

critical veterinary supplies and equipment. It exists to augment State and local resources in responding to high-consequence livestock diseases that could potentially devastate U.S. agriculture, seriously affect the economy, and threaten public health. NVS vaccines would be used in APHIS programs or under department control or supervision. The addition of vaccines to the stockpile would not preclude private development and use of other poultry vaccines meeting the requirements of the Virus-Serum-Toxin Act.

The arrival in December 2014 of Eurasian H5 strains of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) and their subsequent dissemination in North America caused a catastrophic outbreak in both domestic poultry and avian wildlife. It is thought that wild, migratory waterfowl carried an H5 virus into North America, which generated reassortants (genetic variants resulting from crosses among AI strains) that spilled over into the domestic poultry population. The H5 viruses are likely to persist within the endemic wild, migratory waterfowl population, which is the primary reservoir of the virus. This viral reservoir will continue to pose a significant threat to U.S. poultry and avian collections.

Two poultry production sectors, commercial meat turkeys and laying chickens, were heavily impacted by these H5 viruses, resulting in the loss or destruction of over 48 million birds between December 2014 and June 2015. Response by regulatory agencies combined with migration of wild waterfowl and the natural disinfectant action of the summer heat temporarily halted new disease outbreaks. The return of potentially infected migratory waterfowl in autumn, however, may precipitate a new round of outbreaks on an expanded national scale.

Therefore, we are advising the public that we have prepared an environmental assessment (EA) entitled "For Field Use of Avian Influenza Vaccines Against Avian Influenza H5 Virus Strains (August 2015)" to analyze the potential use of one or more veterinary biological products as a treatment for and as an aid in the reduction of HPAI incidence caused by H5 strain viruses. We are publishing this notice to inform the public that we will accept written comments regarding the EA from interested or affected persons for a period of 30 days from the date of this notice. Based on an individual vaccine's risk analysis and the findings in this EA, APHIS would authorize deployment (including shipment, field testing, addition to the NVS, and use in

commercial poultry production) of safe, well-characterized biological products upon making a finding of no significant impact (FONSI).

After the comment period closes, APHIS will review all written comments received during the comment period and any other relevant information. If APHIS receives substantive comments that were not previously considered, the Agency would consider issuing a supplement to the EA and FONSI. Because timeliness is essential, it is imperative that APHIS authorize shipment and field use of safe, well-characterized vaccines as soon as possible, and possibly prior to the close of the comment period of this notice.

Possible Field Use Locations: Where Federal and State authorities agree on use.

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

Authority: 21 U.S.C. 151–159.

Done in Washington, DC, this 1st day of October 2015.

Kevin Shea,

Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 2015–25445 Filed 10–6–15; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–34–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Farm Service Agency

Information Collection; Direct Loan Making

AGENCY: Farm Service Agency, USDA.

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) is requesting comments from all interested individuals and organizations on a revision and an extension of a currently approved information collection that supports 7 CFR part 764. The Direct Loan Making regulations specify the application process and requirements for direct loan assistance. FSA is adding additional information collection to the existing collection to reflect the addition of the Direct Farm Ownership Microloan (DFOML). The collected information is used in eligibility and

feasibility determinations on farm loan applications.

DATES: We will consider comments that we receive by December 7, 2015.

ADDRESSES: We invite you to submit comments on this notice. In your comments, include date, volume, and page number of this issue of the **Federal Register**. You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to www.regulations.gov. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.

- *Mail:* Russ Clanton, Branch Chief, Direct Loan Making and Funds Management, USDA/FSA/FLP, STOP 0523, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250–0503.

You may also send comments to the Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503. Copies of the information collection may be requested by contacting Russ Clanton at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Russ Clanton, (202) 690–0214.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Farm Loan Programs, Direct Loan Making.

OMB Number: 0560–0237.

Expiration Date: 02/29/2016.

Type of Request: Revision and Extension.

Abstract: FSA's Farm Loan Programs provide loans to family farmers to purchase real estate and equipment, and to finance agricultural production. Direct Loan Making regulations at 7 CFR part 764 provide the requirements and process for determining an applicant's eligibility for a direct loan.

