

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

National Sheep Industry Improvement Center; Solicitation of Nominations of Board Members

AGENCY: National Sheep Industry Improvement Center, USDA.

ACTION: Notice: Invitation to submit nominations.

SUMMARY: The National Sheep Industry Improvement Center announces that it is accepting nominations for the Board of Directors of the National Sheep Industry Improvement Center for three voting directors' positions whose terms expire on February 13, 2006. Two positions are for members who have expertise in finance and management and one position is for an active producer of sheep or goats. Board members manage and oversee the Center's activities. Nominations may only be submitted by National organizations that consist primarily of active sheep or goat producers in the United States and who have as their primary interest the production of sheep or goats in the United States. Nominating organizations should submit:

(1) Substantiation that the nominating organization is national in scope,

(2) The number and percent of members that are active sheep or goat producers,

(3) Substantiation of the primary interests of the organization, and

(4) An Advisory Committee Membership Background Information form (Form AD-755) for each nominee.

This action is taken in accordance with 7 U.S.C. 2008j(f) which establishes the powers and composition of the Board of Directors for the National Sheep Industry Improvement Center.

DATES: Completed nominations must be received no later than December 12, 2005. Nominations received after that date will not be considered.

ADDRESSES: Submit nominations and statements of qualifications to Jay B. Wilson, Executive Director/CEO, National Sheep Industry Improvement Center, USDA, PO Box 23483, Washington, DC 20026-3483 if using the U.S. Postal Service or Room 2117, South Agriculture Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250 if using other carriers.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jay B. Wilson, Executive Director/CEO, National Sheep Industry Improvement Center, USDA, PO Box 23483, Washington, DC 20026-3483 if using the U.S. Postal Service or Room 2117, South Agriculture Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250 if using other carriers. Forms and other information can be found at <http://www.nsiic.org>. Telephone (202) 690-0632, (This is not a toll free number.) Fax 202-720-1053.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The National Sheep Industry Improvement Center (NSIIC), or Sheep Center (Center), is authorized under 7 U.S.C. 2008j. The Center shall (1) promote strategic development activities and collaborative efforts by private and State entities to maximize the impact of Federal assistance to strengthen and enhance production and marketing of sheep or goat products in the United States; (2) optimize the use of available human capital and resources within the sheep or goat industries; (3) provide assistance to meet the needs of the sheep or goat industry for infrastructure development, business development, production, resource development, and market and environmental research; (4) advance activities that empower and build the capacity of the United States sheep or goat industry to design unique responses to special needs of the sheep or goat industries on both a regional and national basis; and (5) adopt flexible and innovative approaches to solving the long-term needs of the United States sheep or goat industry.

The management of NSIIC is vested in a Board of Directors that is appointed by, and reports to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Board of Directors is composed of seven voting members of whom four are active producers of sheep or goats in the United States, two have expertise in finance and management, and one has expertise in lamb, wool, goat or goat product

marketing. Of the three open positions, Two positions are for members who have expertise in finance and management and one position is for an active producer of sheep or goats. The Board also includes two non-voting members, the Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development and the Under Secretary of Agriculture for Research, Education, and Economics. The Executive Director serves as the CEO.

The Secretary of Agriculture shall appoint the voting members from the submitted nominations. Member's term of office shall be three years. Voting members are limited to two terms. The three positions for which nominees are sought are currently held by members completing their first term and are all eligible for reappointment.

The Board shall meet not less than once each fiscal year, but is likely to meet at least quarterly. Board members will not receive compensation for serving on the Board of Directors, but shall be reimbursed for travel, subsistence, and other necessary expenses.

The statement of qualifications of the individual nominees is being obtained by using Form AD-755, which can be accessed at www.nsiic.org. The requirements of this form are approved under OMB number 0505-0001.

Dated: October 21, 2005.

Jay B. Wilson,

Executive Director/ CEO, National Sheep Industry Improvement Center.

[FR Doc. 05-21418 Filed 10-26-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 1351-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 05-077-1]

Notice of Request for Approval of an Information Collection; National Animal Identification System; Cooperative Agreements for Field Trials and Research Projects

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: 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 activity associated with a national animal identification system.

DATES: We will consider all comments that we receive on or before December 27, 2005.

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

- Federal eRulemaking Portal: Go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and, in the "Search for Open Regulations" box, select "Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service" from the agency drop-down menu, then click on "Submit." In the Docket ID column, select APHIS-2005-0093 to submit or view public comments and to view supporting and related materials available electronically. After the close of the comment period, the docket can be viewed using the "Advanced Search" function in Regulations.gov.

- Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery: Please send four copies of your comment (an original and three copies) to Docket No. 05-077-1, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238. Please state that your comment refers to Docket No. 05-077-1.

Reading Room: You may read any comments that we receive on this docket in our reading room. The reading room 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) 690-2817 before coming.

Other Information: Additional information about APHIS and its programs is available on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information on the national animal identification system, contact Mr. Neil Hammerschmidt, Animal Identification Coordinator, Surveillance and Identification Programs, VS, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 200, Riverdale, MD 20737. For copies of more detailed information on the information collection, contact Mrs. Celeste Sickles, APHIS' Information Collection Coordinator, at (301) 734-7477.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: National Animal Identification System; Cooperative Agreements for Field Trials and Research Projects.

OMB Number: 0579-XXXX.

Type of Request: Approval of a new information collection.

Abstract: The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) regulates the importation and interstate movement of animals and animal products and conducts various other activities to protect the health of our Nation's livestock and poultry.

Fundamental to controlling any disease threat, foreign or domestic, to the Nation's animal resources is to have a system that can identify individual animals or groups, the premises where they are located, and the date of entry to each premises.

USDA initiated implementation of a national animal identification system (NAIS) in 2004. The goal of the NAIS is to be able to identify all animals and premises that have had contact with a foreign or domestic animal disease of concern within 48 hours after discovery. As an information system that provides for rapid tracing of infected and exposed animals during an outbreak situation, the NAIS will help limit the scope of such outbreaks and ensure that they are contained and eradicated as quickly as possible. USDA's first priority was to facilitate premises registration. Producers, nationwide, now have the opportunity to register their premises. The next step is to register a majority of eligible premises in each State. With the foundation of premises identification in place, the identification of individual animals and the recording of their premises-to-premises movements can occur.

The 48-hour traceback goal is contingent upon the completeness of the animal movement data. Producers, market operators, abattoirs, and other establishments where animals are held will collect the animal identification numbers (AINs) or group lot identification numbers as the animals arrive at their premises and submit the data to the appropriate privately-held animal tracking database. The collection of complete animal movement information is an important goal for achieving 48-hour traceback.

USDA plans to provide funding to State and tribal governments to support field trials and research projects that address problems or questions concerning NAIS implementation. USDA anticipates funding approximately 15 projects based on applications from State and tribal governments.

We are asking the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve our use of these information collection activities for 1 year.

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 40 hours per response.

Respondents: State and federally recognized tribal governments.

Estimated annual number of respondents: 35.

Estimated annual number of responses per respondent: 1.

Estimated annual number of responses: 35.

Estimated total annual burden on respondents: 1,400 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 21st day of October 2005.

Elizabeth E. Gaston,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. E5-5962 Filed 10-26-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Membership of the Departmental Performance Review Board

AGENCY: Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of membership on the Departmental Performance Review Board.

SUMMARY: In accordance with 5 U.S.C., 4314(c)(4), Department of Commerce (DOC) announces the appointment of persons to serve as members of the Departmental Performance Review Board (DPRB). The DPRB is responsible for reviewing performance appraisals