

**SUPPORTING STATEMENT
APHIS Student Outreach Program
OMB 0579-0362**

The title of this collection was changed from Ag-Discovery to APHIS Student Outreach Program to include an additional APHIS Outreach program.

March 2013

A. Justification

1. Explain the circumstances that make the collection of information necessary. Identify any legal or administrative requirements that necessitate the collection. Attach a copy of the appropriate section of each statute and regulation mandating or authorizing the collection of information.

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 – Nondiscrimination in Federally Assisted Programs, established Special Emphasis Programs throughout the Federal Government. Special Emphasis Programs (SEPs) are an integral part of the overall civil rights, human resource and program delivery functions. The purpose of SEPs is to provide oversight, guidance, direction, enforcement and assistance to enhance opportunities for women, minorities, and people with disabilities in all employment and program delivery activities. APHIS Student Outreach is an outreach program designed to give students ages 12-17 an opportunity to learn about agriculture, the mission of APHIS, and about careers in various APHIS programs units.

The objectives of the APHIS Student Outreach Program are to:

- Provide students an opportunity to live on a university campus while learning about APHIS programs including agricultural science and agribusiness through a series of workshops, lab experiments, and field trips. These activities are facilitated by subject matter experts including university and APHIS personnel.
- Identify and recruit students who are interested in agricultural science.
- Provide demonstrations of APHIS programs including veterinary medicine, animal science, plant pathology, and agribusiness.
- Increase awareness about career opportunities in APHIS.

In order to pair student interest with the program objectives, an application process is necessary. The application process provides: the information needed to assess the student's interest in agriculture; references from persons who are familiar with the student's interest and character; and verification of the student's age and enrollment in school.

2. Indicate how, by whom, how frequently, and for what purpose the information is to be used. Except for a new collection, indicate the actual use the agency has made of the information received from the current collection.

The information is collected annually and will be used to select the participants for the various APHIS Student Outreach Programs. The application and brochure is provided to the applicant via the APHIS or University Web site. Applications are also distributed via hard copy through the local schools, person to person contact, or a community organization. The application process provides the needed information to rate and rank the applicants based on the following criteria. Each of the three areas is rated on a scale of 1(low) – 10(high).

APHIS Student Outreach Programs Applications

APHIS Form 119 - AgDiscovery Application

1) Submission of complete application package

- 1 Page Application
- Parental Release Form
- Student Contract and Photo Release Form
- Recommendation Letters

2) Essay

- No more than 2 pages in length
- Applicants must address the essay topic and related items as stated on the application
- Essays are judged for neatness and organization

3) Three References

- Three Letters of recommendation
- One of the three recommendations must be from the applicant's school counselor
- Recommendations must address the student's character, aptitude for learning, and interest in agriculture

Panels of 3-5 members consisting of APHIS employees and University officials are assembled to review and rate the applications. Once the review and rating process is complete, the information is forwarded to the APHIS Student Outreach Program Manager to be tallied and ranked. The top 16 students for each location are selected and notified by phone and mail.

APHIS Form 120 - Native American Summer Program Application

1) Submission of complete application package

- 1 Page Application
- Parental Release Form
- Recommendation Letters
- Medical Information Form

2) Essay

- No more than 2 pages in length
- Applicants must address the essay topic and related items as stated on the application

- Essays are judged for neatness and organization

3) Two References

- Two Letters of recommendation
- One of the two recommendations must be from the applicant's school counselor
- Recommendations must address the student's character, aptitude for learning and interest in agriculture

A committee of five selecting officials will select program participants based on two character recommendations and student applications.

3. Describe whether, and to what extent, the collection of information involves the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses, and the basis for the decision for adopting this means of collection. Also describe any consideration of using information technology to reduce burden.

The AgDiscovery brochure and application (APHIS Form 119) can be obtained at the following Web site: www.aphis.usda.gov/agdiscovery. The Native American Summer Program brochure and application (APHIS Form 120) are still in the paper format. However, the forms cannot be submitted electronically. They must be mailed to the address provided on the application. Hard copies of the application are also available upon request.

4. Describe efforts to identify duplication. Show specifically why any similar information already available cannot be used or modified for use for the purpose described in item 2 above.

The APHIS Student Outreach Program is unique to APHIS and the information APHIS collects is not available from any other source.

5. If the collection of information impacts small businesses or other small entities, describe any methods used to minimize burden.

The information collected for the APHIS Student Outreach Program does not impact small businesses or other small entities.

6. Describe the consequence to Federal program or policy activities if the collection is not conducted or is conducted less frequently, as well as any technical or legal obstacles to reducing burden.

If the information were collected less frequently or not collected at all, it would significantly hinder APHIS' ability to ensure that students applying for the programs are eligible. Also, without the data, the ability for APHIS to partner with universities would be greatly diminished and the opportunity for APHIS and the Universities to teach students about agriculture would be eliminated.

7. Explain any special circumstances that require the collection to be conducted in a manner inconsistent with the general information collection guidelines in 5 CFR 1320.5.

