

and other government agencies are users of the compiled information.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit.

Number of Respondents: 696.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion; Weekly; Annually.

Total Burden Hours: 599.

Agricultural Marketing Service

Title: Reporting Forms Under Milk Marketing Order Programs.

OMB Control Number: 0581-0032.

Summary of Collection: Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) oversees the administration of the Federal Milk Marketing Orders authorized by the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, as amended. The Act is designed to improve returns to producers while protecting the interests of consumers. The Federal Milk Marketing Order regulations require places certain requirements on the handling of milk in the area it covers. Currently, there are 11 milk marketing orders regulating the handling of milk in the respective marketing areas.

Need and Use of the Information: The information collected is needed to administer the classified pricing system and related requirements of each Federal Order. Forms are used for reporting purposes and to establish the quantity of milk received by handlers, the pooling status of the handler, and the class-use of the milk used by the handler and the butterfat content and amounts of other components of the milk. Without the monthly information, the market administrator would not have the information to compute each monthly price nor know if handlers were paying producers on dates prescribed in the order. Penalties are imposed for violation of the order, such as the failure to pay producers by the prescribed dates.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit; Not-for-profit institutions; Individuals or households; Farms.

Number of Respondents: 745.

Frequency of Responses: Recordkeeping; Reporting: On occasion; Quarterly; Monthly; Annually.

Total Burden Hours: 28,559.

Agricultural Marketing Service

Title: Specified Commodities Imported Into the United States Exempt From Import Requirements, 7 CFR part 944, 980, and 999.

OMB Control Number: 0581-0167.

Summary of Collection: Section 608e of the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937 (AMAA), as amended (7 U.S.C. 601-674), requires that whenever the Secretary of

Agriculture issues grade, size, quality, or maturity regulations under domestic Federal marketing orders, the same or comparable regulations must be used for imported commodities. Import regulations apply only during those periods when domestic marketing order regulations are in effect. No person may import products for processing or other exempt purposes unless an executed Importers Exempt Commodity Form (SC-6) accompanies the shipment. Both the shipper and receiver are required to register in the Compliance and Enforcement Management System (CEMS) to electronically file an SC-6 certificate to notify the Marketing Order and Agreement Division (MOAD) of the exemption activity. MOAD provides information on its website about the commodities imported under section 8e of the Act and directions to the CEMS portal. The Civil Penalty Stipulation Agreement (SC-7) is a "volunteer" form that provides the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) with an additional tool to obtain resolution of certain cases without the cost of going to a hearing.

Need and Use of the Information: The importers wishing to import commodities will use the electronic or paper version of form SC-6, "Importer's Exempt Commodity." The information collected includes information on the imported product (type of product and lot identification), the importer's contact information, the U.S. Customs entry number, inspection date, and intended use (processing, charity, livestock/animal feed). In a situation where a party is alleged to have violated the importation regulations, AMS can use SC-7, "Civil Penalty Stipulation Agreement" form to settle the matter in exchange for the payment of a fine. AMS utilizes the information to ensure that imported goods destined for exempt outlets are given no less favorable treatment than afforded to domestic goods destined for such exempt outlets. If the information is not collected, AMS would have no way of maintaining a safe and legal import program for fruits, vegetables, and specialty crops, as this is the only method of securing compliance with section 8e of the Act.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit; Not-for-profit institutions.

Number of Respondents: 79.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 581.

Agricultural Marketing Service

Title: Organic Handler Market Promotion Assessment Exemption Under Federal Marketing Orders.

OMB Control Number: 0581-0216.

Summary of Collection: Marketing order programs provide an opportunity for producers of fresh fruit, vegetables, and specialty crops in specified production areas to work together to solve marketing problems that cannot be solved individually. Under the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937 as amended (7 U.S.C. 601-674), marketing orders may authorize production and marketing research, including paid advertising, to promote various commodities, which is paid for by assessments that are levied on the handlers who are regulated by the Orders.

Section 10004 of the 2014 Farm Bill expanded the organic assessment exemption originally established by the FAIR Act. The 2014 Farm Bill allows all organic handlers to apply for an exemption from assessments on products certified as "organic" or "100 percent organic," regardless of whether the handler also markets conventional or non-organic products. At the same time, the 2014 Farm bill reduced the per response time to complete the form from 30 minutes to 15 minutes.

