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Comment from Anonymous

Posted by the **Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service** on Aug 8, 2025

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Notice Title:

Notice of Request for Revision to and Extension of Approval of an Information Collection; Federal Plant Pest and Noxious Weed Regulations

Federal Register Citation: 90 FR 34412

Document Number: 2025-13712

Docket ID: APHIS-2025-0022

Agency: U.S. Department of Agriculture – Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Date Submitted: August 5, 2025

Comment:

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed revision and extension of information collection under the Federal Plant Pest and Noxious Weed Regulations.

This framework plays a critical role in safeguarding U.S. agriculture from invasive species. However, I urge the agency to recognize and incorporate the climate dimensions of plant pest regulation—especially the role of carbon dioxide (CO₂) and broader climate change in altering pest dynamics and control practices.

Specifically:

Climate-Driven Pest Migration: Rising CO₂ levels and shifting climate zones are accelerating the northward spread and seasonal persistence of invasive plant pests and weeds. Incorporating data collection on pest behavior linked to climate patterns would improve regulatory foresight and response planning.

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Emissions from Pest Control Activities: Transportation, chemical applications, and quarantine logistics all contribute to CO₂ emissions. APHIS should evaluate whether certain mitigation strategies are more climate-efficient than others and consider CO₂ emissions when assessing trade-offs between methods.

Opportunities for Low-Carbon Biosecurity: Expanding the use of climate-smart pest management—such as biological controls, soil health strategies, and local sourcing to minimize pest spread—may reduce both risk and emissions. Capturing information on these innovations could inform national policy.

Strengthening Climate Resilience in Inspection and Prevention: Federal data collection efforts should be designed to enable climate vulnerability assessments of U.S. agriculture in the context of increasing pest pressures, ecosystem instability, and potential disruption to agricultural supply chains.

These considerations are not abstract. As climate change intensifies, the cost and frequency of pest-related damage and mitigation will grow—potentially undermining agricultural resilience. By integrating CO₂- and climate-related metrics into this information collection, APHIS will be better positioned to lead in a changing ecological and regulatory landscape.

Thank you again for your commitment to protecting American agriculture.

Sincerely,
A Concerned Citizen
Submitted Anonymously
Date: August 5, 2025

Comment ID

APHIS-2025-0022-0002



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