

APHIS–2015–0058)¹ announcing the availability of a December 2015 final environmental assessment (EA), entitled “High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza Control in Commercial Poultry Operations—A National Approach,” (2015 HPAI EA) and a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) relative to a national approach for the control of HPAI outbreaks within the United States. The 2015 HPAI EA recommended, and the FONSI selected, an alternative in which APHIS used its centralized management of carcass disposal activities to ensure consistency in responses to HPAI outbreaks throughout the United States. Under this alternative, APHIS provided information and other support to State and local authorities to help them determine which depopulation, disposal, and cleaning and disinfection methods were most appropriate for the situation.

According to the 2015 HPAI EA, “[g]iven the magnitude of the HPAI poultry incidents during spring 2015, APHIS want[ed] to ensure adequate preparation for subsequent incidents in poultry.”² Therefore, the 2015 HPAI EA was prepared “to address the potential impacts of continuing to provide assistance with establishing and enforcing HPAI quarantines and conducting bird flu control activities as outbreaks occur across the nation.”³

In the intervening years since APHIS issued the 2015 HPAI EA and FONSI, circumstances have changed. First, the 2014/2015 HPAI outbreak ended in approximately August 2016 and there has not been an HPAI outbreak of that scale or magnitude in the United States since that time. Second, avian influenza outbreaks involving HPAI that have occurred in the United States in the interim have been more localized. In one instance, APHIS elected to prepare a site-specific EA and FONSI. Third, APHIS issued the Record of Decision for the Carcass Management During a Mass Animal Health Emergency Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) on March 17, 2016, after finalizing the 2015 HPAI EA and FONSI. The PEIS provides an analysis of the environmental effects associated with various carcass management options during a mass animal health emergency. An HPAI outbreak necessitating the depopulation of flocks

and the subsequent disposal of large amounts of poultry carcasses could qualify as an animal health emergency and as such, the analysis in the PEIS is relevant and addresses some of the same issues addressed in the 2015 HPAI EA and FONSI. Finally, fourth, APHIS reviewed its 2015 HPAI EA and FONSI. Through its review of the 2015 HPAI EA and FONSI, APHIS acknowledges that the documents could benefit from more extensive analysis. Additionally, because there is no current HPAI outbreak, the 2015 HPAI EA and FONSI serve no function at present.

Withdrawal of the 2015 HPAI EA and FONSI will not hamper APHIS’ ability to respond to an outbreak in the future.

Based on the analysis above, pending further evaluation, we are withdrawing the December 2015 final EA and the FONSI associated with the notice published on February 9, 2016.

Done in Washington, DC, this 22nd day of July 2021.

Michael Watson,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 2021–16049 Filed 7–27–21; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS–2021–0036]

Notice of Request for Revision to and Extension of Approval of an Information Collection; Specimen Submission

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Revision to and extension of 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 a revision to and extension of approval of an information collection associated with livestock disease surveillance programs.

DATES: We will consider all comments that we receive on or before September 27, 2021.

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

- **Federal eRulemaking Portal:** Go to www.regulations.gov. Enter APHIS–2021–0036 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–2021–0036, 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 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: For information regarding livestock disease surveillance programs, contact Ms. Lori Swiderski, Program Coordinator, Director’s Office, National Veterinary Services Laboratories, Diagnostics and Biologics, VS, APHIS, 1920 Dayton Ave., Ames, IA 50010; (515) 337–7405. For more information on the information collection reporting process, contact Mr. Joseph Moxey, APHIS’ Paperwork Reduction Act Coordinator, at (301) 851–2483.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Specimen Submission.

OMB Control Number: 0579–0090.

Type of Request: Revision to and extension of approval of an information collection.

Abstract: The Animal Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8301 *et seq.*) provides the Secretary of Agriculture broad authority to prohibit or restrict, through orders and regulations, the importation or entry and interstate movement of any animal, article, or means of conveyance if the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) determines that the prohibition or restriction is necessary to prevent the introduction or spread of any pest or disease of livestock within the United States.

