

# Notices

Federal Register

Vol. 68, No. 8

Monday, January 13, 2003

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

### Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 02-122-1]

#### 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 in support of the National Poultry Improvement Plan.

**DATES:** We will consider all comments that we receive on or before March 14, 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. 02-122-1, 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. 02-122-1. 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. 02-122-1" on the subject line.

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.

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:** For information regarding the National Poultry Improvement Plan, contact Mr. Andrew Rhorer, Senior Coordinator, National Poultry Improvement Plan, VS, APHIS, 1498 Klondike Road, Suite 200, Conyers, GA 30094-5104; (770) 922-3496. 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:* National Poultry Improvement Plan.

*OMB Number:* 0579-0007.

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

*Abstract:* The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture is responsible for, among other things, administering the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP), the primary purpose of which is to protect the health of the U.S. poultry population. NPIP is a voluntary Federal-State cooperative program for the improvement of poultry breeding flocks and products through disease control techniques.

Administering the NPIP requires us to engage in a number of information collection activities, which are described below. We are asking the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve the continued use of these information collection activities, which are critical to our ability to prevent the spread of contagious poultry diseases within the United States.

#### Flock Selecting and Testing Report (VS Form 9-2)

This form is used by authorized agents and State inspectors when breeding flocks are selected and tested. The form provides space for the number of birds tested and the results of the test. This form also identifies a given flock as to owner, hatchery affiliation, stock, type, purpose, classification, and most

importantly, flock location. Since most of the flocks are supply flocks for the same hatchery, it is extremely important to know the location of the flock. The information on this form is of critical importance when an investigation must be conducted to determine the source of a hatchery-disseminated or egg-transmitted disease.

#### Report of Sales of Hatching Eggs, Chicks, and Poult (VS Form 9-3)

NPIP participants use this form to record any interstate sales of their hatching eggs, chicks, and poults. This document is used by both APHIS and the receiving State to monitor the movements of these items. This form also serves as a vital investigative aid when APHIS is attempting to track down the source of a poultry disease. These records must be maintained by producers for 3 years.

#### Summary of Breeding Flock Participation (VS Form 9-4)

This report form, which is completed by State animal health authorities, contains a summary of blood testing work and of flock participation by classes and breeding status. It is distributed to Official State Agencies from our offices at the end of the testing year in June and must be returned to us in July. With this information, we can publish our Tables on Hatchery and Flock Participation, which serve as an important tool in monitoring the health status of participating flocks.

#### Report of NPIP Hatchery Participation or Change (VS Form 9-5)

This form is completed by the Official State Agency to record an NPIP participant's decision to withdraw from the program, or to record a producer's decision to join the program. This document is also used to record a change in disease program classification. This form allows us to effectively monitor participation in the NPIP, and to maintain an up-to-date list of program participants, their addresses, and other important information concerning their poultry operations.

#### Investigation of Salmonella and Arizona Isolations (VS Form 9-7)

If a multi-State disease outbreak occurs, the NPIP will conduct an investigation and share the resulting information with all the States involved. VS form 9-7 is one of the tools used to