

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

Performance Review Board Appointments

AGENCY: Office of Human Resource Management, Departmental Management, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Appointment.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the appointment of the members of the Senior Executive Service (SES) and Senior Level (SL) and Scientific or Professional (ST) Performance Review Boards (PRB) for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), as required by 5 U.S.C. 4314(c)(4). The Performance Review Board assures consistency, stability, and objectivity in the performance appraisal process. USDA has a total of six PRBs: the Secretary's PRB; Departmental Management and Staff Offices PRB; Natural Resources and Environment PRB; Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services, Rural Development, and Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services PRB; Marketing and Regulatory Programs, Food Safety PRB; and Research, Education, and Economics PRB. The PRBs are comprised of career and noncareer executives and Chairpersons to make recommendations on the performance of executives to the Secretary, including performance ratings and bonuses for SES, SL, and ST employees. The boards meet annually to review and evaluate performance appraisal documents and provide written recommendations to the Secretary for final approval of performance ratings and base salary increases.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with 5 U.S.C. 4314(c)(4), the following executives may be appointed by mission areas to the USDA PRBs:

Office of the Secretary

Christenson, Daniel; Wheelock, Leslie.

Departmental Management (OAO, OBPA, OCIO, OCFO, OHSEC, OHRM, OJO, OO, and OPPM) and Staff Offices (ASCR, OCE, OC, OCR, OGC, and NA)

Albourn, Jonathan; Bender, Stuart; Bice, Donald; Black, David; Bumbary-Langston, Inga; Grahn, David; Holladay, Jon; Jeanquart, Roberta; Johansson, Robert C.; Jones, Carmen; Jones, Diem-Linh; Leonard, Joe; Parham, Gregory L.; Prieto, Jeffrey; Shorter, Malcom; Ware, Joseph A.; Wiggins, Marsha A.; Wilusz, Lisa; Young, Michael.

Marketing and Regulatory Programs (MRP)

Avalos, Edward.

Agricultural Marketing Service

Barnes, Rex; Morris, Erin.

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Gregoire, Michael; Shea, A. Kevin.

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

Mitchell, Lawrence W.

Food Safety

Almanza, Alfred; Ronholm, Brian.

Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services

Scuse, Michael.

Foreign Agricultural Service

Quick, Bryce.

Farm Service Agency

Beyerhelm, Christopher.

Risk Management Agency

Alston, Michael.

Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services

Wilson, Kathryn.

Food and Nutrition Service

Dean, Telora; Jackson, Yvette.

Rural Development

Salerno, Lillian.

Rural Business Service

Parker, Chadwick O.

Rural Housing Service

Glendenning, Roger; Hernandez, Tony; Primrose, Edna.

Rural Utilities Service

Adams, Keith.

Natural Resources and Environment

Blazer, Arthur; Bonnie, Robert.

Forest Service

Blount, Emilee; Mills, Ann; Rodriguez-Franco, Carlos.

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Berns-Melhus, Kim; Norman-Barry, Gayle.

Research, Education and Economics

Bartuska, Ann.

Agricultural Research Service

Jacobs-Young, Chavonda.

Economic Research Service

Bohman, Mary; Pompelli, Gregory K.

National Agricultural Statistics Service

Hamer, Jr., Hubert; Picanso, Renee; Reilly, Joseph.

National Institute of Food and Agriculture

Broussard, Meryl; Ramaswamy, Sonny.

DATES: Effective November 2, 2015.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Roberta Jeanquart, Director, Office of Human Resources Management, telephone: (202) 260-8718, email: bobbi.jeanquart@dm.usda.gov or Patricia Moore, Director, Executive Resources Management Division, telephone: (202) 720-8629, email: patty.moore@dm.usda.gov.

(Authority: 5 U.S.C. 4314(c)(4).)

Dated: November 3, 2015.

Thomas J. Vilsack,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2015-28417 Filed 11-9-15; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS-2015-0083]

Notice of Request for Extension of Approval of an Information Collection; Select Agent Registration

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 select agent registration.

DATES: We will consider all comments that we receive on or before January 11, 2016.

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

- Federal eRulemaking Portal: Go to <http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=APHIS-2015-0083>.
- Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery: Send your comment to Docket No. APHIS-2015-0083, 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-2015-0083> 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 select agent registration, contact Mr. Charles L. Divan, Operations Director, Agriculture Select Agent Services, National Import Export Services, VS, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 2, Riverdale, MD 20737; (301) 851-3300, option 3. For copies of more detailed information on the information collection, contact Ms. Kimberly Hardy, APHIS' Information Collection Coordinator, at (301) 851-2727.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Select Agent Registration.

OMB Control Number: 0579-0213.

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

Abstract: The Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002 (the Act) provides for the regulation of certain biological agents and toxins by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Under section 212 of the Act, USDA regulates certain biological agents and toxins that have the potential to pose a severe threat to animal and plant health or to animal and plant products. The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has the primary responsibility for

implementing the provisions of the Act within USDA. Select agents and toxins that have been determined to pose a severe threat to both human health and to animal health or animal products are subject to regulation by both APHIS and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), HHS. CDC has the primary responsibility for implementing the provisions of the Act within HHS.

APHIS regulations for select agents and toxins are contained in 7 CFR part 331 (plant) and 9 CFR part 121 (animal and overlap¹). They require an individual or entity (unless specifically exempted under the regulations) to register with APHIS or with CDC in order to possess, use, or transfer biological agents or toxins.

The registration process is designed to obtain critical information concerning individuals or entities in possession of select agents or toxins, as well as the specific characteristics of the agents or toxins, including name, strain, and genetic information. These data are needed, in part, to allow APHIS to determine the biosafety and biocontainment level of an entity as well as the entity's security situation. This, in turn, helps APHIS to ensure that appropriate safeguard, containment, and disposal requirements commensurate with the risk of the agent or toxin are present at the entity, thus preventing access to such agents and toxins for use in domestic or international terrorism. APHIS will also request information to determine that individuals seeking to register have a lawful purpose to possess, use, or transfer agents or toxins.

We are asking the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve our use of this information collection activity 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

¹ Overlap select agents and toxins are those that have been determined to pose a severe threat to human and animal health or animal products.

are to respond, through use, as appropriate, of automated, electronic, mechanical, and other collection technologies, such as electronic submission of responses.

Estimate of burden: The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 2.6 hours per response.

Respondents: Researchers, universities, research and development organizations, diagnostic laboratories, and other interested parties who possess, use, or transfer select agents or toxins.

Estimated annual number of respondents: 1,517.

Estimated annual number of responses per respondent: 3.

Estimated annual number of responses: 4,754.

Estimated total annual burden on respondents: 12,368 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 4th day of November 2015.

Kevin Shea,

Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 2015-28597 Filed 11-9-15; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Farm Service Agency

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

November 4, 2015.

The Department of Agriculture has submitted the following information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. Comments regarding (a) 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; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or