

In this document, we are advising the public of the availability of the final supplemental EA and our FONSI regarding the release of *A. itadori* from Murakami, Japan, for the biological control of Japanese, giant, and Bohemian knotweed within the contiguous United States. Our finding, which is based on the analysis in the supplemental EA, reflects our determination that release of *A. itadori* from Murakami, Japan, for the biological control of Japanese, giant, and Bohemian knotweed within the contiguous United States will not have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment. Based on this finding, we have authorized permits for the release of *A. itadori* from Murakami, Japan, for the biological control of Japanese, giant, and Bohemian knotweed within the contiguous United States.

The final supplemental EA and FONSI may be viewed on the *Regulations.gov* website (see footnote 1). Copies of the final supplemental EA and FONSI are also available for public inspection at room 1620 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. Persons wishing to inspect copies are requested to call ahead at (202) 799-7039 to facilitate entry into the reading room. In addition, copies may be obtained by calling or writing to the individual listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

The final supplemental EA and FONSI have been prepared in accordance with: (1) The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*); (2) the former regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality for implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA (40 CFR parts 1500–1508) as of February 25, 2021; (3) USDA regulations implementing NEPA (7 CFR part 1b) effective through July 2, 2025; and (4) APHIS' former NEPA Implementing Procedures (7 CFR part 372) effective through July 2, 2025.

Done in Washington, DC, this 16th day of June 2026.

Kelly Moore,

Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 2026-12429 Filed 6-18-26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Economic Research Service

Agency Information Collection Activities: Comment Request

AGENCY: Economic Research Service (ERS), US Department of Agriculture (USDA).

ACTION: Notice of Information Collection; request to comment.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, (Pub. L. 104-12), ERS is proposing a new information collection to study farmers' adoption of precision and digital agriculture, "Survey of Precision and Digital Agriculture use in Specialty Crops."

DATES: Written comments on this notice must be received by August 21, 2026 to be assured of consideration. Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable. Send comments to the address below.

ADDRESSES: Address all comments concerning this notice to *julie.parker3@usda.gov* and *ers.pra@usda.gov* identified by docket number 0536-NEW.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of this information collection should be directed to Julie Parker at *ers.pra@usda.gov* or 202-868-7945.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title of collection: Survey of Precision and Digital Agriculture use in Specialty Crops.

OMB Control Number: 0536-NEW.

Type of Request: A new information collection.

Abstract

The proposed data collection will survey specialty crop producers or their designated crop consultants across the United States to study farmers' use of precision and digital agriculture (PA) in the reference year and two previous years. These data will provide new information on the U.S. specialty crop sector about PA adoption and its drivers, and its relationships with labor use, automation and artificial intelligence, pest management practices, and impacts on productivity and net returns. USDA agencies are interested in supporting research on PA adoption in specialty crops to increase farmer profitability, protect U.S. agriculture from invasive species, and promote soil health to regenerate land productivity. This survey will collect new information from operations of specialty crops such as potatoes, fruits, vegetables, and tree nuts.

This survey will rely on questions about individual technology use to produce crop-specific adoption rates; summaries of adoption barriers (e.g., costs, internet connectivity, skills); and summaries of adoption drivers (e.g., expected savings, risk management). The survey will also measure pest pressure perceptions, monitoring approaches, constraints, and PA use for pest management (e.g., precision pesticide applications). Pest management, labor use, productivity, and net returns of farms adopting PA will be compared to farms not adopting PA.

Participation in the survey will be voluntary, and subjects will be recruited online and by phone. Sampling will be done randomly, and the survey will be designed to be representative of the production of multiple specialty crops. Data will be analyzed using regression models that control for farm and farmer attributes, and methods will be used to reduce potential statistical bias in the regression estimates arising from farmers' non-random technology use. Results from the survey will be used in academic and Federal research publications to provide information to stakeholders and the public regarding farmers' PA adoption, its drivers and barriers, and its effects on productivity and net returns.

Authority: These data will be collected under the authority of US Code (U.S.C.) 7 U.S.C. 2204(a); General duties of Secretary, advisory functions, research and development and 7 U.S.C 6971, Under Secretary of Agriculture for Research, Education, and Economics, as implemented under the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 7 CFR 2.21 which delegates to the Under Secretary, as Chief Scientist, the responsibility for agricultural systems and technology, including emerging agricultural research, education, and extension needs. This Notice is submitted in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (at 44 U.S.C. 3501, *et seq.*) and Office of Management and Budget regulations at 5 CFR part 1320. 5 CFR part 1320.

