

fellowships. Any additional AFRI RFAs made available in FY 2021 may be included in this solicitation.

### Eligibility for Submitting Topics

Eligible commodity board entities are those established under a commodity promotion law, as such term is defined under 7 U.S.C. 7401(a), or a State commodity board (or other equivalent State entity). Language in 7 U.S.C. 7401(a) defines a “commodity promotion law” as “a Federal law that provides for the establishment and operation of a promotion program regarding an agricultural commodity that includes a combination of promotion, research, industry information, or consumer information activities, is funded by mandatory assessments on producers or processors, and is designed to maintain or expand markets and uses for the commodity (as determined by the Secretary).” 7 U.S.C. 7401(a) includes a list of such Federal laws.

A current list of approved entities is maintained at <https://nifa.usda.gov/commodity-boards/>. Additionally, entities eligible to submit topics include State commodity boards (or other equivalent State entities). This includes commodity boards authorized by State law; commodity boards that are not authorized by State law, but are organized and operate within a State and meet the requirements of their authorizing statute; and commodity boards that are authorized by a State and operate within the State for commodities that have no Federal program or oversight.

### Topic Submission Guidance and Procedures

Topics may be submitted at any time and will be evaluated by NIFA on an annual basis. However, to guarantee consideration for the proposed fiscal year 2021 AFRI RFAs, topics must be received by 5:00 p.m. EDT on March 5, 2021.

Each topic proposed must be submitted using the topic submission form provided at: <https://nifa.usda.gov/resource/commodity-board-submission-form>. Commodity boards may propose support for multiple awards for each topic proposed. For each topic the commodity board proposes to support, the minimum amount contributed by the commodity board must align with budget guidance for each AFRI area <https://nifa.usda.gov/commodity-boards/> and comply with the maximum amount of \$5 million allowed per topic. NIFA does not intend to match funding from a single commodity board in excess of \$10 million in any year.

Commodity boards should only submit topics that have a strong economic impact on their industry and U.S. agriculture, as a whole. Examples of topics typically supported by AFRI can be found at <https://nifa.usda.gov/commodity-boards/>.

If topics are accepted for funding, they will be incorporated into AFRI RFAs, and grants supporting the topic area may be awarded to AFRI eligible entities based on a competitive peer review process. As a condition of funding grants in a topic, NIFA will require an agreement by the commodity board to provide funds in an amount equal to the amount NIFA is contributing under the agreed upon topic. If a topic is selected for inclusion in an RFA, the commodity board submitting the topic will be required to maintain the confidentiality of the topic until the RFA is issued by NIFA. All commodity board funds and NIFA funds must be available at the time projects are selected for funding; awards are fully funded at the beginning of the award. Applications submitted under topics provided by commodity boards will be required to include a letter of support for co-funding from the commodity board that proposed the topic.

### Evaluation and Notification Process

NIFA will screen proposed research topics to ensure eligibility of the submitting commodity boards. NIFA will also consult with USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) to determine that submissions and proposed financial contributions are consistent with commodity promotion laws and commodity boards' charters, as applicable.

Commodity board topics are reviewed by an internal panel based on evaluation criteria developed using stakeholder input from commodity boards and other stakeholders from government, industry, and academe. Each topic will be evaluated based on alignment with one or more of the statutory AFRI priority areas (six AFRI priority areas authorized in the Farm Bill and described in 7 CFR 3430.309); alignment with the President's budget proposal for NIFA, as identified in the Department of Agriculture's annual budget submission; and alignment with the priority areas in the AFRI RFAs to be released by NIFA during the fiscal year for which the commodity board is proposing a topic for funding (for example, within the AFRI Foundational and Applied Science RFA, the AFRI Animal Health and Production and Animal Products' “Animal Reproduction” priority area).

From those topics received by 5:00 p.m. EDT on March 5, 2021, NIFA will select the topic(s) that were evaluated favorably for inclusion in the appropriate FY 2021 AFRI RFA. NIFA will notify commodity boards as to whether their topics will be included by April 5, 2021. Based on the evaluation, NIFA reserves the right to negotiate with commodity boards should changes be required to accept topics and funding amounts. Any changes to topics and funding amounts will be reviewed by USDA's AMS to determine if such changes are consistent with applicable commodity promotion laws.

NIFA will evaluate topics submitted after the March 5, 2021 deadline on an annual basis and notify commodity boards whether their topics will be included in subsequent RFAs within two weeks following the meeting of the internal evaluation panel, the date of which will be published on NIFA's Commodity Boards web page at (<https://nifa.usda.gov/commodity-boards/>).

Done at Washington, DC, this 21st day of December 2020.

