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

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

June 7, 2017.

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 are requested regarding (1) 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) the accuracy of the agency’s estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance the 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 through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments regarding this information collection received by July 12, 2017 will be considered. Written comments should be addressed to: Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), New Executive Office Building, 725 17th Street NW., Washington, DC 20502. Commenters are encouraged to submit their comments to OMB via email to: OIRA_Submission@OMB.EOP.GOV or fax (202) 395–5806 and to Departmental Clearance Office, USDA, OCIO, Mail Stop 7602, Washington, DC 20250–7602. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling (202) 720–8958.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless the collection displays a currently valid OMB control number and the agency informs potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information that such persons are not required to respond to the collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Title: APHIS Pest Reporting and Asian Longhorned Beetle Program.

OMB Control Number: 0579–0311.

Summary of Collection: Under the Plant Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 7701, et seq.), the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to prohibit or restrict the importation, entry, or movement of plants and plant pests to prevent the introduction of plant pests into the United States or their dissemination within the United States. Plant health regulations promulgated by the United States Department of Agriculture under this authority specifically address control programs for a number of pests and disease of concern, including Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB), emerald ash borer (EAB) beetle, and citrus greening, to name a few. The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) will collect information using form PPQ–10, Plant Protection and Quarantine Pest Reporting Form and PPQ form 375, Asian Longhorned Beetle Unified Survey and other information collection activities.

Need and Use of the Information: APHIS relies on the public to report sightings of the pests of concern or suspicious signs of pest or disease damage they may see in their local area. This reporting will be done through simple online forms PPQ–10, Plant Protection and Quarantine Pest Reporting Form and PPQ form 375, Asian Longhorned Beetle Unified Survey and the following additional information collection activities: (1) Cooperative Agreement for Inspection, (2) State Compliance Training Workshop Records, (3) Contract for Inspection, (4) Permission to Inspect from Homeowner, (5) Refusal to Inspect from Homeowner, (6) Chemical Treatment Release from Homeowner, (7) Letters Warning of Litigations and Warrants; (8) Litigations/Warrants; (9) Homeowner to Sign for Tree Removal, (10) Removals/Monitoring, (11) Contract for Treatment; (12) Removals/Disposal, (13) Disposal/Marshalling Yard, (14) Tree Warrant, and (15) Certificate/Permit Cancellation Appeal. Failing to collect this information could result in APHIS not receiving information about where infestations may exist, causing them to linger unreported and grow. Infestations of high-consequence pests or diseases, such as ALB, EAB, citrus greening, and others, could lead to significant economic damage to crops, forests, and landscapes.

Description of Respondents: Individuals or households; Business or other for-profit; State, Local or Tribal Government.

Number of Respondents: 7,055.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 438,779.

Ruth Brown,
Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces our intent to submit the proposed information collection to OMB for approval and solicits comments on specific aspects for the proposed information collection.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

National Agricultural Statistics Service

Notice of Request for a New Information Collection; Generic Clearance for the Collection of Qualitative Feedback on Agency Programs

AGENCY: National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the intention of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) to request feedback from the general public on the “Generic Clearance for the Collection of Qualitative Feedback on Agency Programs”. This collection was developed as part of a Federal Government-wide effort to streamline the process for seeking feedback from the public on service delivery. This notice announces our intent to submit this collection to OMB for approval and solicits comments on specific aspects for the proposed information collection.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by August 11, 2017 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: ● Email: ombofficer@nass.usda.gov.
Include the docket number above in the subject line of the message.
The proposed information collection activities provide a means to obtain qualitative customer and stakeholder feedback in an efficient, timely manner, in accordance with the Administration’s commitment to improving the quality and timeliness of survey data and its analysis. The qualitative feedback will provide useful insights on perceptions and opinions, but are not rigorous statistical surveys that yield quantitative results that can be generalized to the study population. This feedback will provide insights into customer or stakeholder perceptions, experiences and expectations, provide an early warning of issues with data collection efforts, and focus attention on areas where communication, training or changes in operations might improve NASS surveys and publications. These collections will allow for ongoing, collaborative and actionable communications between the Agency and its customers and stakeholders.

The information collections will target areas such as: Timeliness, usefulness of summarized information, perceptions of products or services, accuracy of information, efficiency and ease of reporting data, and the ease and understandability of data collection instruments. Responses will be assessed to plan and inform efforts to improve or maintain the quality of data collected and reported to the public. If this information is not collected, vital feedback from customers and stakeholders on the Agency’s services will be unavailable.

The Agency will only submit a collection for approval under this generic clearance if it meets the following conditions:

- The collections are voluntary;
- The collections are low-burden for respondents (based on considerations of total burden hours, total number of respondents, or burden-hours per respondent) and are low-cost for both the respondents and the Federal Government;
- The collections are non-controversial and do not raise issues of concern to other Federal agencies;
- Any collection is targeted to the solicitation of opinions from respondents who have experience with NASS surveys or data, or may reasonably be expected to have experience with the surveys or data in the near future;
- Information gathered will be used only internally for improving data collection efforts, products and services, and the summarization and publication of data, and is not intended for release outside of the agency;
- Information gathered will not be used for the purpose of substantially informing influential policy decisions; and
- Information gathered will yield qualitative information; the collections will not be designed or expected to yield statistically reliable results or used as though the results are generalizable to the study population.

This generic clearance for qualitative information will not be used for quantitative information collections that are designed to yield reliably actionable results, such as monitoring trends over time or documenting program performance. Depending on the degree of influence the results are likely to have, such collections may still be eligible for submission for other generic mechanisms that are designed to yield quantitative results.

As a general matter, information collections will not result in any new system of records containing privacy information and will not ask questions of a sensitive nature, such as sexual behavior and attitudes, religious beliefs, and other matters that are commonly considered private.

**Respondents:** Farmers, ranchers, agribusinesses and data users.

**Estimated Number of Respondents:** 150,000.

Below we provide projected average estimates for the next three years:

- **Average Number of Responses per Respondent:** 1.
- **Total Responses:** 150,000 (30,000 completed responses and 120,000 refusals).
- **Frequency of Responses:** Once per request.
- **Average Minutes per Response:** 5 to 30 minutes, depending on the survey.
- **Total Estimated Burden Hours:** 8,250.

**Comments:** Comments are invited on:
- (a) 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;
- (b) 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;
- (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- (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, technological or other forms of information technology collection methods.

All responses to this notice will become a matter of public record and be summarized in the request for OMB approval.


Hubert Hamer,
Administrator.

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**BILLING CODE 3410–20–P**