**Supporting Statement – Section A**

**Docket APHIS-2022-0061**

**OMB Control Number -** 0579-NEW associated with RIN 0579-AE79, US Swine Health Improvement Plan

**Title**: United States Swine Health Improvement Plan (US SHIP)

**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.**

This is a request for a new information collection related to proposed rulemaking, US Swine Health Improvement Plan (RIN 0579-AE79).

The Animal Health Protection Act (AHPA) of 2002 is the primary Federal law governing the protection of animal health. The law gives the Secretary of Agriculture broad authority to detect, control, or eradicate pests or diseases of livestock or poultry. The Secretary may also prohibit or restrict import or export of any animal or related material if necessary to prevent the spread of any livestock or poultry pest or disease. The AHPA is contained in Title X, Subtitle E, Sections 10401-18 of P.L. 107-171, May 13, 2002, the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 [7 U.S.C. 8301 et seq.].

U.S. swine producers have requested the establishment of the U.S. Swine Health Improvement Plan (US SHIP) which builds on an existing pilot program initiated by the swine industry. It will be a voluntary Federal-State-industry program for preventing and monitoring certain swine diseases (in particular, African swine fever (ASF) and classical swine fever (CSF)) and for improving swine herds and products through disease control techniques, The program would contribute to APHIS’ efforts to continually improve the health of the U.S. swine population and the quality of U.S. pork and pork products.

APHIS is proposing to amend the regulations under new parts of Title 9 of the Code of Federal Regulations (parts 148 and 149) to codify US SHIP as a Federal regulatory program and allow producers to obtain certifications of disease-free status for African swine fever and classical swine fever. Establishment of US SHIP would allow producers to market their products with the relevant disease-free status which could limit disruptions to international and interstate commerce during outbreaks. APHIS’ Veterinary Services (VS) will administer these regulations.

The amendment will require several information collection activities, including memoranda of understanding; cooperative agreements and data reporting; enrollments; compliance statements; applications for certification; interstate certificates of veterinary inspection; movement reports; herd inspection and certification, including testing, herd management, identification, biosecurity plans, and ; solicitation of participant input on program implementation and current industry practices to inform program standards; and recordkeeping.

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is asking the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve its use of these information collection activities in connection with the U.S. Swine Health Improvement Plan (US SHIP). These changes are contingent upon OMB approval under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. Additionally, when the information collection requirements have been approved, APHIS will publish a separate action in the Federal Register announcing OMB’s approval.

**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.**

APHIS will use the following information activities to continually improve the health of the U.S. swine population and the quality of U.S. pork and pork products.

**Memorandum of Understanding; (9 CFR 148.2(a)); State**

The US SHIP will be administered through Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) between VS and participating States. The MOUs set forth the following responsibilities for the Official State Agency (OSA) in implementing the program:

* Designate a State Contact Representative to administer the MOU activities.
* Plan and execute program work jointly with VS.
* Keep accurate and detailed records of all US SHIP work.
* Enroll program participants and their respective participating premises.
* Initiate the certification process (described further below).
* Report summary data on the number of premises enrolled and the number of premises certified in the program within their State.
* Authorize competent persons to perform inspections and sample collecting and assume responsibility for their work.
* Require State inspectors and authorized agents to work with US SHIP OSAs.
* Report to the US SHIP administration team any member of the swine industry who has discontinued participation.
* Report to the US SHIP administration team the results of each investigation resulting from a suspected breach of program provisions.
* File with the US SHIP administration team all current and pending State laws, rules, and regulations related to swine improvement work.

**US SHIP Cooperative Agreement Financial and Performance Reporting (Quarterly and Annual); 9 CFR 148.3, 9 CFR 148.22, Program Standards; State**

To support the collection of information required to monitor progress towards program objectives, APHIS will require State cooperators who receive financial assistance to support these objectives through operational activities to report on expenditures and progress in financial and performance reports, submitted quarterly and annually. Information required in these reports includes:

* Plan of work.
* Planned expenditures.
* Activities required for the current quarter (for quarterly reports).
* Activities planned for the next quarter.
* Significant project scope shifts or changes to the work plan from previous reports.
* Enrollment and certification summary data (number of sites enrolled, number of sites certified).

**US SHIP Enrollment Form or State equivalent; 9 CFR 148.3(a), 148(3)(d), 148.22(b), Program Standards A(4)(a); State, Business, Individual**

The following entities can participate in US SHIP:

* States.
* Boar stud facilities.
* Breeding herds.
* Growing pig facilities.
* Farrow to feeder/finisher facilities.
* Small holding facilities.
* Non-commercial facilities.
* Live animal marketing operations.
* Slaughtering facilities.

