

USDA that they are in fact importers of cattle, beef, or beef products, pursuant to § 1260.143(b)(2) of the Order [7 CFR 1260.143(b)(2)]. Individual importers are encouraged to contact AMS at the above address to obtain further information concerning the nomination process, including the beginning and ending dates of the established nomination period and required nomination forms and background information sheets. Certification and nomination procedures were promulgated in the final rule, published in the April 4, 1986, **Federal Register** (51 FR 11557) and currently appear at 7 CFR 1260.500 through § 1260.640. Organizations which have previously been certified to nominate members to the Board do not need to reapply for certification to nominate producers and importers for the upcoming vacancies.

The Act and the Order provide that the members of the Board shall serve for terms of 3 years. The Order also requires USDA to announce when a Board vacancy does or will exist. The following States have one or more members whose terms will expire in early 2006:

State or unit	Number of vacancies
Arkansas .....	1
California .....	1
Colorado .....	1
Florida .....	1
Idaho .....	1
Kansas .....	3
Kentucky .....	1
Missouri .....	1
Montana .....	1
Nebraska .....	2
New Mexico .....	1
North Dakota .....	1
Oklahoma .....	2
Pennsylvania .....	1
South Dakota .....	1
Texas .....	5
Virginia .....	1
Importers .....	5

Since there are no anticipated vacancies on the Board for the remaining States' or units, nominations will not be solicited from the certified organizations or associations in those States or units.

Uncertified eligible producer organizations and general farm organizations in all States that are interested in being certified as eligible to nominate cattle producers for appointment to the listed producer positions, must complete and submit an official "Application for Certification of Organization or Association," which must be received by close of business March 21, 2005. Uncertified eligible importer organizations that are

interested in being certified as eligible to nominate importers for appointment to the listed importer positions must apply by the same date. Importers should not use the application form but should provide the requested information by letter as provided for in 7 CFR 1260.540(b). Applications from States or units without vacant positions on the Board and other applications not received within the 30-day period after publication of this Notice in the **Federal Register** will be considered for eligibility to nominate producers or importers for subsequent vacancies on the Board.

Only those organizations or associations which meet the criteria for certification of eligibility promulgated at 7 CFR 1260.530 are eligible for certification. Those criteria are:

(a) For State organizations or associations:  
 (1) Total paid membership must be comprised of at least a majority of cattle producers or represent at least a majority of cattle producers in a State or unit.

(2) Membership must represent a substantial number of producers who produce a substantial number of cattle in such State or unit.

(3) There must be a history of stability and permanency, and

(4) There must be a primary or overriding purpose of promoting the economic welfare of cattle producers.

(b) For organizations or associations representing importers, the determination by USDA as to the eligibility of importer organizations or associations to nominate members to the Board shall be based on applications containing the following information:

(1) The number and type of members represented (*i.e.*, beef or cattle importers, etc.),

(2) Annual import volume in pounds of beef and beef products and/or the number of head of cattle,

(3) The stability and permanency of the importer organization or association,

(4) The number of years in existence, and

(5) The names of the countries of origin for cattle, beef, or beef products imported.

All certified organizations and associations, including those that were previously certified in the States or units having vacant positions on the Board, will be notified simultaneously in writing of the beginning and ending dates of the established nomination period and will be provided with required nomination forms and background information sheets.

The names of qualified nominees received by the established due date

will be submitted to USDA for consideration as appointees to the Board.

The information collection requirements referenced in this notice have been previously approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under the provisions of 44 U.S.C., Chapter 35 and have been assigned OMB No. 0581-0093, except Board member nominee information sheets are assigned OMB No. 0505-0001.

**Authority:** 7 U.S.C. 2901 *et seq.*

Dated: February 14, 2005.

**Kenneth C. Clayton,**

*Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.*

[FR Doc. 05-3071 Filed 2-16-05; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-02-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service**

[Docket No. 04-136-1]

**Notice of Request for Extension of Approval of an Information Collection**

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

**ACTION:** 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 an extension of approval of an information collection associated with the Cooperative State-Federal Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication Program.

