

Livestock and Meat Marketing Claims, by this notice.

U.S. Standards for Livestock and Meat Marketing Claims, Naturally Raised Claim for Livestock and the Meat and Meat Products Derived From Such Livestock

Background: This claim applies to livestock used for meat and meat products that were raised entirely without growth promotants, antibiotics, and animal (mammalian, avian, and aquatic) by-products derived from the slaughter/harvest processes including meat and fat, animal waste materials (e.g., manure and litter), or aquatic by-products (e.g., fishmeal and fish oil).

The administration of growth promotants, including natural hormones, synthetic hormones, production promotants, estrus suppressants, beta agonists, or other synthetic growth promotants is prohibited from birth to slaughter. Collectively, these substances are referred to in the Naturally Raised Marketing Claim standard as "growth promotants."

No antibiotics can be administered, by any method (e.g., through feed or water, or by injection), from birth to slaughter. This includes low-level (sub-therapeutic) or therapeutic level doses, sulfonamides, ionophores (except for ionophores used as coccidiostats for parasite control as long as the animals marketed or meat product label states no antibiotics other than ionophores were used to prevent parasitism), or any other synthetic antimicrobial. Ionophores may only be used according to manufacturer's label recommendations for coccidiostat levels (parasite control). If an animal is in need of medical attention, proper treatment should be administered in an attempt to improve the health of the animal. If any prohibited substances are administered, the treated animal must be identified and excluded from the program. Vitamin and mineral supplementation is permissible.

Verification of the claim will be accomplished through an audit of the production process. The producer must be able to verify for AMS that the Naturally Raised Marketing Claim standard requirements are being met through a detailed, documented quality management system.

Claim and Standard:

Naturally Raised—Livestock used for the production of meat and meat products that have been raised entirely without growth promotants, antibiotics (except for ionophores used as coccidiostats for parasite control), and have never been fed animal

(mammalian, avian, or aquatic) by-products derived from the slaughter/harvest processes, including meat and fat, animal waste materials (e.g., manure and litter), and aquatic by-products (e.g., fishmeal and fish oil). All products labeled with a naturally raised marketing claim must incorporate information explicitly stating that animals have been raised in a manner that meets the following conditions: (1) No growth promotants were administered to the animals; (2) no antibiotics (other than ionophores used to prevent parasitism) were administered to the animal; and (3) no animal by-products were fed to the animals. If ionophores used only to prevent parasitism were administered to the animals, they may be labeled with the naturally raised marketing claims if that fact is explicitly noted.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 1621–1627.

Dated: January 13, 2009.

James E. Link,

Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS–2008–0146]

Notice of Request for Approval of an Information Collection; National Animal Health Laboratory Network

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: 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 approval of an information collection associated with the National Animal Health Laboratory Network.

DATES: We will consider all comments that we receive on or before March 23, 2009.

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

- **Federal eRulemaking Portal:** Go to <http://www.regulations.gov/fdmspublic/component/main?main=DocketDetail&d=APHIS-2008-0146> to submit or view comments and to view supporting and related materials available electronically.

- **Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery:** Please send two copies of your comment to Docket No. APHIS–2008–0146,

Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3A–03.8, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737–1238. Please state that your comment refers to Docket No. APHIS–2008–0146.

Reading Room: You may read any comments that we receive on this docket in our reading room. The reading room is located in room 1141 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) 690–2817 before coming.

Other Information: Additional information about APHIS and its programs is available on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information on the National Animal Health Laboratory Network, contact Dr. Barbara Martin, Coordinator, National Animal Health Laboratory Network, NVSL, VS, APHIS, 1800 Dayton Avenue, Ames, IA 50010; (515) 663–7731. For copies of more detailed information on the information collection, contact Mrs. Celeste Sickles, APHIS' Information Collection Coordinator, at (301) 851–2908.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: National Animal Health Laboratory Network.

OMB Number: 0579–XXXX.

Type of Request: Approval of an information collection.

Abstract: The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) conducts activities and maintains records pursuant to its missions and responsibilities authorized by the Animal Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8301–8317); Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002 (Pub. L. 107–188); Homeland Security Presidential Directive-7; and Homeland Security Presidential Directive-9.

