

# 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

### Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

September 11, 2019.

The Department of Agriculture has submitted the following information collection requirement(s) to Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. Comments are requested regarding: 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; the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; 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.

Comments regarding this information collection received by October 16, 2019 will be considered. Written comments should be addressed to: Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), New Executive Office Building, 725—17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20502. Commenters are encouraged to submit their comments to OMB via email to: [OIRA\\_Submission@OMB.EOP.GOV](mailto:OIRA_Submission@OMB.EOP.GOV) or fax (202) 395-5806 and to Departmental Clearance Office, USDA, OCIO, Mail Stop 7602, Washington, DC 20250-7602. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling (202) 720-8958.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number and the agency informs

potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information that such persons are not required to respond to the collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

### Rural Utilities Service

*Title:* The Rural eConnectivity Pilot Program (ReConnect Program).

*OMB Control Number:* 0572-0152.

*Summary of Collection:* Pursuant to the Pilot Program authorization in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018, Public Law 115-141, 779 (2018), RUS is to conduct a pilot broadband program under the RE Act. Under Section 601(d)(1) of the RE Act applicants are required to submit an application for loans and loan guarantees containing the information that the Secretary shall require, and that the project meet the minimum level of broadband in the service area. Section 601(d)(8) sets out the all of the reporting requirements, and the Pilot Program specifically requires that the Section 601(d)(8) reporting requirements be followed. Additionally, Section 601(h) requires that the Secretary ensure the security of any loan or guarantee.

*Need And Use of the Information:* On March 23, 2018, Congress passed the Consolidated Appropriations Act 2018 (the FY2018 Appropriations) (Pub. L. 115-141) which established a broadband loan and grant pilot program, the Rural eConnectivity Pilot Program (hereinafter the ReConnect Program). One of the essential goals of the ReConnect Program is to expand broadband service to rural areas without sufficient access to broadband, defined as 10 megabits per second (Mbps) downstream and 1 Mbps upstream. For this purpose, Congress provided RUS with \$600 million and expanded its existing authority to make loans and grants. Loans and grants are limited to the costs of the construction, improvement, and acquisition of facilities and equipment for broadband service in eligible communities. The FY2018 Appropriations also authorized technical assistance to assist the agency in expanding needed service to the most rural communities.

*Description of Respondents:* Not-for-profit institutions; Business or other for-profit; State, local, and Tribal governments.

*Number of Respondents:* 500.

*Frequency Of Responses:* Reporting: On occasion.

*Total Burden Hours:* 156,090.

**Kimble Brown,**

*Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.*

[FR Doc. 2019-19915 Filed 9-13-19; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-15-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

September 11, 2019.

The Department of Agriculture has submitted the following information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. Comments are requested regarding; 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; the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and 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.

Comments regarding this information collection received by October 16, 2019 will be considered. Written comments should be addressed to: Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), [OIRA\\_Submission@omb.eop.gov](mailto:OIRA_Submission@omb.eop.gov) or fax (202) 395-5806 and to Departmental Clearance Office, USDA, OCIO, Mail Stop 7602, Washington, DC 20250-7602. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling (202) 720-8958.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number and the agency informs potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information that such persons are not required to respond to the collection of information unless it

displays a currently valid OMB control number.

### Food and Nutrition Service

*Title:* Federal Collection Methods for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Recipient Claims.

*OMB Control Number:* 0584–0446.

*Summary of Collection:* Section 13(b) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (The Act) and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) regulations at 7 CFR 273.18 require State agencies to refer delinquent debtors for SNAP benefit over-issuance to the U.S. Department of Treasury for collection. The Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996 (DCIA), 31 U.S.C. 3701, *et seq.*, requires these debts to be referred to Treasury for collection when they are 180 days or more delinquent. Through the Treasury Offset Program (TOP), 31 CFR part 285, payments such as Federal income tax refunds, Federal salaries and other Federal payments payable to these delinquent debtors will be offset and the amount applied to the delinquent debt.

