

may be viewed at <http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=APHIS-2017-0033> 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 to prevent the introduction of bovine spongiform encephalopathy into the United States, contact Dr. Alexandra MacKenzie, Senior Staff Veterinarian, Live Animal Imports, NIES, VS, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 40, Riverdale, MD 20737-1236; 301-851-3411; and Dr. Magde S. Elshafie, Senior Staff Veterinary Medical Officer, NIES, VS, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 40, Riverdale, MD 20737, 301-851-3300. For copies of more detailed information on the information collection, contact Ms. Kimberly Hardy, APHIS' Information Collection Coordinator, at 301-851-2483.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy; Importation of Animals and Animal Products.

OMB Control Number: 0579-0393.

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.*) authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to, among other things, prohibit or restrict the importation and interstate movement of animals and animal products into or through the United States to prevent the introduction and dissemination of animal diseases and pests.

To guard against the introduction of animal diseases, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) regulates the importation of animals and animal products into the United States. The regulations in 9 CFR parts 92, 93, 94, 95, and 96 govern the importation of certain animals, birds, poultry, meat, and other animal products and byproducts into the United States to prevent the introduction of various animal diseases, including bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), a chronic degenerative disease that affects the central nervous system of cattle.

Section 92.5 of the regulations provides that all countries of the world are considered by APHIS to be in one of three BSE risk categories: Negligible risk, controlled risk, or undetermined

risk. These risk categories are defined in § 92.1. Any region that is not classified by APHIS as presenting either negligible risk or controlled risk for BSE is considered to present an undetermined risk. Under the regulations, APHIS may classify a region for BSE in one of two ways. One way is for countries that have not received a risk classification from the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) to request classification by APHIS. The other way is for APHIS to concur with the classification given to a country by the OIE.

To ensure BSE is not introduced into the United States, the regulations place specific conditions on the importation of animals and animal products. These requirements necessitate the use of several information collection activities, including, but not limited to, certifications, official identification, request for and retention of classification as negligible or controlled risk, declarations of importation, import and export certificates, applications, import and movement permits, agreements, certification statements, seals, notifications, and recordkeeping.

The information collection requirements above are currently approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under OMB control numbers 0579-0393 (Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy; Importation of Bovines and Bovine Products) and 0579-0234 (Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy; Importation of Animals and Animal Products). After OMB approves this combined information collection package (0579-0393), APHIS will retire OMB control number 0579-0234. We have also updated the title of this information collection to "Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy; Importation of Animals and Animal Products."

We are asking the 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. 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 0.52 hours per response.

Respondents: Shippers, hunters, U.S. importers of regulated animal products, herd owners (including hobby farms), salaried veterinarians of foreign nations, foreign exporters of processed animal protein and other regulated materials and products, accredited veterinarians, and slaughter facility managers.

Estimated annual number of respondents: 2,225.

Estimated annual number of responses per respondent: 238.

Estimated annual number of responses: 529,236.

Estimated total annual burden on respondents: 275,743 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 25th day of April 2017.

Michael C. Gregoire,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 2017-08728 Filed 4-27-17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS-2017-0004]

Notice of Request for Reinstatement of an Information Collection; Importation of Ruminant and Swine Hides, Bird Trophies, and Deer Hides

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 associated with the importation of ruminant and swine hides, bird trophies, and deer hides.

DATES: We will consider all comments that we receive on or before June 27, 2017.

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

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to <http://www.regulations.gov/> *#!docketDetail;D=APHIS-2017-0004*.

- *Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery:* Send your comment to Docket No. APHIS-2017-0004, 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-2017-0004* 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 importation of ruminant and swine hides, bird trophies, and deer hides, contact Dr. Lisa Dixon, Animal Products Import Director, NIES, VS, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 40, Riverdale, MD 20737; (301) 851-3373. Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Ms. Kimberly Hardy, the APHIS Information Collection Coordinator, at (301) 851-2483.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Importation of Ruminant and Swine Hides, Bird Trophies, and Deer Hides.

OMB Control Number: 0579-0307.

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 United States Department of Agriculture is authorized, among other things, to prohibit or restrict the importation and interstate movement of animals and animal products to prevent the introduction into and dissemination within the United States of livestock diseases and pests. To carry out this mission, APHIS regulates the importation of animals and animal products into the United States. The regulations are contained in title 9, parts 91 through 99, of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR).

The regulations in 9 CFR part 95 (referred to below as the regulations) prohibit or restrict the importation of specified animal products into the

United States to prevent the introduction into the U.S. livestock population of certain contagious animal diseases. Sections 95.16 and 95.17 of the regulations contain, among other things, specific processing, recordkeeping, and certification requirements for untanned hides and skins and bird trophies.

The regulations require that shipments of hides be accompanied by certificates showing their origin and certifying that the hides are from areas free of certain animal diseases. Shipments of ruminant hides from Mexico must be accompanied by written statements indicating that the hides were frozen for 24 hours and treated for ticks. Shipments of bird trophies must be accompanied by certificates of origin certifying that the trophies are from regions free of exotic Newcastle disease and highly pathogenic avian influenza. These activities help ensure that the products do not harbor disease or ticks.

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 0.2 hours per response.

Respondents: National government officials of the exporting country, owners of untanned ruminant and swine hides, and importers of untanned ruminant and swine hides.

Estimated number of respondents: 264.

Estimated number of responses per respondent: 2.59.

Estimated annual number of responses: 683.

Estimated total annual burden on respondents: 137 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 24th day of April 2017.

Jere L. Dick,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 2017-08605 Filed 4-27-17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS-2017-0021]

General Conference Committee of the National Poultry Improvement Plan; Meeting

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: We are giving notice of a meeting of the General Conference Committee of the National Poultry Improvement Plan.

DATES: The General Conference Committee meeting will be held on May 18, 2017, from 7:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The General Conference Committee meeting will be held at the Doubletree by Hilton, 363 Maine Mall Road, Portland, ME 04106.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Denise Brinson, Senior Coordinator, National Poultry Improvement Plan, VS, APHIS, USDA, 1506 Klondike Road, Suite 101, Conyers, GA 30094; (770) 922-3496.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The General Conference Committee (the Committee) of the National Poultry Improvement Plan, representing cooperating State agencies and poultry industry members, serves an essential function by acting as liaison between the poultry industry and the Department in matters pertaining to poultry health.

Topics for discussion at the upcoming meeting include:

1. National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) Avian Influenza Update.
2. Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service/Veterinary Services Update.
3. Compartmentalization Program for Primary Breeders.
4. NVSL Salmonella Update.
5. New Diagnostic Tests.