Entities with multiple premises should enroll each site individually.

Required information to enroll:

* Name, address and contact information for the US SHIP participant.
* Name, address and contact information for the site owner.
* GPS coordinates of the enrolling site (location of animals) (if no 911 address).
* Premises identification number (PIN).
* Common name of site.
* Premises type.
* Site capacity (live animal or slaughter capacity).
* Name and contact information of the individual submitting.
* Acknowledgement that the submitting individual understands and intends to comply with the regulations and relevant program standards.

Premises enrolled in US SHIP should provide their respective OSA with updated premises data within 30 days of a change in any of the minimum required demographic information components listed in Program Standard A(4)a.

**Compliance Statement; 9 CFR 148.3(b), 9 CFR 148.22; State, Business, Individual**

US SHIP participants will be required to sign an agreement with the OSA (contained within the enrollment form) showing that they agree to comply with all US SHIP regulations and provisions. Participants must comply with the requirements of the program for the operating year set by the OSA or until released by the OSA. Further, APHIS will work with the OSAs to ensure the continued integrity of any recognized premises. Activities include:

* Oversight of the establishment and management of compartments.
* Establishment of effective partnerships between APHIS, US SHIP, and the swine industry.
* Official certification of the health status of the compartment, and commodities that may be traded from it through participation in US SHIP for swine diseases.
* Verifying continued compliance annually.
* Providing, on request, model plans for management and husbandry practices relating to biosecurity, disease surveillance, and diagnostic capability summaries.

**Application For Certification; 9 CFR 148.6(b); State, Business, Individual**

US SHIP is intended to be the basis from which swine operations may conduct a program to prevent and monitor for ASF and CSF. It is intended to determine the presence of ASF and/or CSF in swine through routine quarantines of new additions to the herd, monitoring for clinical signs of ASF or CSF, and participation in the active ASF-CSF surveillance program when warranted. A swine operation and all swine or swine products produced from it will qualify for this classification when the OSA determines that they have met the following requirements and submitted the following information:

* Company name and mailing address.
* Contact name, telephone number, and alternate contact number.
* Contact fax number and email address.
* Company US SHIP classification.
* PIN.
* Premises type.
* Breed/type of swine.
* US SHIP classification sought.
* Premises location.
* Completion of a 15-day quarantine for all added swine, with affirmation that the added swine were found to be free of clinical signs consistent with ASF or CSF before commingling with the existing swine herd.
* Acknowledgement that any disease incident or death of participating swine suggestive of ASF or CSF must be tested through the USDA Swine Hemorrhagic Fevers Surveillance Program or a foreign animal disease investigation at a laboratory authorized in accordance with 9 CFR 148.11, and using APHIS-approved tests to detect the presence of ASF and CSF.
* Compliant with all management procedures, physical requirements, and protocols found in the CFR and the US SHIP Program Standards.
* Routinely monitors all swine for clinical signs associated with ASF and/or CSF and tests case compatible sick and dead swine through the USDA Swine Hemorrhagic Fever Surveillance Plan or foreign animal disease investigations as appropriate using a US SHIP-authorized laboratory certified to test for ASF and CSF.
* Stores and transports feed and feed ingredients in a manner sufficient to prevent contamination.
* Maintains biosecurity and adheres to approved procedures for maintaining sanitation.
* Demonstrates the ability to share electronic movement data as defined in the Program Standards.

US SHIP premises can be classified as monitored, certification expired, or inactive. Applicants will be required to attest that their operation complies with the Program Standards. Further, they must attest that they:

* Are participants in good standing with the ASF-CSF Monitored US SHIP program for certified sites.
* If certification has expired, it is for a reason such as the US SHIP House of Delegates approving new standards that the site no longer meet or the certification is on hold while the premises works to comply with current program standards.
* The site is inactive (enrolled but not certified, such as at the time of change of ownership and awaiting reinstatement of certification).

or

The site or premises has one of the following statuses:

* Lost or revoked status (tested positive for ASF or CSF).
* Dropped out of US SHIP.
* Never participated in US SHIP.
* Participated in the US SHIP and went out of business.

The site status verification database is a centrally maintained program that houses high-level US SHIP data (only premises ID, State, and certification status of participants).

**Interstate Certificates of Veterinary Inspection; 9 CFR 148.4; State, Business, Individual**

Currently, all States require ICVIs for covered livestock received from other States (in most cases, but exceptions for some classes or ages of livestock do occur). The ICVI, completed by an accredited veterinarian from information the producer provides, documents that the veterinarian inspected the animals and found them free of reportable diseases. The ICVI must show:

* The species of animals covered by the certificate.
* The number of animals covered by the certificate.
* The purpose for which the animals are to be moved.
* The departure address.
* The destination address.
* The names and addresses of the consignor and the consignee (if different from the departure and destination addresses).

