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RE: Docket No. 2026-00341: Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request;  
Reinstatement.

We provide these comments in support of USDA APHIS's request to reinstate information collection for the National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) Equine 2026 Study. The NAHMS Equine Studies provide critically important, nationally representative data that are not available through other sources. These studies have historically informed industry education, outreach, research priorities, and disease preparedness efforts related to equine health, biosecurity, management, and welfare.

The importance of timely and reliable data was underscored by the 2025 multistate EHV-1 outbreak associated with an equine event, which resulted in loss of equine life and widespread disruption across the industry. Understanding management practices and risk factors is essential to improving biosecurity and preventing future outbreaks. The NAHMS Equine 2026 Study, specifically the equine event phase, will provide the data needed to support these efforts.

Further delay of the NAHMS Equine Study is detrimental to the U.S. equine industry. Given the industry's diversity across breeds, disciplines, and regions, a robust, nationally representative study is necessary to ensure the resulting data have practical utility.

We strongly support reinstating information collection for the NAHMS Equine 2026 Study and encourage APHIS to proceed with its implementation using efficient data collection methods that minimize respondent burden while maintaining data quality. We look forward to the study's launch and the valuable insights it will provide.

Please contact Dr. Ashley Morgan, Director of Equine Welfare & Advocacy, at [amorgan@aaep.org](mailto:amorgan@aaep.org) with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Sarah Reuss'.

Sarah M. Reuss, VMD, DACVIM  
2026 AAEP President