

Notices

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Docket No. LS-04-08]

Notice of Request for Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. chapter 35), this notice announces the Agricultural Marketing Service's (AMS) intention to request an extension of a currently approved information collection used to compile and generate the livestock and livestock product reports in accordance with the Livestock Mandatory Reporting Act of 1999 for the Livestock and Grain Market News Branch of the Livestock and Seed Program.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by September 17, 2004, to be assured of consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Comments may be mailed to Jimmy A. Beard; Assistant to the Chief, Livestock and Grain Market News Branch, Livestock and Seed Program, AMS, USDA, STOP 0252, Room 2619-S, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-0252; phone (202) 720-8054; fax (202) 690-3732; or e-mailed to marketnewscomments@usda.gov. All comments received will be available for public inspection at this address during the hours of 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, and on the Internet at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/lsmnpubs>.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Livestock Mandatory Reporting Act of 1999.

OMB Number: 0581-0186.

Expiration Date of Approval: 10-31-2004.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: The Livestock Mandatory Reporting Act of 1999 (7 U.S.C. 1635h-1636h) (Act) mandates the reporting of information on the prices and quantities of cattle, swine, lambs and products of such livestock. Regulations implementing the Act appear at 7 CFR part 59. The collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of AMS concerning the mandatory reporting of livestock information. The Livestock Mandatory Reporting program requires the submission of market information by packers who have annually slaughtered an average of 125,000 cattle or 100,000 swine over the most recent 5 calendar year period, or have annually slaughtered or processed an average of 75,000 lambs over the most recent 5 calendar year period. Importers who have annually imported an average of 5,000 metric tons of lamb meat products over the most recent 5 calendar year period are also subject to mandatory reporting requirements. The Act is intended to provide information on pricing, contracting for purchase and supply and demand conditions for livestock, livestock production and livestock products that can be readily understood by producers, packers and other market participants. In addition, each packer and importer required to report must maintain and make available upon request for 2 years, such records as are necessary to verify the accuracy of the information required to be reported. These records include original contracts, agreements, receipts, and other records associated with any transaction relating to the purchase, sale, pricing, transportation, delivery, weighing, slaughter, or carcass characteristics of all livestock. The electronic data files which the packers are required to utilize when submitting information to AMS will also have to be maintained as these files provide the best record of compliance. The recordkeeping burden includes the amount of time needed to store and maintain records. AMS estimates the

annual cost per respondent for the storage of the electronic data files which were submitted to AMS in compliance with the reporting provisions of the Act to be \$1,830.00. This estimate includes the cost of electronic data storage media, backup electronic data storage media, and backup software required to maintain an estimated annual electronic recordkeeping and backup burden of 42 megabytes, on average, per respondent. In addition, this estimate includes the cost per employee to maintain such records which is estimated to average 70 hours per year at \$20.00 per hour for a total salary component cost of \$1,400.00 per year.

The information collection requirements include the submission of the required information on a daily and weekly basis in the standard format provided in the following forms: (1) Live Cattle Daily Report (Current Established Prices), (2) Live Cattle Daily Report (Committed and Delivered Cattle), (3) Live Cattle Weekly Report (Forward Contract and Packer-Owned), (4) Live Cattle Weekly Report (Formula Purchases), (5) Cattle Premiums and Discounts Weekly Report, (6) Boxed Beef Daily Report, (7) Swine Prior Day Report, (8) Swine Daily Report, (9) Swine Noncarcass Merit Premium Weekly Report, (10) Live Lamb Daily Report (Current Established Prices), (11) Live Lamb Daily Report (Committed and Delivered Lambs), (12) Live Lamb Weekly Report (Forward Contract and Packer-Owned), (13) Live Lamb Weekly Report (Formula Purchases), (14) Lamb Premiums and Discounts Weekly Report, (15) Boxed Lamb Report, and (16) Lamb Carcass Report. Cattle packers will utilize six of these forms when reporting information to AMS including two for daily cattle reporting, three for weekly cattle reporting, and one for daily boxed beef cuts reporting. Swine packers will utilize three forms, two for daily reporting of swine purchases and one for weekly reporting of non-carcass merit premium information. Lamb packers will utilize seven of these forms when reporting information to AMS including two for daily lamb reporting, three for weekly lamb reporting, one for daily and weekly boxed lamb cuts reporting and one for daily and weekly lamb carcass reporting. Lamb importers will utilize one of these forms when reporting information to AMS for

reporting weekly imported boxed lamb cut purchases and sales.