- **requiring respondents to report information to the agency more often than quarterly;**
- **requiring respondents to prepare a written response to a collection of information in fewer than 30 days after receipt of it;**
- **requiring respondents to submit more than an original and two copies of any document;**
requiring respondents to retain records, other than health, medical, government contract, grant-in-aid, or tax records for more than three years;
- **in connection with a statistical survey, that is not designed to produce valid and reliable results that can be generalized to the universe of study;**
- **requiring the use of a statistical data classification that has not been reviewed and approved by OMB;**
- **that includes a pledge of confidentiality that is not supported by authority established in statute or regulation, that is not supported by disclosure and data security policies that are consistent with the pledge, or which unnecessarily impedes sharing of data with other agencies for compatible confidential use; or**
- **requiring respondents to submit proprietary trade secret, or other confidential information unless the agency can demonstrate that it has instituted procedures to protect the information's confidentiality to the extent permitted by law.**

No special circumstances exist that would require this collection to be conducted in a manner inconsistent with the general information collection guidelines in 5 CFR 1320.5.

8. Describe efforts to consult with persons outside the agency to obtain their views on the availability of data, frequency of collection, the clarity of instructions and recordkeeping, disclosure, or reporting form, and on the data elements to be recorded, disclosed, or reported. If applicable, provide a copy and identify the date and page number of publication in the Federal Register of the agency's notice, soliciting comments on the information collection prior to submission to OMB.

In 2013 APHIS engaged in productive consultations with the following individuals concerning the information collection requirements associated with this program:

Ms. Benita Litson, Director

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Land Grant Office
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Tsaile, AZ 86556
928-724-6940

Dr. John Doerr
University of Maryland
Assistant Dean, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources
College Park, MD 20742
301-405-7761

Dr. Ray Mobley
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850-412-5252

On Friday, January 4, 2013, page 689, APHIS published in the Federal Register, a 60-day notice seeking public comments on its plans to request a 3-year approval of this collection of information. One comment was received from a concerned citizen about her perception of the general maltreatment of animals. It had no relevance to the purpose of the collection.

9. Explain any decision to provide any payment or gift to respondents, other than reenumeration of contractors or grantees.

This information collection activity involves no payments or gifts to respondents.

10. Describe any assurance of confidentiality provided to respondents and the basis for the assurance in statute, regulation, or agency policy.

No additional assurance of confidentiality is provided with this information collection. Any and all information obtained in this collection shall not be disclosed except in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552a

11. Provide additional justification for any questions of a sensitive nature, such as sexual behavior or attitudes, religious beliefs, and other matters that are commonly considered private. This justification should include the reasons why the agency considers the questions necessary, the specific uses to be made of the information, the explanation to be

given to persons from whom the information is requested, and any steps to be taken to obtain their consent.

This information collection will ask no questions of a personal or sensitive nature.

12. Provide estimates of the hour burden of the collection of information. Indicate the number of respondents, frequency of response, annual hour burden, and an explanation of how the burden was estimated.

See APHIS Form 71. Burden estimates were developed from discussions with APHIS program participants who provide funding for programs, and with partnering university officials.

•Provide estimates of annualized cost to respondents for the hour burdens for collections of information, identifying and using appropriate wage rate categories.

The respondents are full time students between the ages of 12 to 17. APHIS estimates the annualized cost to these respondents to be \$ 46,500.

APHIS arrived at this figure by multiplying the total burden hours 6200 hours by the estimated average hourly wage of the above respondents (\$7.25).

\$ 7.25 is the hourly rate derived from the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics May 2011 Report - Occupational Employment and Wages in the United States. See <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/ocwage.pdf>

13. Provide estimates of the total annual cost burden to respondents or recordkeepers resulting from the collection of information (do not include the cost of any hour burden shown in items 12 and 14). The cost estimates should be split into two components: (a) a total capital and start-up cost component annualized over its expected useful life; and (b) a total operation and maintenance and purchase of services component.

There is zero annual cost burden associated with capital and start-up costs, operation and maintenance expenditures, and purchase of services.

14. Provide estimates of annualized cost to the Federal government. Provide a description of the method used to estimate cost and any other expense that would not have been incurred without this collection of information.

The annualized cost to the Federal government is estimated at \$28,885.04 (APHIS Form 79.)

15. Explain the reasons for any program changes or adjustments reported in Items 13 or 14 of the OMB Form 83-1.

ICR Summary of Burden:

	Requested	Program Change Due to New Statute	Program Change Due to Agency Discretion	Change Due to Adjustment in Agency Estimate	Change Due to Potential Violation of the PRA	Previously Approved
Annual Number of Responses	1,100	0	100	370	0	630
Annual Time Burden (Hr)	6,200	0	200	2,220	0	3,780
Annual Cost Burden (\$)	0	0	0	0	0	0

There is a program change of 100 respondents, 100 annual responses, and 200 burden hours, due to a new program being added, specifically the Native American Summer Program. This one item is in violation of the Paperwork Reduction Act.

There is an adjustment of 790 respondents, 370 annual responses, and 2,220 burden hours, due to an increase in the number of students participating in the AgDiscovery Program.

16. For collections of information whose results are planned to be published, outline plans for tabulation and publication.

APHIS has no plans to publish information it collects in connection with this program.

17. If seeking approval to not display the expiration date for OMB approval of the information collection, explain the reasons that display would be inappropriate.

APHIS will display the expiration date for OMB approval on its forms.

18. Explain each exception to the certification statement identified in the "Certification for Paperwork Reduction Act."

APHIS certifies compliance with all provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act.

B. Collections of Information Employing Statistical Methods

Statistical methods are not employed in this information collection activity.