

# 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

### Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS–2018–0012]

#### Concurrence With OIE Risk Designations for Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** We are advising the public of our decision to concur with the World Organization for Animal Health's (OIE) bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) risk designations for four regions. The OIE recognizes these regions as being of negligible risk for BSE. We are taking this action based on our review of information supporting the OIE's risk designations for these regions.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Rebecca Gordon, Senior Staff Veterinarian, Regionalization Evaluation Services, National Import Export Services, VS, APHIS, 920 Main Campus Drive, Suite 200, Raleigh, NC 27606; (919) 855–7741.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The regulations in 9 CFR part 92 subpart B, "Importation of Animals and Animal Products; Procedures for Requesting BSE Risk Status Classification With Regard To Bovines" (referred to below as the regulations), set forth the process by which the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) classifies regions for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) risk. 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. The list of those regions classified by APHIS as having either negligible risk or controlled risk can be accessed on the APHIS website at <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-and-animal-product-import-information/animal-health-status-of-regions>. The list can also be obtained by writing to APHIS at National Import Export Services, 4700 River Road Unit 38, Riverdale, MD 20737.

Under the regulations, APHIS may classify a region for BSE in one of two ways. One way is for regions 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 or region by the OIE.

If the OIE has recognized a country as either BSE negligible risk or BSE controlled risk, APHIS will seek information to support our concurrence with the OIE classification. This information may be publicly available information, or APHIS may request that countries supply the same information given to the OIE. APHIS will announce in the **Federal Register**, subject to public comment, its intent to concur with an OIE classification.

In accordance with that process, we published a notice<sup>1</sup> in the **Federal Register** on April 24, 2018 (83 FR 17789, Docket No. APHIS–2018–0012), in which we announced our intent to concur with the OIE recognition of Croatia, Poland, Northern Ireland, and Scotland as being regions of negligible risk for BSE. We solicited comments on the notice for 60 days ending on June 25, 2018. We received one comment by that date, from a private citizen.

The commenter voiced doubts about the efficacy of the BSE minimal risk region policy, concerns about other prion diseases such as chronic wasting disease circulating in the United States and the world, and skepticism that the ruminant-to-ruminant feed ban has been effectively enforced. The commenter did not, however, address our preliminary concurrence with the OIE's risk designations for the four regions or the documentation made available to support that action.

<sup>1</sup>To view the notice and the comment we received, go to <http://www.regulations.gov/#/docketDetail;D=APHIS-2018-0012>.

Therefore, in accordance with the regulations in § 92.5, we are announcing our decision to concur with the OIE risk classifications of the following countries:

- *Regions of negligible risk for BSE:* Croatia, Poland, Northern Ireland (region of United Kingdom), and Scotland (region of United Kingdom).

**Authority:** 7 U.S.C. 1622 and 8301–8317; 21 U.S.C. 136 and 136a; 31 U.S.C. 9701; 7 CFR 2.22, 2.80, and 371.4.

Done in Washington, DC, this 27th day of August 2018.

**Kevin Shea,**

*Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.*

[FR Doc. 2018–18962 Filed 8–30–18; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410–34–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### National Agricultural Statistics Service

#### Notice of Intent To Request Revision and Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

**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 revision and extension of a currently approved information collection, the Stocks Reports. Revision to burden hours will be needed due to changes in the size of the target population, sampling design, and/or questionnaire length.

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received by October 30, 2018 to be assured of consideration.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments, identified by docket number 0535–0007, by any of the following methods:

- *Email:* [OMBOfficer@nass.usda.gov](mailto:OMBOfficer@nass.usda.gov). Include docket number above in the subject line of the message.

- *E-fax:* (855) 838–6382.

- *Mail:* Mail any paper, disk, or CD-ROM submissions to: David Hancock, NASS Clearance Officer, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 5336 South Building, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250–2024.

