

*Description of Respondents:* Business; Individual or Household.  
*Number of Respondents:* 200.  
*Frequency of Responses:* Reporting: On occasion; Annually.  
*Total Burden Hours:* 265.

**Rachelle Ragland-Greene,**  
Departmental Information Collection  
Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2025-06674 Filed 4-17-25; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-34-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS-2022-0055]

#### Notice of Availability of Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Outbreak Response Activities for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Outbreaks in Poultry in the United States and U.S. Territories

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

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** We are advising the public that a final programmatic environmental impact statement (EIS) has been prepared by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service relative to our response activities to highly pathogenic avian influenza outbreaks in commercial and backyard poultry operations located throughout the United States. The final EIS analyses and compares the potential environmental effects of using three action alternatives during an HPAI outbreak. We are making this final programmatic EIS available to the public for review.

**DATES:** There will be a 30-day review period to May 19, 2025, after which time the agency will issue a Record of Decision (ROD).

**ADDRESSES:** The final EIS is available for review at:

- The Federal eRulemaking Portal. Go to [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov). Enter APHIS-2022-0055 in the Search field.
- In our reading room, located in room 1620 of the USDA South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250. 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:** Ms. Chelsea Bare, Chief of Staff, Veterinary Services, APHIS, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue

SW, Whitten Building Room 318-E, Washington, DC 20250; [chelsea.j.bare@usda.gov](mailto:chelsea.j.bare@usda.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to protect the health of livestock, including poultry, in the United States by preventing the introduction and interstate spread of serious diseases and pests of livestock, and for eradicating such diseases within the United States when feasible (7 U.S.C. 8301-8322). This authority has been delegated to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS).

Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) is one such serious disease of livestock. In February of 2004, the first outbreak of HPAI in the United States in 20 years occurred in Texas. Since then, HPAI outbreaks in poultry have continued to occur across the United States and impact commercial poultry facilities and backyard flocks.

USDA APHIS VS works closely with States, Tribes, and the poultry industry to prevent HPAI from becoming established in the U.S. poultry population. Once established, HPAI rapidly spreads within and between flocks and can cause severe, painful conditions, including hemorrhaging and neurologic conditions, widespread organ failure, and high mortality. Keeping our nation's poultry operations free from HPAI helps protect the poultry industry, farmers' livelihoods, the availability of poultry and poultry products for U.S. consumers, international trade, the health of wild birds, and the health of people who are in close, regular contact with poultry. While HPAI is extremely infectious and fatal in poultry, the risks from HPAI infections to humans are low.

USDA APHIS VS has prepared a programmatic environmental impact statement (EIS) to analyze the potential environmental impacts associated with action alternatives that could be taken during an HPAI outbreak in poultry in the United States. The chosen alternative must (1) detect, control, and contain HPAI in poultry as quickly as possible; (2) eradicate the HPAI virus using strategies that protect public health and the environment, and stabilize animal agriculture, the food supply, and the economy; and (3) provide science- and risk-based approaches and systems to facilitate continuity of business for non-infected animals and non-contaminated animal products. The findings of the programmatic EIS will be used to support HPAI outbreak response activity

planning and decision-making and enhance the decisionmakers' ability to protect the environment and human health when an HPAI outbreak occurs. USDA APHIS VS may use information presented in this EIS to promptly fulfill its National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) obligations and any future, relevant site-specific NEPA documents may tie to it. The EIS also informs the public about the potential environmental effects of HPAI outbreak response activities.

The final programmatic EIS presents the purpose and need for the action, a description of the affected environment, and an analysis of potential environmental impacts of three alternative actions: (1) No Federal Operational Assistance Alternative; (2) Federal Operational Assistance (No Action) Alternative; and (3) Federal Operational Assistance with Biosecurity Incentive Alternative (Preferred Alternative).