These information collection requirements have been designed to minimize disruption to the normal business practices of the affected entities. Each form requires the minimal amount of information necessary to properly describe each reportable transaction, as required by the Act. The number of forms is a result of an attempt to reduce the complexity of each form.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated at .18 hours per response.

Respondents: Packer processing plants required to report information to the Secretary.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 119.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1,142.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 24,429 hours.

Comments are invited on: (1) Whether the proposed 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 the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance 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 the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Dated: July 13, 2004.

A.J. Yates,

Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 04-16275 Filed 7-16-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 00-002-3]

Notice of Request for Extension of Approval of an Information Collection

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: 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 an extension of approval of an information collection in support of regulations that to allow us to pay indemnity for sheep, goats, and horses destroyed because of brucellosis.

DATES: We will consider all comments that we receive on or before September 17, 2004.

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

- Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery:

Please send four copies of your comment (an original and three copies) to Docket No. 00-002-3, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238. Please state that your comment refers to Docket No. 00-002-3.

- E-mail: Address your comment to regulations@aphis.usda.gov. Your comment must be contained in the body of your message; do not send attached files. Please include your name and address in your message and "Docket No. 00-002-3" on the subject line.

- Agency Web site: Go to <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppd/rad/cominst.html> for a form you can use to submit an e-mail comment through the APHIS Web site.

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: You may view APHIS documents published in the **Federal Register** and related information, including the names of groups and individuals who have commented on APHIS dockets, on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppd/rad/webrepor.html>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information regarding the domestic regulations to help prevent the spread of brucellosis, contact Dr. Debra A. Donch, Senior Staff Veterinarian, National Animal Health Programs, VS, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 43, Riverdale, MD 20737-1231; (301) 734-6954. For copies of more detailed information on the information collection, contact Mrs. Celeste Sickles, APHIS' Information Collection Coordinator, at (301) 734-7477.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Brucellosis in Sheep, Goats, Horses; Payment of Indemnity.

OMB Number: 0579-0185.

Type of Request: Extension of approval of an information collection.

Abstract: The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture regulates the importation and interstate movement of animals and animal products, and conducts various other activities to protect the health of our Nation's livestock and poultry.

Brucellosis is a contagious disease caused by bacteria of the genus *Brucella*. It affects both animals and humans. In its principal animal hosts, it causes loss of young through spontaneous abortion or birth of weak offspring, reduced milk production, and infertility. There is no economically feasible treatment for brucellosis in livestock. Brucellosis is mainly a disease of cattle, bison, and swine. *Brucella abortus* affects mainly bovines; *B. suis* affects mainly swine. Goats, sheep, and horses are also susceptible to *B. abortus*. In horses, the disease is known as fistulous withers. A third strain of *Brucella*, *B. melitensis*, affects mainly goats and sheep.

The regulations in 9 CFR part 51 include an indemnity program for sheep, goats, and horses that must be destroyed because of brucellosis. This indemnity program, which is similar to our indemnity program for cattle and bison, is voluntary and was designed to give producers an incentive to cooperate and assist our ongoing program to eradicate brucellosis in the United States.

The indemnity program for the voluntary depopulation of herds of goats, flocks of sheep, and mixed herds of goats and sheep affected with brucellosis and individual horses infected with brucellosis requires the use of a number of information collection activities, including the completion of indemnity claims, test records, and permits; the use of official seals and animal identification; and the submission of proof of destruction and requests for the extension of certain program-related deadlines.

We are asking the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve our use of these information collection activities 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. 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;