The ICVI must list the official identification number of each animal, or group of animals, moved that must be officially identified. If an alternate form of identification has been agreed on by the sending and receiving States or Tribes, the ICVI must include a record of that identification. A State representative, or an accredited veterinarian, issuing an ICVI must enter all the required information, retain a copy for his or her records, provide a copy to accompany the shipment, and forward a copy of the certificate to the State animal health official in the State of origin within 7 calendar days.

**Quarterly OSA Data Report; Program Standards; State**

OSAs will be expected to report quarterly the aggregate enrollment and certification numbers to the US SHIP administration team. For each site type, the OSA should report the total number of sites enrolled, the total number of sites certified, and the total capacity (sum of all enrolled or certified sites) for each site type. For slaughter facilities, the site capacity should be the current total head per day capacity of the facility. For live animal marketing operations, the site capacity should be the approximate number of live swine moving through the facility weekly.

OSAs can choose the program(s) that they wish to use to manage the administration of the US SHIP in their respective State. Available options include, but are not limited to: AgView, the Animal Health Monitoring and Evaluation System (a web platform maintained by Iowa State University), VS’ Emergency Management Response System, Rapid Access Biosecurity (RAB)App, TraceFirst, USAHERDS, State-specific animal health program disease management database applications, Excel files, or hard copy files. US SHIP will not stipulate which program(s) are used, as long as the data is managed appropriately.

**Movement Reports; Program Standards; Business, Individual**

To ensure animal traceability, participants will be required to maintain animal movement records. OSAs may request copies of movement records from participants during audits to verify that they are able to meet program provisions.

* Swine Movement
	+ Participants will be required to maintain records of the intrastate and interstate movements of live swine into and out of each participating premises.
	+ The minimum required information to be recorded for each movement is:
		- Date of movement.
		- Origin State.
		- Origin PIN.
		- Destination State.
		- Destination PIN.
		- Head in movement (only when required by a regulatory action).
		- Animal type in movement.
* Semen Movement
	+ Participating boar stud premises will be required to maintain records of the intrastate and interstate movements of semen distributed out of each participating premises.
	+ The minimum required information to be recorded for each movement is:
		- Date of movement
		- Origin State
		- Origin PIN
		- Destination State
		- Destination PIN
		- Number of units in movement (only when required by a regulatory action)

**Herd Inspection; 9 CFR 148.4(b), 9 CFR 148.8; State**

A State inspector representing the OSA or its designee will compile the following information while inspecting a herd annually for compliance with US SHIP standards:

* The cleanliness of the facility and its equipment.
* The effectiveness of the facility’s sanitation procedures.
* The accuracy and timeliness of biosecurity maintenance records.
* The herd’s official health status classification.

**Verification; 9 CFR 148.8(a); State, Business, Individual**

The OSA will be required to verify at least once per year (or more often if necessary) each premises complies with US SHIP requirements and standards. The OSA will arrange onsite inspections of herds and premises by its representatives or designees if the State inspector has a reasonable basis to believe that a breach of biosecurity, specimen testing, or other provision may have occurred for Plan programs for which the herds have qualified. These inspections can include evaluation of the premises’ movement data and examination of the premises’ biosecurity and management systems. The audits confirm that the premises are maintaining and documenting appropriate biosecurity practices, animal health status monitoring, and keeping complete animal movement records. The OSA will be required to provide a summary of the compliance concerns it investigated and its recommended resolutions or outcomes to APHIS for review and possible further action. APHIS may also conduct on-site inspections of herds and premises if it has reasonable basis to believe that a breach of biosecurity, specimen testing, or other provisions may have occurred.

If ASF or CSF is present in the United States, the premises will be required to also demonstrate compliance with requirements for ASF and CSF surveillance. The OSA will verify retention of testing documentation if required.

**Biosecurity Plan; 9 CFR 148.6(b)(4), Program Standards; Business**

The participating premises will be required to provide a Secure Pork Supply (SPS) biosecurity plan and associated supporting documentation to the OSA, upon request. The requirements of the biosecurity plan are generated and updated through collaboration between the swine industry, State and Federal government officials, and academia and differ by site types. SPS biosecurity plan templates are available at <https://www.securepork.org/pork-producers/biosecurity/>.

