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–2026–1156]

Notice of Request for Approval of a New Information Collection; National Animal Health Monitoring System; Poultry 2027 Upland Gamebird and Duck Study

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Request for approval of a new 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 approval of a new information collection associated with the conduct of the National Animal Health Monitoring System's Upland Gamebird and Duck study in 2027.

DATES: We will consider all comments that we receive on or before October 5, 2026.

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

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to *www.regulations.gov.* Enter APHIS–2026–1156 in the Search field. Select the Documents tab, then select the Comment button in the list of documents.
- *Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery:* Send your comment to Docket No. APHIS–2026–1156, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, 5601 Sunnyside Ave., AP760, Beltsville, MD 20705.

Supporting documents and any comments we receive on this docket may be viewed at *www.regulations.gov* or in our reading room, which is located in 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. To be sure someone is there to help you, please call (202) 799–7039 before coming.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information on the Poultry 2027 Upland Gamebird and Duck Study, contact Ms. Nia Washington-Plaskett, Program Analyst, Center for Epidemiology and Animal Health, VS, APHIS, 2150 Centre Ave., Bldg. B, Fort Collins, CO 80524; telephone 1–866–907–8190, or email *nia.washington-plaskett@usda.gov* or *vs.sp.ceah.pci@usda.gov.* For more detailed information on the information collection process, contact Ms. Sheniqua Harris, APHIS' Paperwork Reduction Act Coordinator, at (301) 851–2528, or email *APHIS.PRA@usda.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: National Animal Health Monitoring System; Poultry 2027 Upland Gamebird and Duck Study.

OMB Control Number: 0579–XXXX.

Type of Request: New information collection.

Abstract: Under the Animal Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8301 *et seq.*), the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to protect the health of the livestock, poultry, and aquaculture populations in the United States by preventing the introduction and interstate spread of serious diseases and pests of livestock, and for eradicating such diseases from the United States when feasible. This authority has been delegated to the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS).

In connection with this mission, APHIS operates the National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) which collects on a national basis statistically valid and scientifically sound data on the prevalence and economic importance of livestock, poultry, and aquaculture disease risk factors.

NAHMS' studies have evolved into a collaborative industry and government initiative to help determine the most effective means of preventing and controlling diseases of poultry. NAHMS is the only agency responsible for collecting data on poultry health. Participation in any NAHMS study is voluntary, and all data are confidential.

NAHMS plans to conduct the Poultry 2027 Upland Gamebird and Duck Study as part of an ongoing series of NAHMS studies on the U.S. poultry population. This study will support the following objectives: (1) Establish baselines for health and management practices on U.S. upland gamebird operations to support producers and partners in advancing animal health, productivity, and marketability; (2) describe upland gamebird producer preparedness for animal health emergencies, including highly pathogenic avian influenza, to assist producers and partners in disease prevention and control; and (3) describe management protocols and the structure of the commercial duck industry, including movement and biosecurity practices.

The study will consist of two parts. The first part is in collaboration with the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). A survey will be administered to upland gamebird operations in all States. The survey will be administered with three options for completion: Mail, web, or telephone call by NASS enumerators. The second part consists of a duck company-level questionnaire with options to complete the survey electronically or on paper.

The information collected through the study will be analyzed and organized into descriptive reports. Reports will be disseminated by NAHMS to producers, stakeholders, academia, veterinarians, and other interested parties. The collected data will be used to: (1) Establish national and regional production measures for producer, veterinary, and industry references; (2) predict or detect national and regional trends in disease emergence and movement; (3) address emerging issues; (4) aid in disease preparedness; (5) increase understanding about biosecurity practices of upland gamebird producers and biosecurity protocols of duck companies; (6) determine what sort of informational resources may be most useful for upland gamebird producers and how to best dispense new information to this demographic; (7) provide estimates of both outcome (disease or other parameters) and exposure (risks and components) variables that can be used in analytic studies in the future by NAHMS; (8) provide input into the design of surveillance systems for specific diseases; and (9) provide parameters for animal disease spread models.

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 burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 0.195 hours per response.