*Need and Use of the Information:* The information collected is used by individuals or households to obtain due process before debts are referred to TOP for offset. State agencies will use the collected information to provide due process to individuals/households; to add and maintain debts in TOP; to request addresses; and to certify to Treasury the accuracy and legality of debts that are submitted to TOP. Without the information, compliance with the DCIA would not be possible and departmental participation in TOP would be jeopardized.

*Description of Respondents:* 53 State, Local, or Tribal Government; 305,020 Individual or households.

*Number of Respondents:* 305,073.

*Frequency of Responses:* Recordkeeping; Reporting: On occasion; Annually.

*Total Burden Hours:* 56,653.

### Ruth Brown,

*Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.*

[FR Doc. 2019–19956 Filed 9–13–19; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–30–P

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS–2019–0055]

#### Notice of Availability of an Evaluation of the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza and Newcastle Disease Status of Romania

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

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** We are advising the public that we are proposing to recognize Romania as being free of highly pathogenic avian influenza and Newcastle disease. This proposed recognition is based on a risk evaluation we have prepared in connection with this action, which we are making available for review and comment.

**DATES:** We will consider all comments that we receive on or before November 15, 2019.

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

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to <http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=APHIS-2019-0055>.
- *Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery:* Send your comment to Docket No. APHIS–2019–0055, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3A–03.8, 4700 River Road, Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737–1238.

Supporting documents and any comments we receive on this docket may be viewed at <http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=APHIS-2019-0055> or in our reading room, which 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) 799–7039 before coming.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Javier Vargas, Senior Staff Officer, Regionalization Evaluation Services, Veterinary Services, APHIS, 4700 River Road, Unit 38, Riverdale, MD 20737–1231; (301) 851–3316; [javier.vargas@usda.gov](mailto:javier.vargas@usda.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The regulations in 9 CFR part 94 (referred to below as the regulations) govern the importation of certain animals and animal products into the United States in order to prevent the introduction of various animal diseases, including highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) and Newcastle disease. Within

part 94, § 94.6 contains requirements governing the importation of carcasses, meat, parts or products of carcasses, and eggs (other than hatching eggs) of poultry, game birds, or other birds from regions where HPAI and Newcastle disease is considered to exist.

In accordance with § 94.6(a)(1)(i) the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) maintains a list of regions in which Newcastle disease is not considered to exist. Paragraph (a)(1)(ii) states that APHIS will add a region to this list after it conducts an evaluation of the region and finds that Newcastle disease is not likely to be present in its commercial bird or poultry populations.

In accordance with § 94.6(a)(2)(i), APHIS maintains a list of regions in which HPAI is considered to exist. Paragraph (a)(2)(ii) states that APHIS will remove a region from this list only after it conducts an evaluation of the region and finds that HPAI is not likely to be present in its commercial bird or poultry populations.

The regulations in 9 CFR part 92, § 92.2, contain requirements for requesting the recognition of the animal health status of a region (as well as for the approval of the export of a particular type of animal or animal product to the United States from a foreign region). If, after review and evaluation of the information submitted in support of the request, APHIS believes the request can be safely granted, APHIS will make its evaluation available for public comment through a document published in the **Federal Register**. Following the close of the comment period, APHIS will review all comments received and will make a final determination regarding the request that will be detailed in another document published in the **Federal Register**.

The Government of Romania has requested that APHIS evaluate the HPAI and Newcastle disease status of the country. In response to Romania's request, we have prepared an evaluation, titled "APHIS Evaluation of the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza and Newcastle Disease Status of Romania" (May 2019). Based on this evaluation, we have determined that Romania's domestic poultry populations are currently free of both HPAI and Newcastle disease as defined in 9 CFR 94.0. APHIS acknowledges the continuing risk posed by wild birds in Romania and the European Union (EU); however, Romania's competent veterinary authority takes effective prevention and control measures minimizing the risk of introduction to commercial poultry, and these are sufficient to minimize the likelihood of