60 days of public comment preceding submission of the collection to OMB.

DATES: To ensure consideration, comments regarding this proposed information collection must be received on or before February 5, 2024.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments by mail to the Department PRA Clearance Officer, Office of the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs, at PRAComments@doc.gov. Do not submit Confidential Business Information or otherwise sensitive or protected information.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or specific questions related to collection activities should be directed to S. Dumas, Department PRA Clearance Officer, Office of the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs, at 1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20230, (202) 482-3306, or PRAComments@doc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

This is a request for a new generic clearance to collect performance and progress data from recipients and sub-recipients who receive funding from DOC under a discretionary grant or cooperative agreement. This information is required to monitor and report program performance.

DOC provides grants that promote the economic and social well-being of individuals and communities with partnerships, funding, guidance, training, and technical assistance. Currently, most program offices are using the standard grant forms (SF) for progress reporting, which require grantees to only respond to a common set of questions that often solicits incomplete information. This one-size-fits-all approach does not adequately collect the specific data needed for particular grant programs or allow program offices to assess continuous quality improvement. Different grant programs vary in purpose, target population, and activities. Thus, a need for program offices to customize performance measurements has been identified.

Therefore, this generic Program Specific Performance Progress Report collection is being proposed.