

controlled risk, APHIS will seek information to support concurrence with the OIE classification. This information may be publicly available information, or APHIS may request that regions supply the same information given to the OIE. APHIS will announce in the **Federal Register**, subject to public comment, its intent to concur with an OIE classification.

In accordance with this process, we are giving notice in this document that APHIS intends to concur with the OIE risk classifications of the following regions:

- *Regions of negligible risk for BSE:* Serbia.
- *Regions of controlled risk for BSE:* Ecuador.

The OIE recommendations regarding each of the above countries can be viewed at <http://www.oie.int/animal-health-in-the-world/official-disease-status/bse/list-of-bse-risk-status/>. The conclusions of the OIE scientific commission for these regions can be viewed at [https://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/International\\_Standard\\_Setting/docs/pdf/SCAD/A\\_SCAD\\_Feb2019.pdf](https://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/International_Standard_Setting/docs/pdf/SCAD/A_SCAD_Feb2019.pdf) (page 71 for Ecuador and page 68 for Serbia).

After reviewing any comments we receive, we will announce our final determination regarding the BSE classification of these regions in the **Federal Register**, along with a discussion of and response to pertinent issues raised by commenters. If APHIS recognizes the OIE negligible BSE risk designation of Serbia and/or the controlled risk BSE designation of Ecuador, the Agency will include those regions of negligible risk or controlled risk for BSE, as applicable, that is available to the public on the Agency's website at <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-and-animal-product-import-information/animal-health-status-of-regions>.

**Authority:** 7 U.S.C. 1622 and 8301–8317; 21 U.S.C. 136 and 136a; 31 U.S.C. 9701; 7 CFR 2.22, 2.80, and 371.4.

Done in Washington, DC, this 21st day of October 2019.

**Kevin Shea,**

*Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.*

[FR Doc. 2019–23343 Filed 10–24–19; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410–34–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS–2019–0072]

#### Notice of Request for Revision to and Extension of Approval of an Information Collection; Introduction of Organisms and Products Altered or Produced Through Genetic Engineering

**ACTION:** Revision to and extension of approval of an 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 a revision to and extension of approval of an information collection associated with the regulations for the introduction of organisms and products altered or produced through genetic engineering.

**DATES:** We will consider all comments that we receive on or before December 24, 2019.

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

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to <http://www.regulations.gov/#/docketDetail;D=APHIS-2019-0072>.
- *Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery:* Send your comment to Docket No. APHIS–2019–0072, 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-2019-0072> 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:** For information regarding the regulations for the introduction of organisms and products altered or produced through genetic engineering, contact Ms. Cynthia A. Eck, Document Control Officer, Communications Group, BRS, APHIS, 4700 River Road, Unit 146, Riverdale, MD 20737; (301) 851–3892. For more detailed information on the information collection, contact Mr. Joseph Moxey, APHIS' Information Collection Coordinator, at (301) 851–2483.

## SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Title:* 7 CFR part 340; Introduction of Organisms and Products Altered or Produced Through Genetic Engineering.

*OMB Control Number:* 0579–0085.

*Type of Request:* Revision to and extension of approval of an information collection.

*Abstract:* Under the Plant Protection Act (PPA, 7 U.S.C. 7701 *et seq.*), the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to prohibit or restrict the importation, entry, or movement in interstate commerce of any plant, plant product, biological control organism, noxious weed, article, or means of conveyance, if the Secretary determines that the prohibition or restriction is necessary to prevent the introduction or the dissemination of a plant pest into the United States.

Under this authority, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has established 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," that govern the introduction (importation, interstate movement, or release into the environment) of covered genetically engineered organisms and products ("regulated articles"). A permit must be obtained or a notification acknowledged before a regulated article may be introduced. The regulations set forth the permit application requirements and the notification procedures for the introduction of a regulated article and necessitate certain activities including APHIS-issued permits, petitions, appeals, labeling containers, applicants' field testing records, documentation for approved training programs, submission of protocols to ensure compliance, memorandums of understanding, grants, and recordkeeping.