Confidentiality: All ERS employees and ERS contractors must also fully comply with all provisions of the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act (CIPSEA) of 2018, Title III of Public Law 115-435, codified in 44 U.S.C. Ch. 35.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average approximately 30 minutes per respondent.

Respondents: The respondents will be farmers, or their designated crop consultants, who grow specialty crops in the United States.

Estimated Number of Annual Respondents: 1,050 respondents.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 1,500 hours.

Comments: Comments are invited on (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of ERS, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of ERS's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, use, and clarity of the information for respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; 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, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Kelly Maguire,

*Administrator, Economic Research Service,
United States Department of Agriculture.*

[FR Doc. 2026–12360 Filed 6–18–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–18–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

National Institute of Food and Agriculture

Notice of Intent To Extend and Revise a Previously Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: National Institute of Food and Agriculture, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations, this notice announces the National Institute of Food and Agriculture's (NIFA) intention to extend and revise a previously approved information collection, entitled “*Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR)/Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Programs Lifecycle Certification*.”

DATES: Written comments on this notice must be received by August 21, 2026 to be assured of consideration. Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments through the Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

Instructions: All comments received will be posted without change to <http://www.regulations.gov>, including any personal information provided.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Laura Givens, 816–527–5379,
Laura.Givens@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title of Collection: Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR)/Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Programs Lifecycle Certification.

OMB Control Number: 0524–0053.

Expiration Date of Current Approval: 10/31/2026.

Type of Request: Notice of intent to extend a previously approved information collection for three years.

Abstract: The SBIR/STTR program at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) makes competitively awarded grants to qualified small businesses to support high quality, advanced concepts research related to important scientific problems and opportunities in agriculture that could lead to significant public benefit if successful.

The objectives of the SBIR/STTR Program are to: stimulate technological innovations in the private sector; strengthen the role of small businesses in meeting Federal research and development needs; increase private sector commercialization of innovations derived from USDA-supported research and development efforts; and foster and encourage participation of new entrants and emerging states. The USDA SBIR/STTR program is carried out in three separate phases:

1. Phase I awards to determine, insofar as possible, the scientific and technical merit and feasibility of ideas that appear to have commercial potential.
2. Phase II awards to further develop work from Phase I that meets particular program needs and exhibits potential for commercial application.
3. Phase III awards where commercial applications of SBIR and STTR-funded R/R&D are funded by non-Federal sources of capital; or where products, services or further research intended for use by the Federal Government are funded by follow-on non-SBIR/STTR Federal Funding Agreements.

The USDA SBIR/STTR Programs are administered by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) of the USDA. NIFA exercises overall oversight for the policies and procedures governing SBIR/STTR grants awarded to the U.S. small business community, representing approximately 2.5% to 2.8% of the USDA extramural R/R&D budget. This represents approximately \$201M in Phase II grants awarded to the U.S. small business community from 1994 to 2014. In 1982, the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Grants Program (Pub. L. 97–219, 96 Stat.

217) was authorized. In 1992, the Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Grants Program was authorized by the Small Business Research and Development Enhancement Act (Pub. L. 102–564, 106 Stat. 4249) and is codified at 15 U.S.C. 638. In 2026, the Small Business Innovation and Economic Security Act, enacted on April 14, 2026, reauthorized the SBIR and STTR programs through September 30, 2031.

The Lifecycle Certification form is used by USDA to ensure Small Business Concerns continue to meet specific program requirements during the life of the Funding Agreement. The Lifecycle Certification form is based on the Small Business Administration (SBA) model language.

Estimate of Burden: The annual public reporting burden for the collection of information is estimated to average one (1) hour per response. Respondents include businesses or other for-profit concerns.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 180.

Annual responses: 2.

Average time to complete each response: 1 hour.

Burden hours: 360 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; (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, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

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

Obtaining a Copy of the Information Collection: A copy of the information collection and related instructions may be obtained free of charge by contacting Laura Givens as directed above.

Done at Washington, DC, this day of June 5, 2026.

Drenda Williams,

Associate Director for Operations, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

[FR Doc. 2026–12478 Filed 6–18–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–22–P