**Cancellation/Debarment; Request for Review of Cancellation; 9 CFR 148.9; State, Business, Individual**

A premises’ participation in US SHIP may be canceled because of incompetence or failure to comply with Plan provisions or failure to comply with APHIS or State swine health regulations. Such actions may only be taken following an investigation by the OSA or APHIS and after the authorized person has been notified of the action and given the opportunity to present their views.

Further, following an investigation by the OSA or its representative or by APHIS, participants will be notified in writing of their apparent noncompliance with Plan provisions or with regulations of the OSA or APHIS. In the event of a finding of noncompliance, the notification will articulate that APHIS may debar the participant from further participation in the Plan if the noncompliance concerns are not addressed, and will afford the participant a time of at least 30 days to demonstrate or reach compliance. If the participant does not demonstrate or achieve compliance within the specified time, APHIS may debar the participant from further participation in the Plan including any opportunities to market product or animals as having originated from a Plan participant until the participant can demonstrate compliance with the plan. The debarred participant will be given written notice of the bases for the debarment. Such decision shall be final unless the debarred participant, within 30 days after the issuance of the original debarment order, requests the Administrator to review the eligibility of the debarred participant for participation in the Plan. The request for review must state all facts and reasons upon which the participant relies to consider the debarment order to be error. As promptly as circumstances allow, the Administrator will respond in writing to uphold or reverse the debarment.

**Recordkeeping; 9 CFR 148.4(a) and (b); State, Business, Individual**

Plan participants will be required to maintain records necessary for demonstrating compliance with certification requirements. The records are subject to examination at any time a State inspector or their designee. The Official State Agency must maintain enrollment records for 5 years after the date of enrollment and inspection records for 3 years after the date of inspection.

**Solicitation of Participant Input on Program Implementation; 9 CFR part 149; State, Business, Individual**

APHIS intends to request feedback from participants who attend US SHIP meetings, training events or workshops, and conferences to improve on future program delivery. APHIS may obtain this feedback by issuing written surveys or posing structured questions verbally or in emailed communication to participants and stakeholders.

**Solicitation of Current Industry Practices to Inform Program Standards; Program Standards; Business**

APHIS intends to survey participants on industry practices to assist stakeholders as they consider whether to introduce new standards or modify existing standards. These solicitations may occur by issuing written surveys or posing structured questions verbally or in emailed communication to participants and stakeholders.

**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.**

APHIS makes every effort to comply with E-Government Act, 2002 (E-Gov) and to provide for alternative submission of information collections.

The US SHIP OSA will maintain and report the current certification status of the participant sites to the US SHIP Site Status Verification Database. Only a minimum set of data fields inclusive of the premises identification number (PIN), corresponding US SHIP disease status(es), and the State in which the premises is located are to be reported by the US SHIP OSAs to the US SHIP Site Status Verification Database. More detailed participant and premises level-specific identifiers (e.g., names, addresses, locations, etc.) will remain with the respective US SHIP OSA and are not reported to, or contained in, the US SHIP Site Status Verification Database. The database will encompass the enrollment application, the compliance statement, and certification documentation; sales, movement, and quarterly OSA reports; biosecurity plans; and inspection and audit information.

* State animal health officials will be able to use the database to verify the status of the US SHIP certifications held by premises moving pigs into their State for further breeding, growing, or exhibition.
* Slaughter facilities will be able to use the database to verify the status of the US SHIP certifications held by the premises supplying pigs to their facility to be harvested.
* Exhibitions will be able to use the database to verify the status of the US SHIP certifications held by the premises where pigs are being exhibited/shown as well as their source premises.
* Live animal marketing operations channels will be able to use the database to verify the status of the US SHIP certifications held by the premises supplying pigs to their facility.
* Producers will be able to use the database to verify the status of the US SHIP certifications held by either their own premises or the premises of pigs of which they are purchasing or otherwise to gain information when receiving pigs from third parties.

In the initial stages of US SHIP, APHIS expects to execute memoranda of understanding and cooperative agreements in paper, although it expects to use the US SHIP database for cooperative agreement reporting.

Interstate certificates of veterinary inspection will be submitted in a format convenient to the OSA.

Solicitation of producer/participant input will be carried out by electronic survey methods such as SurveyMonkey when not done in person or via email.

**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 information that APHIS will collect is not available from any other source. APHIS is the only Federal agency responsible for preventing the entry of exotic animal diseases into the United States. Every effort has been made to avoid duplication.

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

APHIS estimates approximately 5 percent of the business respondents are considered small entities. The information APHIS collects is the minimum needed to protect the U.S. swine population from foreign animal diseases.

**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.**

This information collection will be ongoing and voluntary. If the information were collected less frequently or not collected, APHIS could not effectively monitor the health of the nation's swine population.