• *Hand Delivery/Courier*: Hand deliver to: David Hancock, NASS Clearance Officer, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 5336 South Building, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250–2024.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Kevin L. Barnes, Associate Administrator, National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, (202) 720–2707. Copies of this information collection and related instructions can be obtained without charge from David Hancock, NASS—OMB Clearance Officer, at (202) 690–2388 or at [ombofficer@nass.usda.gov](mailto:ombofficer@nass.usda.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title*: Stocks Reports.

*OMB Control Number*: 0535–0007.

*Expiration Date of Approval*: January 31, 2019.

*Type of Request*: Intent to Seek Approval to Revise and Extend an Information Collection for 3 years.

*Abstract*: The primary objective of the National Agricultural Statistics Service is to prepare and issue State and national estimates of crop and livestock production, stocks, disposition, and prices. The *Stocks Report* surveys, provide estimates of stocks of grains, hops, oilseeds, peanuts, potatoes, and rice that are stored off-farm. These off-farm stocks are combined with on-farm stocks to estimate stocks in all positions. The grain *Stocks Reports* are a principle economic indicator as defined by OMB. Stocks statistics are used by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to help administer programs; by State agencies to develop, research, and promote the marketing of products; and by producers and buyers to find their best market opportunity(s). The *Stocks Reports* are instrumental in providing timely, accurate data to help grain market participants. Since the previous approval, NASS has made several adjustments to the number of respondents contacted and the overall respondent burden. The largest adjustment to sample size is for the off-farm grain and oilseed operations that has been decreased by approximately 600 operations (quarterly), due to numerous mergers of operations over the last three years.

The current expiration date for this docket is January 31, 2019. NASS intends to request that the survey be approved for another 3 years.

*Authority*: These data will be collected under the authority of 7 U.S.C. 2204(a). Individually identifiable data collected under this authority are governed by Section 1770 of the Food Security Act of 1985 as amended, 7 U.S.C. 2276, which requires USDA to

afford strict confidentiality to non-aggregated data provided by respondents. This Notice is submitted in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104–13 (44 U.S.C. 3501, *et seq.*), and Office of Management and Budget regulations at 5 CFR part 1320.

NASS also complies with OMB Implementation Guidance, “Implementation Guidance for Title V of the E-Government Act, Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2002 (CIPSEA),” *Federal Register*, Vol. 72, No. 115, June 15, 2007, p. 33362.

*Estimate of Burden*: This information collection comprises 14 individual surveys that are conducted either 1, 4, 5, or 12 times a year for an estimated total of 24,700 responses. Average reporting burden for this collection of information ranges from 10 to 25 minutes per response.

*Respondents*: Farms and businesses.

*Estimated Number of Respondents*: 6,300.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents*: 5,300 hours.

*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, 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.

Signed at Washington, DC, August 23, 2018.

**Kevin L. Barnes,**

*Associate Administrator.*

[FR Doc. 2018–18958 Filed 8–30–18; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410–20–P**

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**National Agricultural Statistics Service**

**Notice of Intent To Seek Approval To Revise and Extend a Currently Approved Information Collection**

**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 revision and extension of a currently approved information collection, the Egg, Chicken, and Turkey Surveys. A revision to burden hours will be needed due to changes in the size of the target population, sampling design, and/or questionnaire length.

**DATES**: Comments on this notice must be received by October 30, 2018 to be assured of consideration.

**ADDRESSES**: You may submit comments, identified by docket number 0535–0004, by any of the following methods:

• *Email*: [ombofficer@nass.usda.gov](mailto:ombofficer@nass.usda.gov). Include docket number above in the subject line of the message.

• *E-fax*: (855) 838–6382.

• *Mail*: Mail any paper, disk, or CD-ROM submissions to: David Hancock, NASS Clearance Officer, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 5336 South Building, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250–2024.

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**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

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**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title*: Egg, Chicken, and Turkey Surveys.

*OMB Number*: 0535–0004.

*Expiration Date of Approval*: January 31, 2019.

*Type of Request*: Intent to seek approval to revise and extend an information collection for 3 years.

*Abstract*: The primary objective of the National Agricultural Statistics Service