Need and Use of the Information: Handlers submit the completed SC-649 form to the appropriate committee, board or council once a year to apply for an assessment exemption to a certain percentage. The information gathered on this form is necessary to assist the committees, boards and councils to determine an applicant's eligibility assessment exemption and to verify compliance.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit; Farms.

Number of Respondents: 210.

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

Total Burden Hours: 53.

Levi S. Harrell,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2024-03854 Filed 2-23-24; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS-2024-0003]

Notice of Request for Approval of an Information Collection; Study To Understand Knowledge and Beliefs About Translocation of Wild Pigs

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 approval of a new information collection associated with a study to understand knowledge and beliefs about translocation and release of wild pigs.

DATES: We will consider all comments that we receive on or before April 26, 2024.

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

- **Federal eRulemaking Portal:** Go to www.regulations.gov. Enter APHIS–2024–0003 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–2024–0003, 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 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 wild pig study, contact Dr. Keith Carlisle, Supervisory Social Scientist/Human Dimensions Unit Leader, National Wildlife Research Center, WS, APHIS, USDA, 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, at (301) 851–2533.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Study to Understand Knowledge and Beliefs about Translocation of Wild Pigs.

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 (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).

As part of WS, the mission of the National Feral Swine Damage Management Program is to protect agricultural and natural resources, property, animal health, and human health and safety by managing damage caused by wild pigs (*Sus scrofa*), also known as feral swine, feral hogs, wild hogs, and wild boar, in the United States and its territories. Wild pigs are an invasive species in the United States and are present in at least 35 States. The control of wild pig populations has become a State and national priority due to their propensity to damage agricultural commodities and infrastructure, transmit disease, affect ecological processes, and compete with native wildlife for resources. However, each State varies in its policy and management approaches to control wild pig populations based on numerous considerations, including its resource appropriations and stakeholder interests. Most States have issued restrictions on transporting and releasing wild pigs, an activity that may be undertaken to establish new populations for sport hunting purposes and has contributed to the expansion of wild pig populations over the last several decades. However, resources for enforcement in many States may be limited, and it is unclear whether hunters and members of the public are aware of these restrictions. It is therefore uncertain whether State law restrictions on wild pig translocation are having the intended effect.

Through the APHIS WS National Wildlife Research Center, a Federal institution devoted to resolving human-wildlife conflict, APHIS would like to conduct an online survey of hunters and members of the public in five southeastern States that would measure knowledge and beliefs about the transportation and release of wild pigs. Current information on knowledge and beliefs about the transportation and release of wild pigs is critical to identify potential conflicts and barriers to future

management efforts of wild pig populations. APHIS anticipates that, among other things, results of the study may inform State efforts to provide targeted information where needed about State law restrictions on the translocation of wild pigs.

The information collection activity associated with the study consists of a multi-item questionnaire administered to both hunters and members of the public with primary residence in the State of Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, 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 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 0.40 hours per response.

Respondents: Hunters and members of the public whose primary residence is in the State of Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, or Tennessee.

Estimated annual number of respondents: 6,667.

Estimated annual number of responses per respondent: 1.0.

Estimated annual number of responses: 6,667.

Estimated total annual burden on respondents: 2,667 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 20th day of February 2024.

Michael Watson,

Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 2024-03790 Filed 2-23-24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS-2021-0075]

Notice of Decision To Authorize the Importation of Ugu Leaves (*Telfairia occidentalis* Hook.f.) From Nigeria Into the Continental United States

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: We are advising the public of our decision to authorize the importation of fresh Ugu leaves (*Telfairia occidentalis* Hook.f.) from Nigeria into the continental United States. Based on findings of a pest risk analysis, which we made available to the public for review and comment through a previous notice, we have determined that the application of one or more designated phytosanitary measures will be sufficient to mitigate the risks of introducing or disseminating plant pests or noxious weeds via the importation of fresh Ugu leaves from Nigeria.

