

Notices

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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

Office of the Secretary

USDA Increases the Fiscal Year 2017 Raw Sugar Tariff-Rate Quota

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, USDA.
ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Office of the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture is providing notice of an increase in the fiscal year (FY) 2017 raw cane sugar tariff-rate quota (TRQ) of 244,690 metric tons raw value (MTRV).

DATES: Applicable July 25, 2017.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Souleymane Diaby, Import Policies and Export Reporting Division, Foreign Agricultural Service, AgStop 1021, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250-1021; or by telephone (202) 720-2916; or by fax to (202) 720-8461; or by email to Souleymane.Diaby@fas.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Office of the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture is providing notice of an increase in the fiscal year (FY) 2017 raw cane sugar tariff-rate quota (TRQ) of 244,690 MTRV. On May 6, 2016, the Office of the Secretary established the FY 2017 TRQ for raw cane sugar at 1,117,195 MTRV (1,231,497 short tons raw value, STRV *), the minimum to which the United States is committed under the World Trade Organization (WTO) Uruguay Round Agreements. Pursuant to Additional U.S. Note 5 to Chapter 17 of the U.S. Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTS) and Section 359k of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938, as amended, the Secretary of Agriculture gives notice of an increase in the quantity of raw cane sugar eligible to enter at the lower rate of duty during FY 2017 by 244,690 MTRV (269,724 STRV). With this increase, the overall FY 2017 raw sugar TRQ is now 1,361,885 MTRV (1,501,221 STRV). Raw cane sugar under this quota must be

accompanied by a certificate for quota eligibility and may be entered until September 30, 2017. The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative will allocate this increase among supplying countries and customs areas.

USDA also today announced that all sugar entering the United States under the FY 2017 raw sugar TRQ will be permitted to enter U.S. Customs territory through October 31, 2017, a month later than the usual last entry date. Additional U.S. Note 5(a)(iv) to Chapter 17 of the HTS authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to permit sugar allocated under a given quota year to be entered in previous or subsequent quota year.

This action is being taken after a determination that additional supplies of raw cane sugar are required in the U.S. market. USDA will closely monitor stocks, consumption, imports and all sugar market and program variables on an ongoing basis, and may make further program adjustments during FY 2017 if needed.

* Conversion factor: 1 metric ton = 1.10231125 short tons.

Jason Hafemeister,

Acting Deputy Under Secretary, Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs.

Dated: July 17, 2017.

Robert Johannson,

Acting Under Secretary, Farm Production and Conservation.

[FR Doc. 2017-15572 Filed 7-24-17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-10-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS-2017-0058]

Notice of Request for Extension of Approval of an Information Collection; National Animal Health Monitoring System; Emergency Epidemiologic Investigations

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 for emergency epidemiologic investigations, an information collection to support the National Animal Health Monitoring System.

DATES: We will consider all comments that we receive on or before September 25, 2017.

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

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to <http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=APHIS-2017-0058>.

- *Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery:* Send your comment to Docket No. APHIS-2017-0058, 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 <http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=APHIS-2017-0058> or in our reading room, which 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) 799-7039 before coming.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information on emergency epidemiologic investigations contact Mr. Bill Kelley, Supervisory Management and Program Analyst, Center for Epidemiology and Animal Health, VS, APHIS, 2150 Centre Avenue, Building B, MS 2E6, Fort Collins, CO 80526; (970) 494-7270. For copies of more detailed information on the information collection, contact Ms. Kimberly Hardy, APHIS' Information Collection Coordinator, at (301) 851-2483.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: *Title:* National Animal Health Monitoring System; Emergency Epidemiologic Investigations.

OMB Control Number: 0579-0376.

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

Abstract: Under the Animal Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8301 *et seq.*), the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture is authorized, among other things, to protect the health of U.S. livestock and poultry populations

by preventing the introduction and interstate spread of serious diseases and pests of livestock and by eradicating such diseases from the United States when feasible. In connection with this mission, APHIS operates the National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS), which collects nationally representative, statistically valid, and scientifically sound data on the prevalence and economic importance of livestock diseases and associated risk factors.