The purpose of the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) is to coordinate and network Federal laboratory capacity with the capacity and extensive infrastructure (facilities, professional expertise, and support) of State and university laboratories. APHIS uses the system to enhance early detection of foreign animal disease agents and newly emerging diseases, to better respond to animal health emergencies (including bioterrorist events) that threaten the nation's food supply and public health, and to assist in assessing the nation's animal health status through targeted surveillance and shared animal health diagnostic data.

The NAHLN collects information, including information about laboratories, laboratory personnel (employee) and emergency personnel contacts, animals and owners, and animal disease diagnostic test results.

We are asking the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve our use of these information collection activities 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 reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 0.099932 hours per response.

Respondents: State and university veterinary diagnostic laboratory personnel and State animal health officials.

Estimated annual number of respondents: 89.

Estimated annual number of responses per respondent: 875.98876.

Estimated annual number of responses: 77,963.

Estimated total annual burden on respondents: 7,791 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, this 13th day of January 2009.

Kevin Shea,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. E9-1103 Filed 1-16-09; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Foreign Agricultural Service

Consultative Group to Eliminate the Use of Child Labor and Forced Labor in Imported Agricultural Products

AGENCY: Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA.

ACTION: Request for Applications.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) requests nominations of individuals to serve as a non-government member of the Consultative Group to Eliminate the Use of Child Labor and Forced Labor in Imported Agricultural Products (Consultative Group). On June 18, 2008, the President signed into law the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (the Act), also known as the 2008 Farm Bill. The Act provides for the creation of the Consultative Group.

DATES: Applications must be received prior to 5 p.m. on March 9, 2009.

ADDRESSES: You may submit applications by any of the following methods:

—*USDA:* Applications should be sent by mail to the Office of Negotiations and Agreements, Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Stop 1040, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250; by hand (including DHL, FedEx, UPS, etc.) to the Office of Negotiations and Agreements, Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 4133-S, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250; by e-mail to: kathryn.ting@fas.usda.gov; or by fax to (202) 720-0340.

—*U.S. Department of Labor (DOL):* Applications should be sent by mail or by hand (including DHL, FedEx, UPS, etc.) to the Bureau of International Labor Affairs, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Ave., NW., Room S-5317, Washington, DC 20210; by e-mail to: rigby.rachel@dol.gov or castro.charita@dol.gov; or by fax to (202) 693-4830.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The Office of Negotiations and Agreements by fax on (202) 720-0340; by email addressed to kathryn.ting@fas.usda.gov; or by mail addressed to the Office of Negotiations and Agreements, Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Stop 1040, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Consultative Group to Eliminate the Use

of Child Labor and Forced Labor in Imported Agricultural Products was established by section 3205 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Pub. L. 110-246). Interested parties are invited to submit applications for membership in the Consultative Group to the USDA or DOL as specified in the Submission of Applications paragraph below.

Duties

The Consultative Group will develop recommendations relating to a standard set of practices for independent, third-party monitoring and verification for the production, processing, and distribution of agricultural products or commodities to reduce the likelihood that agricultural products or commodities imported into the United States are produced with the use of forced labor or child labor. Recommendations developed by the Consultative Group will be submitted to the Secretary of Agriculture by June 18, 2010. Thereafter, the Consultative Group will continue to advise the Secretary as necessary.

Membership

The Consultative Group will be composed of a total of 13 members, including two officials from USDA, one of whom will serve as the chairperson; the Deputy Under Secretary for International Affairs, DOL; and one representative from the Department of State. As required under section 3205(d) of the Act, the Consultative Group will also include:

- Three members to represent private agriculture-related enterprises, which may include retailers, food processors, importers, and producers, of whom at least one member shall be an importer, food processor, or retailer who utilizes independent, third-party supply chain monitoring for forced labor or child labor;

- Two members to represent institutions of higher education and research institutions, as determined appropriate by the Bureau of International Labor Affairs, DOL;

- One member to represent an organization that provides independent, third-party certification services for labor standards for producers or importers of agricultural commodities or products; and

- Three members to represent organizations described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 that have expertise on the issues of international child labor and do not possess a conflict of interest associated with establishment of the guidelines issued under section 3205(c)(2) of the Act, as determined by the Bureau of