



August 1, 2012

**MEMORANDUM**

United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

**TO:** Andrew Perraut  
Program Analyst  
Office of Management and Budget, Desk Officer

Animal and Plant  
Health Inspection  
Service

**FROM:** Bruce Wagner *BW*  
National Animal Health Monitoring System Director

Veterinary Services

**SUBJECT:** Request For Approval of an Emergency Epidemiologic Investigation for Dairy Operations in California Experiencing Higher Rates of Mycobacterium bovis Infection Under ICR 0579-0376

Centers for  
Epidemiology and  
Animal Health

APHIS would like to perform an emergency epidemiologic investigation under ICR 0579-0376 in response to the increased identification of Mycobacterium bovis (M. bovis) on California dairies. Identification of effective mitigation techniques that allow for the interruption of the mode of transmission is needed.

Natural Resources  
Research Center  
2150 Centre Avenue  
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80526-8117

National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) Dairy 2007 data has been used to complete an initial comparison of dairy management practices in California with those of other western States with substantial dairy industries. Evidence identified during this comparison indicates that management practices in California are different than those in other western dry lot dairying states. However, more detailed information on the following management practices used in these states is needed to identify the mode of transmission: operation size and demographics, animal movements on and off the operation, calf feeding and management, heifer feeding and management, housing, births, illnesses, deaths, and biosecurity practices.

970-494-7203

Up to 30 randomly selected dairy operations in California, Washington, Idaho, Colorado and Texas will be surveyed by APHIS designated data collectors. Information collected under this investigation will be used to:

- 1) Identify and, where possible, quantify factors associated with the introduction of M. bovis onto dairies in California.
- 2) Develop a best management practices guide for dairy producers in California to inform them of how to prevent introductions of M. bovis onto their operations.

Approval to collect this information is needed immediately to reduce the incidence of M. bovis in California dairy operations and allow for better understanding of how to reduce the impact of this disease agent on California and U.S. dairy operations. Therefore, we are requesting approval of this activity under ICR 0579-0376 by August 15, 2012.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

cc: Ruth Brown, Departmental Clearance Officer, USDA



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