**DATES:** We will consider all comments that we receive on or before April 18, 2005.

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

- **EDOCKET:** Go to <http://www.epa.gov/feddoCKET> to submit or view public comments, access the index listing of the contents of the official public docket, and to access those documents in the public docket that are available electronically. Once you have entered EDOCKET, click on the "View Open APHIS Dockets" link to locate this document.

- **Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery:** Please send four copies of your comment (an original and three copies) to Docket No. 04-136-1, 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. 04-136-1.

**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:** You may view APHIS documents published in the **Federal Register** and related information on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppd/rad/webrepor.html>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For information regarding the Cooperative State-Federal Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication Program, contact Dr. Michael Dutcher, National Tuberculosis Program Coordinator, Eradication and Surveillance Team, National Center for Animal Health Programs, VS, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 43, Riverdale, MD 20737; (301) 734-5467. 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:* Tuberculosis.

*OMB Number:* 0579-0084.

*Type of Request:* Extension of approval of an information collection.

*Abstract:* The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of the United States Department of Agriculture is responsible for, among other things, preventing the interstate spread of serious diseases and pests of livestock, and for eradicating such diseases from the United States when feasible.

In connection with this mission, APHIS participates in the Cooperative State-Federal Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication Program, which is a national program to eliminate bovine tuberculosis from the United States. Bovine tuberculosis is a serious disease of livestock that also affects humans through contact with infected animals or their byproducts.

The Cooperative State-Federal Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication Program is conducted under the various States' authorities supplemented by Federal regulations on the interstate movement of affected animals. A concerted effort (State and Federal) requires that we conduct epidemiologic investigations to locate the disease and provide an

effective means of controlling it. Federal regulations also provide for the payment of indemnity to owners of animals that must be destroyed because of tuberculosis.

This program necessitates the use of a number of information-gathering documents, including various forms needed to properly identify, test, and transport animals that have been infected with tuberculosis, or that may have been exposed to tuberculosis. We also employ national epidemiology forms for the purposes of recording, reporting, and reviewing epidemiological data. Still other documents provide us with the information we need to pay indemnity to the owners of animals destroyed because of tuberculosis.

The information provided by these documents is critical to our ability to locate herds infected with tuberculosis and to prevent the interstate spread of tuberculosis. The collection of this information is therefore crucial to the success of the Cooperative State-Federal Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication Program.

We are asking the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve our use of these information collection activities 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 reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 0.324473748 hours per response.

*Respondents:* State animal health protection personnel, accredited veterinarians, livestock inspectors, shippers, herd owners, and slaughter establishment personnel.

*Estimated annual number of respondents:* 6,897.

*Estimated annual number of responses per respondent:* 7.762650427.

*Estimated annual number of responses:* 53,539.

*Estimated total annual burden on respondents:* 17,372 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 11th day of February 2005.

**Elizabeth E. Gaston,**

*Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.*

[FR Doc. 05-3056 Filed 2-16-05; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-34-P**

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**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**Food Safety and Inspection Service**

[Docket No. 02-046N]

**Generic *E. coli* and *Salmonella* Baseline Results**

**AGENCY:** Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice.

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**SUMMARY:** The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is making available and publishing the results of baseline studies that it has conducted on generic *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) and *Salmonella*. Although these studies were conducted between 1997 and 2000, FSIS has decided to make the results available because they may assist inspected establishments in assessing their processes. The publication of these baseline results does not affect the current generic *E. coli* criteria and *Salmonella* standards listed in the regulations.

**ADDRESSES:** FSIS invites interested persons to submit comments on these baseline results. Comments may be submitted by the following methods:

- Mail, including floppy disks or CD-ROM's, and hand-or courier-delivered items: Send to Docket Clerk, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, 300 12th Street, SW., Room 102 Cotton Annex, Washington, DC 20250.

All submissions received must include the Agency name and docket number 02-046N.

All comments submitted in response to this notice, as well as research and background information used by FSIS in developing this document, will be