

regulations that would require remitters of pork checkoff assessments, upon request by USDA, to submit to AMS the names, addresses, and any other information deemed necessary to identify persons from whom assessments were collected.

As part of a settlement between USDA and MPPA, *et al.*, USDA agreed to conduct a survey of eligible producers and importers (no earlier than June 2003) to determine whether 15 percent of eligible producers and importers favor a referendum on the Pork Checkoff Program. The information that would be collected through this action may be used to establish the total number of pork producers that would be utilized in determining whether the 15 percent threshold requirement contained in the Act for conducting a referendum has been met. Further, the information could be used in subsequent referenda to determine the number of eligible producers.

#### List of Subjects in 7 CFR Part 1230

Administrative practice and procedure, Advertising, Agricultural research, Marketing agreement, Meat and meat products, Pork and pork products.

For the reasons set forth in the preamble, it is proposed that 7 CFR part 1230 be amended as follows:

#### PART 1230—PORK PROMOTION, RESEARCH, AND CONSUMER INFORMATION

1. The authority citation for 7 CFR part 1230 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 7 U.S.C. 4801–4819.

2. Section 1230.121 would be added to read as follows:

##### § 1230.121 Submission of Information.

Pursuant to the provisions of § 1230.80, at the request of the Secretary, each person responsible for collecting and remitting assessments to the Board, shall submit the names, addresses, and any other information deemed necessary to identify persons from whom assessments were collected to the Department.

Dated: March 11, 2003.

**A.J. Yates,**

*Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

#### 9 CFR Part 94

[Docket No. 00–080–2]

#### Availability of Evaluation Related to Hog Cholera (Classical Swine Fever) Status of East Anglia

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

**ACTION:** Notice of availability and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** We are advising the public that an evaluation has been prepared by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service concerning the hog cholera (classical swine fever) status of East Anglia, a region of England that includes the counties of Essex, Norfolk, and Suffolk, and the related disease risks associated with importing animals and animal products into the United States from East Anglia. This evaluation will be used as a basis for determining whether to relieve certain prohibitions and restrictions on the importation of pork and pork products and swine into the United States from East Anglia. We are making this evaluation available to the public for review and comment.

**DATES:** We will consider all comments that we receive on or before May 12, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments by postal mail/commercial delivery or by e-mail. If you use postal mail/commercial delivery, please send four copies of your comment (an original and three copies) to: Docket No. 00–080–2, 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. 00–080–2. If you use e-mail, address your comment to [regulations@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:regulations@aphis.usda.gov). Your comment must be contained in the body of your message; do not send attached files. Please include your name and address in your message and “Docket No. 00–080–2” on the subject line.

You may read any comments that we receive on the evaluation 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.

APHIS documents published in the **Federal Register**, and related

information, including the names of organizations and individuals who have commented on APHIS dockets, are available on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppd/rad/webrepor.html>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Charisse Cleare, Senior Staff Veterinarian, National Center for Import and Export, VS, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 38, Riverdale, MD 20737–1231; (301) 734–4928.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

The regulations in 9 CFR part 94 (referred to below as the regulations) govern the importation of certain animals and animal products into the United States in order to prevent the introduction of various animal diseases, including rinderpest, foot-and-mouth disease, African swine fever, hog cholera (classical swine fever), and swine vesicular disease. These are dangerous and destructive communicable diseases of ruminants and swine. Section 94.9 of the regulations restricts the importation into the United States of pork and pork products from regions where hog cholera is known to exist. Section 94.10 of the regulations, with certain exceptions, prohibits the importation of swine that originate in or are shipped from or transit any region in which hog cholera is known to exist. The regulations in §§ 94.9(a) and 94.10(a) provide that hog cholera exists in all regions of the world except for certain regions listed in those sections.

In an interim rule effective August 4, 2000, and published in the **Federal Register** on September 20, 2000 (65 FR 56774–56775, Docket No. 00–080–1), we amended the regulations by removing East Anglia (a region of England that includes Essex, Norfolk, and Suffolk counties) from the lists of regions considered to be free of hog cholera. That action was necessary because hog cholera had been confirmed in this region. The effect of the interim rule was to restrict the importation of pork and pork products and to prohibit the importation of swine into the United States from East Anglia.

Although we removed East Anglia from the list of regions considered to be free of hog cholera, we recognized that Great Britain's Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, now part of the Department for Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs, immediately responded to the detection of hog cholera by initiating measures to eradicate the disease. We stated that we intended to reassess the situation in the region at a future date