

Notices

Federal Register

Vol. 89, No. 230

Friday, November 29, 2024

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 Agricultural Statistics Service

Notice of Intent To Request Revision and Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the intention of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) to request revision and extension of a currently approved information collection, the Cold Storage Survey. Revisions to burden hours will be needed due to changes in the size of the target population, updated data collection plan, and the estimated average burden minutes to complete each questionnaire. The questionnaires have had some minor modifications to accommodate changes in the products stored by the industry, and to make the questionnaires easier to complete. The target population of cold storage operators (both mandatory and voluntary samples) will be contacted for this data on a monthly basis. The capacity survey is conducted once every other year of all operations with refrigerated storage capacity. Most of these surveys are voluntary; the one exception is for operations that store certain manufactured dairy products that are required by Public Law 106–532 and 107–171 to respond.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by January 28, 2025 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by docket number 0535–0001, by any of the following methods:

- *Email:* ombofficer@nass.usda.gov. Include docket number above in the subject line of the message.
- *E-fax:* (855) 838–6382.

- *Mail:* Mail any paper, disk, or CD–ROM submissions to: Richard Hopper, NASS Clearance Officer, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 5336 South Building, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250–2024.

- *Hand Delivery/Courier:* Hand deliver to: Richard Hopper, NASS Clearance Officer, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 5336 South Building, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250–2024.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Joseph J. Prusacki, Associate Administrator, National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 202–720–4333. Copies of this information collection and related instructions can be obtained without charge from Richard Hopper, NASS—OMB Clearance Officer, at 202–720–2206 or at ombofficer@nass.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Cold Storage Survey.
OMB Control Number: 0535–0001.
Expiration Date of Approval: May 31, 2025.

Type of Request: To revise and extend a currently approved information collection for a period of three years.

Abstract: The primary objective of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is to collect, prepare, and issue State and national estimates of crop and livestock production, prices, and disposition; as well as economic statistics, environmental statistics related to agriculture and also to conduct the Census of Agriculture.

The monthly Cold Storage Survey provides information on national supplies of food commodities in refrigerated storage facilities. A biennial survey of refrigerated warehouse capacity is also conducted to provide a benchmark of the capacity available for refrigerated storage of the nation's food supply. Information on stocks of food commodities that are in refrigerated facilities have a major impact on the price, marketing, processing, and distribution of agricultural products.

Authority: These data will be collected under authority of 7 U.S.C. 2204(a). Individually identifiable data collected under this authority are governed by Section 1770 of the Food Security Act of 1985 as amended, 7 U.S.C. 2276, which requires USDA to afford strict confidentiality to non-aggregated data provided by

respondents. This notice is submitted in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, (Pub. L. 104–13) and Office of Management and Budget regulations at 5 CFR part 1320.

All NASS employees and NASS contractors must also fully comply with all provisions of the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act (CIPSEA) of 2018, Title III of Public Law 115–435, codified in 44 U.S.C. Ch. 35. CIPSEA supports NASS's pledge of confidentiality to all respondents and facilitates the agency's efforts to reduce burden by supporting statistical activities of collaborative agencies through designation of NASS agents, subject to the limitations and penalties described in CIPSEA.

Most of these surveys are voluntary; the one exception is for operations that store certain manufactured dairy products that are required by Public Law 106–532 and 107–171 to respond.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this information collection is based on two individual surveys with expected responses of 15–30 minutes. The Refrigerated Capacity Survey is conducted once every two years, the Cold Storage survey is conducted monthly.

Respondents: Refrigerated storage facilities.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1,600.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: With an estimated response rate of approximately 85%, we estimate the burden to be 5,200 hours.

Copies of this information collection and related instructions can be obtained without charge from Richard Hopper, NASS Clearance Officer, at (202) 720–2206.

Comments: 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 will 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 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, through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, technological, or

other forms of information technology collection methods.

All responses to this notice will become a matter of public record and be summarized in the request for OMB approval.

Signed at Washington, DC, November 5, 2024.

Joseph J. Prusacki,

Associate Administrator.