Respondents:

- Upland gamebird operations (defined as chukars, pheasants, quail, Hungarian partridges, and guineas) with inventories of at least 500 head.
- Representatives of large duck companies.

Estimated annual number of respondents: 2,812.

Estimated annual number of responses per respondent: 4.

Estimated annual number of responses: 9,320.

Estimated total annual burden on respondents: 1,816 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 28th day of July 2026.

Kelly Moore,

Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 2026–15856 Filed 8–4–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–34–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS–2020–0021]

Bayer/Monsanto: Determination of Nonregulated Status for MON 87429 Maize Genetically Engineered for Dicamba, Glufosinate, Quizalofop, and 2,4-Dichlorophenoxyacetic Acid (2,4-D) Resistance With Tissue-Specific Glyphosate Resistance Facilitating the Production of Hybrid Maize Seed

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: We are advising the public of our determination that MON 87429 maize, which was developed using genetic engineering for dicamba, glufosinate, quizalofop, and 2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid resistance with tissue-specific glyphosate resistance facilitating the production of hybrid maize seed, is no longer considered regulated. Our determination is based on our evaluation of information and data Bayer/Monsanto submitted in its petition for a determination of nonregulated status, available scientific data, the plant pest risk assessment, and public comments received in response to a previous notice announcing the availability of the petition for nonregulated status and a draft plant pest risk assessment. This notice announces the availability of our written determination and supporting documents.

DATES: This change in regulatory status is recognized as of August 5, 2026.

ADDRESSES: You may read the petition, our determination referenced in this notice, and supporting documents by any of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to *www.regulations.gov.* Enter APHIS–2020–0021 in the Search field.
- Our reading room, located in 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. To be sure someone is there to help you, please call (202) 799–7039 before coming.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Alan Pearson, Biotechnology Regulatory Services, APHIS, USDA, 5601 Sunnyside Ave., AP100, Beltsville, MD 20740; (301) 851–3944; email: *alan.pearson@usda.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the authority of the plant pest provisions of the Plant Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 7701–7772, 7781–7786) and the regulations in 7 CFR part 340, ''Introduction of Organisms and Products Altered or Produced Through Genetic Engineering Which Are Plant Pests or Which There Is Reason to Believe Are Plant Pests,'' APHIS regulates, among other things, the introduction (importation, interstate movement, or release into the environment) of organisms and products altered or produced through genetic engineering that are plant pests or that there is reason to believe are plant pests. Such organisms and products are considered ''regulated articles.''

The regulations in § 340.6(a) provide that any person may submit a petition to the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) seeking a determination that an article should not be regulated under 7 CFR part 340.

APHIS received a petition (APHIS Petition Number 19–316–01p) from Monsanto Company, as a wholly owned subsidiary of Bayer Crop Science (Bayer/Monsanto), seeking a determination of nonregulated status for MON 87429 maize (corn), which has been developed using genetic engineering for dicamba, glufosinate, quizalofop, and 2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4-D) resistance with tissue-specific glyphosate resistance facilitating the production of hybrid maize seed. The petition provides information in support of petitioners' position that MON 87429 is unlikely to pose a plant pest risk and therefore should not be regulated under APHIS' regulations in 7 CFR part 340.

As part of our decision-making process regarding the organism's regulatory status, APHIS prepared a draft plant pest risk assessment (PPRA) to assess the plant pest risk of the organism.

On May 8, 2020, APHIS published the Bayer/Monsanto petition in the **Federal Register** seeking public comment for a period of 60 days (85 FR 27354–27355; Docket No. APHIS–2020–0021). APHIS received 4,112 comments on the petition. On April 28, 2021, APHIS published a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in the **Federal Register** seeking public comment for a period of 30 days (86 FR 22384–22386; Docket No. APHIS–2020–0021). APHIS received 3,069 comments on the NOI.

On March 22, 2024, APHIS published the draft PPRA and draft EIS in the **Federal Register** (89 FR 20424–20425, APHIS–2020–0021) and accepted public comments from March 22, 2024, through May 6, 2024. APHIS received