Disease prevention is the most effective method for maintaining a healthy animal population and for enhancing the United States’ ability to globally compete in the trade of animals and animal products. However, animal disease prevention cannot be accomplished without the existence of an effective disease surveillance program, which is conducted by the USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS).

VS forms, which are critical to VS’ mission, are routinely used whenever specimens (such as blood, milk, tissue, or urine) from any animal (such as

¹ To view the notice and supporting documents, go to www.regulations.gov and enter APHIS–2015–0058 in the Search field.

² USDA APHIS, High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza Control in Commercial Poultry Operations—A National Approach (Dec. 2015) on p.7.

³ *Id.*

cattle, swine, sheep, goats, horses, and poultry) are submitted to the National Veterinary Services Laboratories for disease testing. If the information within these forms was not collected or collected less frequently, APHIS would not have the critical information necessary to effectively operate a disease surveillance program and identify the animals and herds from which the specimens were taken, allowing effective disease prevention and eradication.

The animal disease surveillance program is based on information submitted on the specimen submission form and continuation sheet, or similar document, and the Parasite Submission form submitted for the Cattle Fever Tick Eradication Program and the National Tick Surveillance Program to identify the individuals submitting tick samples and the animal sources of those samples.

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

The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public (as well as affected agencies) concerning our information collection. APHIS needs this outside input to help accomplish the following:

(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 (such as through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses).

Estimate of burden: The public burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 0.319 hours per response.

Respondents: State veterinarians and other State personnel who are qualified and authorized to collect and submit specimens for laboratory analysis, accredited veterinarians, private veterinarians, animal health technicians, herd owners, private laboratories, and research institutions.

Estimated annual number of respondents: 1,871.

Estimated annual number of responses per respondent: 17.

Estimated annual number of responses: 32,546.

Estimated total annual burden on respondents: 10,390 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 22nd day of July 2021.

Michael Watson,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS-2021-0035]

Notice of Request for Revision to and Extension of Approval of an Information Collection; Virus-Serum-Toxin Act and Regulations

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Revision to and extension of 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 a revision to and extension of approval of an information collection associated with the Virus-Serum-Toxin Act and regulations.

DATES: We will consider all comments that we receive on or before September 27, 2021. You may submit comments by either of the following methods:

- **Federal eRulemaking Portal:** Go to www.regulations.gov. Enter APHIS-2021-0035 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-2021-0035, 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 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: For information on the Virus-Serum-Toxin Act regulations, contact Ms. Bonnie Coyle, Section Leader, Program Information Management and Security, Center for Veterinary Biologics, Director's Office, VS, APHIS, 1920 Dayton Ave, P.O. Box 844, Ames, IA 50010; (515) 337-6561; email: bonnie.m.coyle@usda.gov. For information on the information collection reporting process, contact Mr. Joseph Moxey, APHIS' Paperwork Reduction Act Coordinator, at (301) 851-2483; joseph.moxey@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Virus-Serum-Toxin Act and Regulations.

OMB Control Number: 0579-0013.

Type of Request: Revision to and extension of approval of an information collection.

Abstract: Under the Virus-Serum-Toxin Act (21 U.S.C. 151-159), the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is authorized to promulgate regulations designed to prevent the importation, preparation, sale, or shipment of harmful veterinary biological products. These regulations are contained in 9 CFR parts 102 through 124.

Veterinary biological products include viruses, serums, toxins, and analogous products of natural or synthetic origin such as vaccines, antitoxins, or the immunizing components of microorganisms intended for the diagnosis, treatment, or prevention of diseases in domestic animals.

APHIS issues licenses to qualified establishments that produce veterinary biological products and issues permits to importers seeking to import such products into the United States. APHIS also enforces regulations concerning production, packaging, labeling, and shipping of these products, and sets standards for the testing of these products. These regulations ensure that veterinary biological products used in the United States are not worthless, contaminated, dangerous, or harmful.

To help ensure that veterinary biological products used in the United States are pure, safe, potent, and effective, APHIS requires certain information collection activities, including, among other things,