Several changes are being made in the estimates for the burden hours and the number of respondents in anticipation of the new DFOML, which will be implemented through rulemaking. FSA anticipates an increase in the use of the forms. Also, the burden hours have changed due to the removal of the existing collection, which was previously included in error. The specific changes are explained below.

There will be no new or revised forms for DFOMLs. With the planned addition of the DFOML and the new applicants expected to apply for these real estate microloans, FSA anticipates the total burden hours for Direct Loan Making increasing by 1,725 hours. The anticipated 3,530 burden hours for DFOML takes into account the number of regular FO applications normally received for loan requests of \$50,000 or less, which have a reduced application process and paperwork burden. The hours for the Land Contract Guarantee

Program and Emergency Equine Loss Loan Program, previously merged into the Direct Loan Making total burden hours, have been removed from the collection as they are already accounted for in other existing information collections. Also, the Farm Storage Facility Loan Program is exempted from PRA as specified in 2014 Farm Bill; therefore, those numbers are no longer included in the collection.

The annual number of responses decreased by 12,751, while the number of respondents increases by 172 in the collection. The annual burden hours increase by 1,725 hours in the collection.

The formula used to calculate the total burden hour is estimated average time per response in hours times total annual responses.

Estimate of Respondent Burden: Public reporting burden for the information collection is estimated to average 0.503851 hours per response. The average travel time, which is included in the total burden, is estimated to be 1 hour.

Respondents: Individuals or households, businesses or other for profit farms.

Estimated Annual Number of Respondents: 182,433.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 3.8.

Estimated Total Annual Responses: 685,686.

Estimated Average Time per Response: 0.503851 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 345,484 hours.

We are requesting comments on all aspects of this information collection to help us to:

(1) Evaluate whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of FSA, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(2) Evaluate the accuracy of FSA's estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(3) Enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected;

(4) 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 comments received in response to this notice, including names and addresses when provided, will be a matter of public record. Comments will be summarized and included in the

submission for Office of Management and Budget approval.

Val Dolcini,

Administrator, Farm Service Agency.

[FR Doc. 2015-25425 Filed 10-6-15; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Farm Service Agency

Information Collection; Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act Report

AGENCY: Farm Service Agency, USDA.

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) is requesting comments from all interested individuals and organizations on an extension of a currently approved information collection associated with the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) of 1978.

DATES: We will consider comments that we receive by December 7, 2015.

ADDRESSES: We invite you to submit comments on the notice. In your comments, include date, volume, and page number of this issue of the **Federal Register**. You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.
- *Mail:* Lesa A. Johnson, Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) Program Manager, Natural Resources Analysis Group, Economic and Policy Analysis Staff, USDA, FSA, STOP 0531, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250-0531.

You may also send comments to the Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503. Copies of the information collection may be requested by contacting Lesa A. Johnson at the above addresses.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lesa A. Johnson, (202) 720-9223.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act Report.

OMB Control Number: 0560-0097.

Expiration Date of Approval: April 30, 2016.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: AFIDA requires foreign persons who hold, acquire, or dispose of

any interest in U.S. agricultural land to report the transactions to FSA on an AFIDA report (FSA-153). The information collected is made available to States. Also, although not required by law, the information collected from the AFIDA reports is used to prepare an annual report to Congress and the President concerning the effect of foreign investment upon family farms and rural communities so that Congress may review the annual report and decide if further regulatory action is required. There is no change to the numbers in the collection.

The formula used to calculate the total burden hour is estimated average time per responses hours times total annual responses.

Estimate of Respondent Burden: Public reporting burden for the information collection is estimated to average 0.476 hours per response.

Respondents: Individuals or households, businesses or other for profit farms.

Estimated Annual Number of Respondents: 5,525.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Responses: 5,525.

Estimated Average Time per Response: 0.476 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 2,631.25 hours.

We are requesting comments on all aspects of this information collection to help us to:

(1) Evaluate whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the FSA, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(2) Evaluate the accuracy of the FSA's estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(3) Enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected;

(4) 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 comments received in response to this notice, including names and addresses when provided, will be a matter of public record. Comments will be summarized and included in the submission for Office of Management and Budget approval.