[FR Doc. 2024–28065 Filed 11–27–24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–20–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS–2024–0052]

Notice of Request for Approval of an Information Collection; Study of Human Behavior and Attitudes Linked to Human-Deer Transmission of SARS–CoV–2

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 an approval of a new information collection associated with a study to understand human behavior and attitudes linked to human-deer transmission of SARS–CoV–2.

DATES: We will consider all comments that we receive on or before January 28, 2025.

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

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to www.regulations.gov. Enter APHIS–2024–0052 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–2024–0052, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 2C–10.16, 4700 River Road, Unit 25, Riverdale, MD 20737–1238.

Supporting documents and any comments we receive on this docket may be viewed at 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 this human-deer transmission of SARS–CoV–2 study, contact Dr. Keith Carlisle, Supervisory Social Scientist/Human Dimensions Unit Leader, National Wildlife Research Center, WS, APHIS, 4101 La Porte Ave, Fort Collins, CO 80521; (970) 266–6047; email: keith.m.carlisle@usda.gov. For more information on the information collection process, contact Mr. Joseph Moxey, APHIS' Paperwork Reduction Act Coordinator; (301) 851–2533; email joseph.moxey@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Study of Human Behavior and Attitudes Linked to Human-Deer Transmission of SARS–CoV–2.

OMB Control Number: 0579–XXXX.

Type of Request: Approval of a new information collection.

Abstract: Under the Act of March 2, 1931 (7 U.S.C. 8351), the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to conduct a program of wildlife services with respect to injurious animal species and take any action the Secretary considers necessary in conducting the program. Additionally, the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to conduct activities to control nuisance mammals and birds (except for urban rodent control) and those mammals and bird species that are reservoirs for zoonotic disease. This authority has been delegated to the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's (APHIS') Wildlife Services (WS). Two responsibilities of the Deputy Administrator of WS are to assist Federal, State, local, and foreign agencies and individuals with regard to wildlife damage and control and conduct research to develop wildlife damage management methods (7 CFR 371.6).

There has been spillover and sustained transmission of SARS–CoV–2 (SCV2) among animal populations, and this has raised significant questions regarding the potential establishment of disease reservoirs among wildlife species. SCV2 infection has been observed in white-tailed deer (WTD) populations across much of the United States, suggesting that deer may serve as a vector and potential reservoir for the disease. While experts suggest human-to-deer transmission is likely, the activities or factors that facilitate transmission have yet to be identified.

Experts suggest that human behaviors likely contribute to the direct and indirect transmission pathways between humans and WTD. Previous research highlights direct contact (feeding or touching) or aerosol transmission (interacting in close proximity) as likely

routes of spillover. However, indirect transmission through fomites (use of attractants, leaving out feed for wildlife, trash/refuse) or environmental contamination (waste, septic or wastewater overflow) cannot be dismissed.

Little research has been done to explore the nuances of human-deer interactions relevant to SCV2 transmission. Understanding the perceptions, attitudes, and behaviors of community groups relevant to SCV2 spillover and spillback is a pivotal aspect of managing and mitigating current and future threats. While previous research has explored human dimensions aspects related to deer management, it is often done in the context of rural communities or through the lens of consumptive use, such as hunting. Further exploration of human-deer interactions among a larger diversity of stakeholders and within the specific context of disease management is needed.

For this study, APHIS has established a cooperative agreement with the University of Minnesota to administer quantitative surveys among members of the public in five States (Illinois, Minnesota, New York, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee). The survey will collect data concerning the values, beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors associated with humans' interactions with WTD. This information will provide critical data to inform future disease surveillance, mitigation strategies, and policies aimed at curtailing SCV2 transmission between humans and WTD. This information will be useful for informing future disease surveillance and management efforts by providing in-depth analysis of the social and cognitive drivers of human-deer interactions.

The information collection activity associated with this study consists of a multi-item questionnaire administered to members of the public with primary residence in the States of Illinois, Minnesota, New York, Pennsylvania, or Tennessee.

We are asking the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve our use of this information collection activity 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