APHIS NAHMS officials are often asked by State and local animal health officials to carry out epidemiological investigations as diseases impact animal health populations. Emergency epidemiological investigations will be used to collect information on:

- Outbreaks of animal diseases with unknown etiology and transmission, that are highly contagious, and that have high case fatality.
- Outbreaks of known animal diseases that are highly contagious, virulent, and have unknown source of infection or mode of transmission.
- Outbreaks of emerging, zoonotic, or foreign animal diseases within the United States.
- Outbreaks in which a delay in data collection could result in the loss of epidemiologic information essential to assist laboratory investigations and/or disease control efforts.

These investigations will normally consist of an on-farm questionnaire administered by APHIS-designated data collectors. The information collected through emergency epidemiologic investigations will be analyzed and used to:

- Identify the scope of the problem.
- Define and describe the affected population and susceptible population.
- Predict or detect trends in disease emergence and movement.
- Understand the risk factors for disease.
- Estimate the cost of disease control and develop intervention options.
- Make recommendations for disease control.
- Provide parameters for animal disease spread models.
- Provide lessons learned and guidance on the best ways to avoid future outbreaks based on thorough analysis of data from current outbreak(s).
- Identify areas for further research, e.g. mechanisms of disease transfer, vaccine technology, and diagnostic testing needs.

We are asking the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve our use of this information collection activity 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, such as electronic submission of responses.

Estimate of burden: The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 0.72 hours per response.

Respondents: Livestock owners, individuals, and State and local animal health officials.

Estimated annual number of respondents: 8,000.

Estimated annual number of responses per respondent: 1.

Estimated annual number of responses: 8,000.

Estimated total annual burden on respondents: 5,798 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 19th day of July 2017.

Michael C. Gregoire,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 2017-15575 Filed 7-24-17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

Rural Broadband Access Loan and Loan Guarantee Program

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA).

SUMMARY: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS), an agency of the United States

Department of Agriculture (USDA), announces the second application window for fiscal year (FY) 2017 for the Rural Broadband Access Loan and Loan Guarantee Program (the Broadband Program). Announcing a second application window within the current FY is a statutory requirement of the 2014 Farm Bill. This new procedure amends previous announcements related to this application window and is designed to improve loan application processing, better manage work flow, and encourage infrastructure investment and job creation in rural communities in need of improved broadband service.

In addition to announcing this application window, RUS revises the minimum and maximum amounts for broadband loans for the second window for FY 2017.

The agency has \$115.2 million available in FY 2017 appropriated and carryover funds, and of this amount the agency expects that at least \$60 million is available to fund applications received in this window. Further, the RUS typically solicits applications to under a Notice of Solicitation of Applications (NOSA) during the fiscal year. However, since a full year Appropriation Act for FY 2017 has been enacted, RUS is announcing the amount of funding currently available.

DATES: Applications under this NOFA will be accepted immediately through September 30, 2017. RUS will review, evaluate and begin to process loan applications as they are received. After September 30, 2017, RUS will evaluate all applications that have been deemed to be complete and shall give priority to applications in accordance with 7 CFR 1738.203 if the total amount of funding sought by eligible applicants with completed applications submitted by September 30, 2017, exceeds the funding that is available to RUS for the Broadband Program.

If the total amount of funding sought by eligible applicants with completed applications submitted by September 30, 2017, does not exceed the funding that is available to the RUS for the Broadband Program, applications will be processed and reviewed in the order received. Loan offers are limited to the funds available at the time of the agency's decision to approve an application. RUS reserves the option of using the queue created in this round by the priority or first-come, first-served method as applicable to fund projects in the event additional funding becomes available.

Applications can only be submitted through the agency's online application system through September 30, 2017.