Under the No Federal Operational Assistance Alternative, State and local authorities, Tribes, and poultry owners and producers would be responsible for depopulating HPAI-infected flocks, disposing of carcasses and other potentially HPAI-contaminated materials, and managing any necessary transportation, cleanup and disinfection. USDA APHIS VS would not be involved in managing, overseeing, and/or actively implementing any of these operational activities. State authorities, Tribes, and poultry owners and producers would make all the decisions regarding the depopulation and carcass disposal methods chosen for implementation. Upon request from the States, Tribes, or poultry owners and producers, USDA APHIS VS would provide technical guidance (e.g., recommendations, issuance of guidance documents) about surveillance testing to owners and producers of commercial and backyard flocks that are not experiencing signs of clinical illness to determine if infections of the virus have occurred. USDA APHIS VS may provide indemnity and/or financial compensation.

Under the Federal Operational Assistance Alternative, USDA APHIS VS would conduct all activities as described under the No Federal Operational Assistance Alternative. In addition, upon request from State, local, or Tribal authorities, USDA APHIS VS would provide operational assistance through managing, overseeing, and/or actively participating in depopulation, carcass disposal, and transportation. Cleaning and disinfection would be the responsibility of States, Tribes, and poultry owners and producers, as USDA

APHIS VS does not perform these activities. USDA APHIS VS would also provide tools upon request, such as machinery and contracted operators, for depopulation and disposal activities. The level of assistance USDA APHIS VS would provide will depend on the needs of the impacted State or Tribe.

Under the Federal Operational Assistance with Biosecurity Incentive Alternative (Preferred Alternative), USDA APHIS VS would provide all the same support and assistance described under the Federal Operational Assistance Alternative. In addition, USDA APHIS VS would condition a poultry producer's eligibility for indemnity and/or compensation on that producer's ability to demonstrate compliance with their existing site-specific written biosecurity plan. USDA APHIS VS would require producers to pass one type of biosecurity audit for premises that were previously HPAI-infected that intend to restock and wish to be eligible to receive subsequent payments of indemnity for the restocked poultry during an outbreak. USDA APHIS VS would require producers to pass another type of biosecurity audit for premises located in the buffer zone of a control area prior to movement of poultry onto the premises if the premises wishes to be eligible for indemnity for poultry that have been moved onto the premises in the event of an outbreak. The buffer zone, which undergoes periodic surveillance, is an uninfected area typically extending 3 to 10 kilometers (1.9 to 6.2 miles) around an affected premises. If poultry owners or producers do not pass the required biosecurity audit and choose to restock a previously infected premises or move poultry onto a premises in a buffer zone, they would not receive indemnity and/or compensation if the premises became infected or reinfected with HPAI. Additionally, USDA APHIS VS would not pay indemnity for flocks moved onto premises in active infected zones if the flocks become infected with HPAI within 14 days following the end of the control area around an infected premises. A producer who does not make corrections recommended in APHIS' biosecurity audit will not be eligible for indemnity payments if the premises experiences future infections within the same outbreak.

The potential environmental impacts on the following resources are considered in the final EIS: Soil, air, and water quality; vegetation health; humans (including effects on health and safety, the economy, socioeconomic considerations, cultural and historic resources, children's health, and Tribes); wildlife health, and other

wildlife considerations including birds of conservation concern, eagles, and threatened and endangered species. The final EIS also considers the impacts of HPAI outbreak response activities on climate change, the impacts of climate change on HPAI outbreak response activities, and the cumulative impacts from other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future related actions. The primary HPAI outbreak response activities that are the focus of the impacts section under each alternative are depopulation and disposal, as well as some discussion concerning transportation and cleaning and disinfection.

In general, comparing the potential environmental impacts of the three alternatives, the Federal Operational Assistance with Biosecurity Incentive Alternative is expected to result in the least environmental impacts, followed by the Federal Operational Assistance Alternative while the No Federal Operational Assistance Alternative is expected to result in the most environmental impacts.

