

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)

SUPPORTING STATEMENT for

OMB Control Number: 0579-0189

Title: Control of Chronic Wasting Disease

Agency POC: Dr. Tracy Nichols,

Title: Molecular Biologist

Phone Number: (970) 494-7380

Email: tracy.a.nichols@usda.gov

Address:

USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)
Ruminant Health Center (Cervid Health),
Strategy and Policy, Veterinary Services,
2150 Centre Ave, Building B, MS 2E6,
Fort Collins, CO 80526-8117

Date Prepared: June 25, 2026

TERMS OF CLEARANCE: APHIS has prepared a common forms information collection for uses of the VS 1-23 (payment of indemnity) form and associated forms; assignment of a new number for this collection is pending. APHIS has also moved VS 10-4 (Lab Submission Reports/Testing) for specimen submission forms, which will be accounted under the 0579-0090 control number.

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 renewal and revision of an existing information collection request. The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is asking the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve, for an additional 3 years, its use of the information collection activities described herein in connection with its efforts to identify, prevent, and control chronic wasting disease (CWD) in the United States.

The Animal Health Protection Act (AHPA) of 2002 is the primary Federal law governing the protection of animal health; it 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 the 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.).

Disease prevention is the most effective method for maintaining a healthy animal population and for enhancing the United States' ability to compete in the world market of animal and animal product trade. The presence of CWD in cervids causes significant economic and market losses for U.S. producers.

CWD is a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy of elk, deer, and moose typified by chronic weight loss leading to death. To accelerate the control of this disease and limit its spread in the United States, APHIS, through its Veterinary Services (VS) business unit, created a cooperative, voluntary Federal-State-private sector CWD Herd Certification Program. The program is designed to identify farmed or captive herds infected with CWD and provide for the management of these herds in a way that will reduce the risk of spreading CWD.

Under Title 9, *Code of Federal Regulations* (9 CFR) Part 55 and 9 CFR Part 81, owners of elk, deer, and moose herds who choose to participate in this program must follow program requirements for animal identification, testing, herd management, and movement of animals into and from herds. Regulations further establish requirements for the interstate movement of cervids to prevent movement of animals that pose a risk of spreading CWD.

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, through VS, uses the following information activities to identify, prevent, and control CWD in the United States:

9 CFR 55.23(a); Memorandum of Understanding Between States and APHIS Animal Health Authorities; (State)

To enter their States into the State-Federal Cooperative CWD Herd Certification Program (HCP), State animal health authorities must enter into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between VS and the State. The MOU delineates the respective roles of each in the program's implementation. A signed MOU is required to enroll in the HCP, amend the State's status, and renew the MOU at least every 5 years to maintain participation.

9 CFR 55.22(b), 23(a); Application for Chronic Wasting Disease Herd Certification Program (CWD HCP) Approval, Renewal, or Reinstatement of a State (VS Form 11-2); (Business (Herd Owners in States Without a State CWD Herd Certification Program), State)

If a State Herd Certification Program does not exist, herd owners of farmed/captive cervids may apply to enter the national CWD Herd Certification Program directly by submitting to VS a completed VS Form 11-2. However, VS' ability to accept direct entry is based on availability of Federal funding. Applications need only be submitted once. Once enrolled in the program, the owner may use the VS Form 11-2 for renewal.

Any State that operates a State program to certify the CWD status of deer, elk, or moose may use the VS Form 11-2 to ask VS to designate the State program as an Approved State CWD Herd Certification Program. The form asks for an inventory of enrolled herds in the State by species; the number of animals tested through on-farm surveillance, at slaughter, and at hunt facilities; and includes certification that the State meets the HCP requirements. For renewals or reinstatements, the form provides a space for any action items identified during an approved State review or for the previous renewal. The State must submit its request, as well as a copy of the State's program and other documentation, to VS for review before VS approves or disapproves a State program in accordance with 9 CFR 55.23(a). Once a State program is approved, the State must submit a complete VS Form 11-2 as part of its annual report to renew status.

9 CFR 55.25; 81.2; Farmed/Captive Cervid Identification; (Business) (Third Party Disclosure)

Each animal in a participating herd must be identified with at least two forms of identification, one of which is a unique USDA official identification number. The identification may be applied by the herd owner or the owner's agent and must be linked to that herd in the appropriate State database. VS does not maintain a national CWD database. The second form of identification must uniquely identify the animal within the herd.

9 CFR 55.23(b)(3); Report of Cervid Disappearances, Escapes, and Deaths; (Business, State)

Herd owners must immediately report to a VS employee or State representative all animals that escape or disappear, and all deaths (to include for those killed on premises maintained for hunting and animals sent to slaughter) of deer, elk, and moose in the herd aged 12 months or older. VS employees or State representatives may approve reporting schedules other than immediate notification when herd conditions warrant it in the opinion of both VS and the State. Herd owners will notify VS or State officials to determine if an animal is suspected of exhibiting clinical signs suggesting CWD infection and to ensure testing for CWD.