DATES: Imports may be authorized beginning February 26, 2024.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Gina Stiltner, Senior Regulatory Policy Specialist, Regulatory Coordination and Compliance, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road, Unit 133, Riverdale, MD 20737-1231; (518) 760-2468; Gina.L.Stiltner@USDA.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Under the regulations in “Subpart L—Fruits and Vegetables” (7 CFR 319.56–1 through 319.56–12, referred to below as the regulations), the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) prohibits or restricts the importation of fruits and vegetables into the United States from certain parts of the world to prevent plant pests from being introduced into or disseminated within the United States.

Section 319.56–4 contains a performance-based process for approving the importation of commodities that, based on the findings of a pest risk analysis, can be safely

imported subject to one or more of the designated phytosanitary measures listed in paragraph (b) of that section. Under that process, APHIS proposes to authorize the importation of a fruit or vegetable into the United States if, based on findings of a pest risk analysis, we determine that the measures can mitigate the plant pest risk associated with the importation of that fruit or vegetable. APHIS then publishes a notice in the **Federal Register** announcing the availability of the pest risk analysis that evaluates the risks associated with the importation of a particular fruit or vegetable. Following the close of the 60-day comment period, APHIS will issue a subsequent **Federal Register** notice announcing whether or not we will authorize the importation of the fruit or vegetable subject to the phytosanitary measures specified in the notice.

In accordance with that process, we published a notice¹ in the **Federal Register** on August 28, 2023 (88 FR 58542–58543, Docket No. APHIS-2021-0075) in which we announced the availability, for review and comment, of a pest risk analysis that evaluated the risks associated with the importation of fresh Ugu leaves (*Telfairia occidentalis* Hook.f.) from Nigeria into the continental United States. The pest risk analysis consisted of a risk assessment identifying pests of quarantine significance that could follow the pathway of the importation of fresh Ugu leaves (*Telfairia occidentalis* Hook.f.) from Nigeria into the continental United States and a risk management document (RMD) identifying phytosanitary measures to be applied to that commodity to mitigate the pest risk.

We solicited comments on the notice for 60 days, ending on October 27, 2023. We received no comments by that date.

Therefore, in accordance with § 319.56–4(c)(3)(iii), we are announcing our decision to authorize the importation into the continental United States of fresh Ugu leaves from Nigeria subject to the phytosanitary measures identified in the RMD that accompanied the initial notice.

These conditions will be listed in the USDA, APHIS Agricultural Commodity Import Requirements (ACIR) database (<https://acir.aphis.usda.gov/s/>).² In addition to these specific measures, each shipment must be subject to the general requirements listed in § 319.56–

3 that are applicable to the importation of all fruits and vegetables.

Paperwork Reduction Act

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), the recordkeeping and burden requirements associated with this action are included under the Office of Management and Budget control number 0579–0049.

E-Government Act Compliance

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service is committed to compliance with the E-Government Act to promote the use of the internet and other information technologies, to provide increased opportunities for citizen access to Government information and services, and for other purposes. For information pertinent to E-Government Act compliance related to this notice, please contact Mr. Joseph Moxey, APHIS' Paperwork Reduction Act Coordinator, at (301) 851-2483.

Congressional Review Act

Pursuant to the Congressional Review Act (5 U.S.C. 801 *et seq.*), the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs designated this action as not a major rule, as defined by 5 U.S.C. 804(2).

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 1633, 7701–7772, and 7781–7786; 21 U.S.C. 136 and 136a; 7 CFR 2.22, 2.80, and 371.3.

Done in Washington, DC, this 20th day of February 2024.

Michael Watson,

Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 2024-03789 Filed 2-23-24; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

[Docket Number: RUS-23-Telecom-0022]

Amended Notice of Funding Opportunity for the Rural eConnectivity Program for Fiscal Year 2024; Extension of Submission Deadline

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice, extension of submission deadline.

SUMMARY: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS, Agency), a Rural Development (RD) agency of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), announced its acceptance of applications under the Rural eConnectivity (ReConnect) program for fiscal year (FY) 2024 in the **Federal Register** on February 21, 2024. This

¹ To view the notice and the supporting documents, go to www.regulations.gov. Enter APHIS-2021-0075 in the Search field.

² On September 30, 2022, the APHIS Fruits and Vegetables Import Requirements (FAVIR) database was replaced by the ACIR database.