Direct assistance from USDA APHIS VS under both the Federal Operational Assistance with Biosecurity Incentive Alternative and the Federal Operational Assistance Alternative would mean an additional level of expertise when making decisions and implementing actions, which is lacking in the No Federal Operational Assistance Alternative. With Federal, State, and local authorities, Tribes, and poultry owners and producers all working together, it is more likely that the disease will be eradicated as rapidly as possible. A rigorous Federal response should incentivize the rapid reporting of HPAI incidents because it achieves disease eradication while providing relief to the poultry owners and producers. Additionally, absent Federal assistance, States and Tribes may lack the resources to deal with the outbreaks in a timely manner. The benefit of completing HPAI virus eradication activities as fast as possible is that it would decrease the risk of HPAI spreading to nearby premises or to wild birds that may infect other flocks, thereby preventing additional environmental impacts from future HPAI outbreaks and HPAI outbreak response activities. Under both the Federal Operational Assistance with Biosecurity Incentive Alternative and the Federal Operational Assistance Alternative, poultry suffering from HPAI should be minimized due to effective and efficient depopulation procedures being implemented with USDA APHIS VS assistance. Additionally, the assistance of USDA APHIS VS under the

Federal Operational Assistance with Biosecurity Incentive Alternative and the Federal Operational Assistance Alternative is expected to allow poultry owners and producers to resume business as rapidly as possible and likely more rapidly than under the No Federal Operational Assistance Alternative.

However, comparing the Federal Operational Assistance with Biosecurity Incentive Alternative to the Federal Operational Assistance Alternative, the greatest reduction in impacts of all the alternatives is expected under the Federal Operational Assistance with Biosecurity Incentive Alternative. Requiring certain biosecurity measures (*i.e.*, audits) as part of the outbreak response to receive indemnity and/or compensation may increase the chance of biosecurity measures being implemented by commercial poultry owners and producers. Under this alternative, increased biosecurity measures could decrease the chance of reintroductions at the outbreak site or at surrounding premises resulting in a decrease in not only the spread of HPAI during an ongoing outbreak, but a decrease in future HPAI outbreak response activities and their potential impacts over time.

Based on the final programmatic EIS, USDA APHIS VS has concluded that the three alternatives will have minor potential impacts on soil, air, water quality, vegetation health, and cultural and historical resources, if all appropriate Federal, State, and local laws and guidance are followed. Currently, the risk of HPAI infections to humans is low, with risks of injuries and psychological trauma to workers being a concern that is minimized by following appropriate guidelines. Overall, potential economic impacts from HPAI are expected to be reduced under each of the alternatives. Socioeconomic impacts are possible under all alternatives and authorities should work to identify ways to limit those impacts. Children must have limited access to locations where HPAI outbreak response activities are being conducted, whenever possible. Tribes may choose to implement HPAI outbreak responses on their own; when USDA APHIS VS assists, there may be a decrease in impacts from HPAI outbreak response activities. Potential risks to wildlife health are expected to be reduced under the three alternatives. Under all alternatives, potential impacts to climate change would be relative to the biomass of poultry depopulated and carcasses disposed of, and the depopulation, disposal, and sanitation methods used. Lastly, following best

management practices and enhanced biosecurity measures over time reduces the likelihood of cumulative impacts.

The final programmatic EIS was prepared in accordance with: (1) the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), (2) the Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA-implementing regulations (40 CFR parts 1500–1508), compliant with the April 2022 regulations that went into effect on May 20, 2022, (3) USDA's NEPA-implementing regulations (7 CFR part 1b), and (4) USDA APHIS' NEPA-Implementing Procedures (7 CFR part 372).

### Schedule for the Decision-Making Process

After the 30-day review period ends, we will issue a Record of Decision (ROD). The ROD will explain the agency's decision, redescribe the alternatives considered, and discuss any plans for mitigation.

Done in Washington, DC, this 14th day of April 2025.