**Parag R. Chitnis,**

*Acting Director, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Department of Agriculture.*

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**BILLING CODE 3410–22–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS–2020–0109]

### Notice of Request for Approval of an Information Collection; SARS-CoV-2 Testing in Animals Reporting Activities

**ACTION:** New 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 approval of a new information collection associated with the testing and reporting of SARS-CoV-2 in animals.

**DATES:** We will consider all comments that we receive on or before March 5, 2021.

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

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to <http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=APHIS-2020-0109>.
- *Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery:*

Send your comment to Docket No. APHIS–2020–0109, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station

3A-03.8, 4700 River Road, Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238.

Supporting documents and any comments we receive on this docket may be viewed at <http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=APHIS-2020-0109> 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 testing and reporting of SARS-CoV-2 in animals, contact Dr. Laura Miles, Veterinarian Epidemiologist, Surveillance, Design, and Analysis Section, Center for Epidemiology and Animal Health, Veterinary Services, 2150 Centre Ave., Bldg. B, Fort Collins, CO 80526; (970) 494-7246; [NLRAD.NAHRs@usda.gov](mailto:NLRAD.NAHRs@usda.gov). For additional information about the information collection process, contact Mr. Joseph Moxey, APHIS' Information Collection Coordinator, at (301) 851-2483.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title:* SARS-CoV-2 Testing in Animals Reporting Activities.

*OMB Control Number:* 0579-XXXX.

*Type of Request:* Approval of a new information collection.

*Abstract:* The Animal Health Protection Act (AHPA) of 2002 is the primary Federal law governing the protection of animal health. The AHPA gives the Secretary of Agriculture broad authority to detect, control, or eradicate pests or diseases of agricultural animals and animal products. The Secretary may also prohibit or restrict import or export of any animal or related material if necessary, to prevent the spread of any disease. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has a duty under section 8219 of the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002 to collaborate and coordinate with the Department of Health and Human Services partners in the surveillance of zoonoses disease. Collection and dissemination of animal and poultry health data and information is mandated by 7 U.S.C. 391, the Animal Industry Act of 1884, which established the Bureau of Animal Industry, which was the precursor of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's (APHIS') Veterinary Services. Legal requirements for examining and reporting on animal disease control methods were further mandated by 21 U.S.C. 119, "Agents to Examine and

Report on Methods of Treatment of Animals, and Means for Suppression of Diseases," amended February 7, 1928.

Collection, analysis, and dissemination of animal and poultry health information is consistent with the APHIS mission of protecting and improving American agriculture's productivity and competitiveness. APHIS uses the National Animal Health Reporting System (NAHRS) for reporting and tracking the emergence, prevalence, epidemiology, and economic importance of diseases in livestock, poultry, and other animals. The system facilitates standardization of disease information throughout the United States, provides a central point for the collection of national data, and assists APHIS in meeting its animal disease reporting obligations to the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE).

To better meet its reporting requirements about emerging diseases to the OIE, APHIS is interested in collecting information as to the detection of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) in animals. To accomplish this, APHIS will distribute a request for information to U.S. laboratories engaged in the testing of animals for SARS-CoV-2, develop a questionnaire in NAHRS, and request that State animal health officials and U.S. laboratories provide SARS-CoV-2 animal testing data on a monthly basis.

We are asking the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve our use of these information collection activities, as described, for 3 years.

The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public (as well as affected agencies) concerning our information collection. These comments will help us:

- (1) Evaluate 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) Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the burden of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- (3) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- (4) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, through use, as appropriate, of automated, electronic, mechanical, and other collection technologies; e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

*Estimate of burden:* The public burden for this collection of information

is estimated to average 1.72 hours per response.

*Respondents:* State animal scientists, U.S. laboratory personnel, and veterinarians.

*Estimated annual number of respondents:* 77.

*Estimated annual number of responses per respondent:* 12.

*Estimated annual number of responses:* 949.

*Estimated total annual burden on respondents:* 1,626 hours. (Due to averaging, the total annual burden hours may not equal the product of the annual number of responses multiplied by the reporting burden per response.)

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Done in Washington, DC.

**Michael Watson,**

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

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**BILLING CODE 3410-34-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Food and Nutrition Service

#### **Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request—FNS 245—SNAP Quality Control Regulations**

**AGENCY:** Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice invites the general public and other public agencies to comment on this proposed information collection. This is a revision of a currently approved information collection request.

**DATES:** Written comments must be received on or before March 4, 2021.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments may be sent to Stephanie Proska, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1320 Braddock Place, Room 05.5040, Alexandria, VA 22314. Comments may also be submitted via email to [SNAPHQ-WEB@fns.usda.gov](mailto:SNAPHQ-WEB@fns.usda.gov). Comments will also be accepted through the Federal eRulemaking Portal. Go to <http://www.regulations.gov>, and follow the online instructions for submitting comments electronically. All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval. All comments will be a matter of public record.