**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 3 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.**

There are no special circumstances associated with this information collection. This information collection is conducted in a manner consistent with the guidelines established 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.**

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

Kelli K. Werling, DVM

Senior Director of Operations

Director of Swine Health

Indiana State Board of Animal Health

Shelby Tackett

Swine Health Coordinator

Michigan Pork Producers Association

Leticia Linhares, DVM, MS

Public Health Veterinarian

Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory

Epidemiology & Research Submissions Services Section

Iowa State University

APHIS contacted these respondents by email and phone to discuss the information APHIS collects to administer its US SHIP activities. We discussed with them the various methods for enrollment, certification, and otherwise obtaining data; data sources; how industry structure affects data collection; and methods of redress for removal, among other topics. The respondents stated via email or phone that they had no concerns with any of these items and had no further recommendations.

When APHIS published **US Swine Health Improvement Plan (RIN 0579-AE75)** in the Federal Register (89 FR 107045) on December 31, 2024, as a notice of proposed rulemaking, the notice was only published for a 30-day period for public comments ending January 30, 2025. To comply with PRA, on February 28, 2025, APHIS extended the comment period for an additional 30 days, resulting in a 60-day Federal Register notice comment period which ends on March 31, 2025. Comments will be received and evaluated on the information collection requirements during that time. During this time, interested members of the public will have the opportunity to provide APHIS with their input concerning the usefulness, legitimacy, and merit of the information collection activities proposed. Comments will be addressed during the final stage of rulemaking with the final rule information collection request.

**9. Explain any decision to provide any payment or gift to respondents, other than re-enumeration 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. APHIS will comply with the Privacy Act of 1974.

**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 activity 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.**

* + - 1. **Indicate the number of respondents, frequency of response, annual hour burden, and an explanation of how the burden was estimated. If this request for approval covers more than one form, provide separate hour burden estimates for each form and aggregate the hour burdens in Item 13 of OMB Form 83-1.**

APHIS is seeking approval for 12,051 respondents (affected public: 600 individuals, 11,400 businesses, and 51 State, local, and Tribal governments); 213,112 total annual responses; and 60,463 total annual burden hours.

Burden estimate breakouts were developed from discussions with herd owners, breeders, slaughter plant workers, personnel at approved laboratories, and State personnel who assist with the program. See supporting APHIS Form 71.

* + - 1. **Provide estimates of annualized cost to respondents for the hour burdens for collections of information, identifying and using appropriate wage rate categories.**

APHIS estimates the total annualized cost to the above respondents to be $2,951,479.58. APHIS arrived at this figure by multiplying the hours of estimated response time (60,463 hours) by the estimated average hourly wage of the above respondents ($34.16) and then multiplying the result ($2,065,416.08) by 1.429 to capture benefit costs.

The following average hourly wages used to calculate the estimates were obtained from the U.S. DOL Bureau of Labor website <https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_nat.htm#00-0000>:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Dept of Labor SOCC Code | Average Wage | Occupation Description |
| 11-9013 | $43.35 | Farmers, Ranchers, and Other Agricultural Managers |
| 19-1011 | $43.01 | Animal Scientists |
| 29-1131 | $65.53 | Veterinarians |
| 45-2011 | $25.08 | Agricultural Inspectors |
| 45-2021 | $25.73 | Animal Breeders |
| 45-2093 | $17.82 | Farmworkers, Farm, Ranch, and Agricultural Animals |
| 51-3023 | $18.61 | Slaughterers and Meat Packers |
|  | **$34.16** | **Average Hourly Wage** |

According to [DOL BLS news release USDL-24-0485 dated March 13, 2024](https://www.bls.gov/news.release/ecec.nr0.htm), benefits account for 30 percent of employee costs, and wages account for the remaining 70 percent. Mathematically, total costs can be calculated as a function of wages, resulting in a multiplier of 1.4286.

**13. Provide estimates of the total annual cost burden to respondents or record keepers 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.**

No annual cost burden is associated with capital and startup 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.**

See APHIS Form 79. The annual cost to the Federal government is estimated to be $5,163,002.

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

This is a new collection due to rulemaking. The agency estimates there will be 12,051 respondents providing 213,112 responses and 60,463 hours of burden annually. This computes to 17.68 responses and 0.28 hours of burden per respondent. There are no third-party disclosure activities. APHIS will publish a separate action in the Federal Register announcing OMB’s approval.

**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 collected 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 OMB approval expiration date on the Program Standards.

**18. Explain each exception to the certification statement, "Certification for Paperwork Reduction Act."**

There are no exceptions to the certification statement.