

prospective exclusive licenses will be royalty-bearing and will comply with the terms and conditions of 35 U.S.C. 209 and 37 CFR 404.7. The prospective exclusive licenses may be granted unless, within thirty (30) days from the date of this published Notice, the Agricultural Research Service receives written evidence and argument which establishes that the grant of these licenses would not be consistent with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 209 and 37 CFR 404.7.

**Robert Griesbach,**

*Deputy Assistant Administrator.*

[FR Doc. 2013-11021 Filed 5-8-13; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS-2013-0012]

#### Notice of Request for Extension of Approval of an Information Collection; Commercial Transportation of Equines for Slaughter

**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 associated with the regulations for the commercial transportation of equines to slaughtering facilities.

**DATES:** We will consider all comments that we receive on or before July 8, 2013.

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

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to <http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=APHIS-2013-0012-0001>.

- *Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery:* Send your comment to Docket No. APHIS-2013-0012, 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-2013-0012> or in our reading room, which 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) 799-7039 before coming.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For information on the regulations for the commercial transportation of equines to slaughtering facilities, contact Dr. P. Gary Egrie, Veterinary Medical Officer, VS, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 33, Riverdale MD 20737; (301) 851-3304. 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:* Commercial Transportation of Equines for Slaughter.

*OMB Number:* 0579-0160.

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

*Abstract:* Under the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 ("the Farm Bill"), Congress gave responsibility to the Secretary of Agriculture to regulate the commercial transportation within the United States of equines for slaughter. Sections 901-905 of the Farm Bill (7 U.S.C. 1901 note) authorized the Secretary to issue guidelines for the regulation of commercial transportation of equines for slaughter by persons regularly engaged in that activity within the United States. As a result of that authority, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) established regulations in 9 CFR part 88, "Commercial Transportation of Equines for Slaughter."

The minimum standards for transportation cover, among other things, the food, water, and rest provided to such equines. The regulations also require the owner/shipper of the equines to take certain actions in loading and transporting the equines and to certify that the commercial transportation meets certain requirements. In addition, the regulations prohibit the commercial transportation to slaughtering facilities of equines considered to be unfit for travel, the use of electric prods on such animals in commercial transportation to slaughter, and the use of double-deck trailers for commercial transportation of equines to slaughtering facilities.

These regulations require several information collection activities, including a USDA-APHIS Owner/Shipper Certificate Fitness to Travel to a Slaughter Facility Form/Continuation Sheet (Veterinary Services-VS Forms 10-13/10-13A), the collection of

business information from any individual or other entity found to be transporting horses to a slaughtering facility, and recordkeeping.

Since the last approval of these collection activities, APHIS amended its regulations to require that owners/shippers complete VS Forms 10-13/10-13A for each movement of horses between assembly points. APHIS believes that, on average, a horse bound for slaughter will make at least one stop at an assembly point within the United States before final transport to slaughter. As a consequence, APHIS estimates that this will result in an increase in the number of responses submitted annually from 6,700 to 13,100, and increase the number of total burden hours from 2,603 to 9,803. However, this increase in burden hours also reflects reevaluation by APHIS of the time necessary for respondents to complete the forms and the time for respondents to inspect the horses prior to completion of the form, which was not previously accounted for by APHIS.

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;

- (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 0.7483 hours per response.

*Respondents:* Owners and shippers of slaughter horses, owners/operators of slaughtering facilities, and drivers of the transport vehicles.

*Estimated annual number of respondents:* 300.

*Estimated annual number of responses per respondent:* 43.666.

*Estimated annual number of responses:* 13,100.

*Estimated total annual burden on respondents:* 9,803 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 3rd day of May 2013.

**Kevin Shea,**

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

[FR Doc. 2013-11027 Filed 5-8-13; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS-2013-0010]

#### Notice of Request for Reinstatement of an Information Collection; National Animal Health Monitoring System; Dairy 2014 Study

**AGENCY:** Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Reinstatement 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 reinstatement of an information collection to support the National Animal Health Monitoring System's Dairy 2014 Study to support the dairy industry of the United States.

**DATES:** We will consider all comments that we receive on or before July 8, 2013.

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

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to <http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=APHIS-2013-0010-0001>.

- *Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery:* Send your comment to Docket No. APHIS-2013-0010, 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-2013-0010> or in our reading room, which 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) 799-7039 before coming.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For information on the Dairy 2014 Study, contact Mr. Chris Quatrano, Industry Analyst, Centers for Epidemiology and Animal Health, VS, APHIS, 2150 Centre Avenue, Building B MS 2E6, Fort Collins, CO 80526; (970) 494-7207. 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 Monitoring System; Dairy 2014 Study.  
*OMB Number:* 0579-0205.

*Type of Request:* Reinstatement of an information collection.

*Abstract:* Under the Animal Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8301 *et seq.*), the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture is authorized, among other things, to protect the health of U.S. livestock and poultry populations by preventing the introduction and interstate spread of serious diseases and pests of livestock and for eradicating such diseases from the United States when feasible. In connection with this mission, APHIS operates the National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS), which collects nationally representative, statistically valid, and scientifically sound data on the prevalence and economic importance of livestock diseases and associated risk factors.

NAHMS' national studies are a collaborative industry and Government initiative to help determine the most effective means of preventing and controlling diseases of livestock. APHIS is the only agency responsible for collecting national data on livestock health. Participation in any NAHMS study is voluntary, and all data are confidential.

APHIS plans to conduct a Dairy 2014 Study as part of an ongoing series of NAHMS studies on the U.S. dairy population. This will be the fifth dairy study, and the purpose of this study is to collect information, through two on-farm questionnaires and biological sampling, to:

- Describe trends in dairy cattle health and management practices;
- Describe management practices and production measures related to animal welfare;

- Estimate the herd-level prevalence of lameness and identify housing and management factors associated with lameness;

- Evaluate dairy calf health from birth to weaning;

- Describe antibiotic use and residue prevention methods used to ensure milk and meat quality; and

- Estimate the prevalence and antimicrobial resistance patterns of foodborne pathogens.

The information collected will be used by APHIS to help define and evaluate current management practices and trends, help policymakers and industry make informed decisions, assist researchers and private enterprise to identify and focus on vital issues related to dairy-cattle health and productivity, and conduct economic analyses of the health and production of the U.S. dairy industry.

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 1.006 hours per response.

*Respondents:* Dairy owners and operators.

*Estimated annual number of respondents:* 7,440.

*Estimated annual number of responses per respondent:* 1.

*Estimated annual number of responses:* 7,440.

*Estimated total annual burden on respondents:* 7,482 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.)