We are asking the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve our use of these information collection activities, as described, for an additional 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 1.48 hours per response.

*Respondents:* State and Tribal government agricultural representatives and applicants from agricultural companies.

*Estimated annual number of respondents:* 483.

*Estimated annual number of responses per respondent:* 18.

*Estimated annual number of responses:* 8,780.

*Estimated total annual burden on respondents:* 12,983 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 2019.

**Kevin Shea,**

*Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.*

[FR Doc. 2019-23344 Filed 10-24-19; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-34-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Food and Nutrition Service

#### **Agency Information Collection Activities: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: State Agency Options for Standard Utility Allowances and Self-Employment Income**

**AGENCY:** Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice invites the general public and other public agencies to comment on this proposed information collection. This collection is a revision of a currently approved collection. This information collection addresses the State agency reporting burden associated with the following State agency options under the Supplemental

Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP): Establishing and reviewing standard utility allowances (SUAs) and establishing methodology for offsetting cost of producing self-employment income.

**DATES:** Written comments must be received on or before December 24, 2019.

**ADDRESSES:** The Food and Nutrition Service, USDA, invites interested persons to submit written comment.

- *Preferred Method:* Federal eRulemaking Portal. Go to <http://www.regulations.gov>, and follow the online instructions for submitting comments electronically.

- *Mail:* Send comments to Certification Policy Branch, Program Development Division, FNS, 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, Virginia 22302.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval. All comments will be a matter of public record.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Requests for additional information or copies of this information collection should be directed to the Certification Policy Branch, Program Development Division, FNS, 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, Virginia 22302 or via email to [SNAPCPBRules@usda.gov](mailto:SNAPCPBRules@usda.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** 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 shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions that were used; (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 use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

*Title:* Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: State Agency Options for Standard Utility Allowances and Self-Employment Income.

*Form Number:* None.

*OMB Number:* 0584-0496.

*Expiration Date:* March 31, 2020.

*Type of Request:* Revision of a currently approved collection.

*Abstract:* The information collection addresses the mandatory State agency

information and burden estimates associated with the following State agency options under SNAP: Establishing and reviewing SUAs and establishing methodology for offsetting cost of producing self-employment income.

SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.9(d)(6)(iii) allow State agencies to establish SUAs in place of the actual utility costs incurred by a household. State agencies are required to review and adjust SUAs annually to reflect changes in the costs of utilities. States must provide the amounts of the standards to FNS when they have changed, and submit methodologies used in developing and updating standards to FNS for approval when the methodologies are updated or changed.

SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.11(b) allow for self-employment income to be reduced by the cost of producing such income. The regulations allow the State agencies, with approval from FNS, to establish the methodology for offsetting the costs of producing self-employment income, as long as the procedure does not increase program costs. Most State agencies provide methodology information on written letterhead and typically submit it via email. Once approved by FNS, States can use these methodologies to determine net self-employment income for SNAP eligibility purposes.

This notice invites comments on the revisions made to the State Agency Options information collection for SNAP to reflect changes in the number of States electing to establish a methodology for offsetting the costs of producing self-employment income. Based on information provided in the Fourteenth Edition of the SNAP State Options Report, published on May 31, 2018, FNS proposes increasing this figure from 21 State agencies to 23 State agencies since the previous information collection renewal.

Using FNS-388 and 388A (approved under OMB Control Number 0584-0594; expiration date: 09/30/2019 (currently going through OMB approval process)), States send aggregate level data on participation, benefits issued, and other basic program information to FNS using the Food Programs Reporting System (FPRS) at <https://fprs.fns.usda.gov>. This collection uses information submitted in these FNS approved forms as supplemental data. However, this collection is not seeking approval for burden hours associated with the use of these forms because the burden is already accounted for under OMB Control Number 0584-0594.

FNS is currently in the process of conducting a limited number of