Michael Watson,

*Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.*

[FR Doc. 2025–06621 Filed 4–17–25; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–34–P

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Census Bureau

#### Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Review and Approval; Comment Request; National Sample Survey of Registered Nurses

**AGENCY:** Census Bureau, Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of information collection, request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Commerce, in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on proposed, and continuing information collections, which helps us to assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. The purpose of this notice is to allow for 60 days of public comment on the proposed reinstatement, with change, of National Sample Survey of Registered Nurses (NSSRN), prior to the submission of the information collection request (ICR) to OMB for approval.

**DATES:** To ensure consideration, comments regarding this proposed information collection must be received on or before June 17, 2025.

**ADDRESSES:** Interested persons are invited to submit written comments by email [adp.nssrn@census.gov](mailto:adp.nssrn@census.gov). Please reference National Sample Survey of Registered Nurses (NSSRN) in the subject line of your comments. You may also submit comments, identified by Docket Number USBC–2025–0003, to the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. All comments received are part of the public record. No comments will be posted to <http://www.regulations.gov> for public viewing until after the comment period has closed. Comments will generally be posted without change. All Personally Identifiable Information (for example, name and address) voluntarily submitted by the commenter may be publicly accessible. Do not submit Confidential Business Information or otherwise sensitive or protected information. You may submit attachments to electronic comments in Microsoft Word, Excel, or Adobe PDF file formats.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or specific questions related to collection activities should be directed to Brian Lester, Assistant Survey Director (301) 763–4396, and [brian.d.lester@census.gov](mailto:brian.d.lester@census.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. Abstract

The National Sample Survey of Registered Nurses, which is sponsored by the National Center for Health Workforce Analysis (NCHWA) under the Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is conducted to assist in fulfilling the Congressional mandates of the Public Health Service Act. Under 42 U.S.C. 294n(b)(2)(A), the Secretary of Health and Human Services (the Secretary) must establish a National Center for Health Workforce Analysis responsible for the development of information describing and analyzing the health care workforce and workforce-related issues, as well as to provide necessary information for decision-making regarding future directions in health professions and nursing programs in response to societal and professional needs. Additionally, 42 U.S.C. 295k(a)–(b) requires the Secretary to establish “a program, including a uniform health professions data reporting system, to collect, compile, and analyze data on health professions

personnel” which may be expanded to include, whenever determined necessary by the Secretary, “the collection, compilation, and analysis of data . . . health care administration personnel, nurses, allied health personnel . . . in States designated by the Secretary to be included in the program.” The NSSRN is designed to obtain the necessary data to determine the characteristics and distribution of Registered Nurses (RNs) throughout the United States, as well as emerging patterns in their employment characteristics. These data will provide the means for the evaluation and assessment of these evolving characteristics, educational qualifications, and career employment patterns of RNs, consistent with the goals of congressional mandates of the Public Health Service Act found in 42 U.S.C. 294n(b)(2)(A) and 295k(a)–(b). Such data is particularly important to understand workforce issues faced by Registered Nurses given the dynamic change in the RN population and the transformation of the healthcare system in recent years.

NSSRN is seeking clearance to make the following changes:

- Revised questionnaire content—there are modifications to the questionnaire which include removing items, modifying existing items, and adding new content for the 2026 NSSRN. Questionnaire relating to the coronavirus pandemic have been removed, as have redundant and unneeded open-ended response options. Explanatory help text is added where needed. Additional questions related to teaching/precepting nurses and nursing burnout are added for 2026. New content has been cognitively tested. The final set of proposed new and modified content will be included in the full OMB ICR for the 2026 NSSRN.

From the prior cycle of the NSSRN, using American Association for Public Opinion Research definitions of response, we expect the 2026 NSSR to achieve a 50% response rate.

##### II. Method of Collection

All 125,000 RNs will receive an initial invitation letter with instructions on how to complete the questionnaire via the web. Ninety percent of the sampled RNs will receive a \$5 unconditional monetary incentive with the initial invitation. No additional incentives are planned for subsequent follow-up mailings.

Following the initial invitation letter, two additional web invitations, two reminder pressure sealed postcards, and one paper questionnaire mailing will be sent. Similar to previous rounds of the