9 CFR 55.1; Herd or Premises Plans; (Business, State)

When CWD is discovered in a farmed/captive cervid herd, the owner must participate in a herd or premises plan. A herd plan must be signed by the owner and be in place before a herd can re-enroll in the CWD Herd Certification Program after losing program status. It also must be completed before quarantine can be removed. VS helps develop this written management plan with input from the herd owner and State animal health authorities. The plan describes the steps to be taken to control spread of CWD from a CWD-positive herd, or to prevent the introduction of CWD into another herd.

A herd plan requires specified means of identification for each animal in the herd; regular examination of animals in the herd by a veterinarian for signs of disease; reporting to a State or VS representative any signs of central nervous system disease in herd animals; maintaining records of the acquisition and disposition of all animals entering or leaving the herd, including the date of acquisition or removal; the name and address of the person from whom the animal was acquired or to whom it was disposed; cause of death, and whether the animal died while in the herd; testing of all mortalities, 6 months of age and older (9 CFR 55.24 (2)(ii)). Records should be maintained for all samples submitted for CWD testing.

A herd plan may also contain additional requirements to prevent or control the possible spread of CWD depending on the particular condition of the herd and its premises, including but not limited to herd depopulation; specifying the time for which a premises must not contain cervids after CWD-positive, CWD-exposed, or CWD-suspect animals are removed from the premises; fencing requirements; selective culling of animals; restrictions on sharing and movement of possibly contaminated livestock equipment; and cleaning and disinfecting requirements.

9 CFR 55.23(a); Annual Reports for Herd Certification Program (HCP) Renewal; (State)

Comprehensive annual reports of Herd Certification Program status and activities of enrolled herds are submitted by the Approved States to VS each year to renew their status. States with Approved HCPs use the platform Data Integration Services (DIS) to electronically enter information related to numbers of enrolled herds by State, herd status summaries, and summaries of the level of mortality surveillance (including the number of annual inspections and inventories and any herds reporting missing animals or with lowered or suspended status). The reports also include (1) CWD samples and tests – number of animals tested during the reporting period, species, herd type (breeder, hunting operation, etc.) and test results; (2) any CWD-positive herds – under quarantine, depopulated and released from quarantine, not under quarantine, under herd plans, and the number of animals in each herd; (3) any CWD-exposed herds – under quarantine, depopulated and released from quarantine, not under quarantine, under herd plans, and the number of animals in each herd; (4) epidemiological information – trace outs initiated, trace outs

pending, and trace outs completed; and (5) number of enrolled herds – by State and certification status, species, number of animals in each herd, number due for inspection during each reporting period, and the number actually inspected. In addition, States and VS Area Veterinarians in Charge review and sign the VS Form 11-2, the complement to the HCP Annual Report, electronically in DIS following submission of the Annual Report.

9 CFR 55.23(a); Approved State CWD Herd Certification Program Reviews; (State)

VS may periodically review an Approved State's CWD program. Objectives of the review include (1) evaluating program activities to verify Approved State status; (2) identifying and providing guidance on State problems in complying with Federal requirements; (3) reviewing farmed cervid surveillance activities and enrolled herd owner compliance; (4) reviewing records and documents on enrolled herds, including laboratory reports and herd inventories, as well as reviewing epidemiological reports submitted by the State-designated epidemiologist to the CWD epidemiologist and national CWD program manager; (5) assessing compliance with and completeness of data entered into the national CWD database or equivalent State database; (6) reviewing educational and outreach efforts to producers; (7) evaluating personnel and other resource needs; and (8) conducting site visits in accordance with VS policy.

In selecting States to review, VS considers States with compliance or program consistency issues, States with varying sizes of cervid industry, District balance (selecting States from each VS District), and review intervals (at least once every 5 years). VS provides to the Approved State a review report that includes the findings of the review and a request to the State to develop a response. The findings also include an action plan containing a list of recommendations or requirements to address specific issues identified and a specified period of time for completion.

9 CFR 55.23(a), (b); Epidemiological Investigations; (Business, State)

VS or State officials conduct epidemiological investigations of herds designated as CWD-suspect, trace back, or trace forward to determine if the animals in the herd were exposed to a CWD-positive animal, and the consequences of that exposure to herd status. The current Program Standards contain a worksheet that State officials may use in conducting the investigation. The results of the investigation may lead to the development and implementation of a herd plan towards reinstatement of herd status or re-enrollment in the CWD Herd Certification Program. Epidemiological investigations also may determine if the owner of the herd has not fully complied with program requirements for animal identification, animal testing, and recordkeeping, and lead to suspension of program status until a herd plan is implemented. Any herd reinstated after being placed in suspended status must comply with the requirements of the herd plan as well as the requirements of the CWD Herd Certification Program.

9 CFR 55.24(c)(1); Letter to Appeal Suspension, Cancellation, or Change in Status; (Business)

If a herd owner's enrollment in the CWD Herd Certification Program is suspended or cancelled, or the herd's status is lowered, the herd owner may appeal the cancellation or status reduction in writing to VS. This must be done within 10 days of receiving the notice of the cancellation or change in status. The appeal letter must include all of the facts and reasons on which the herd owner relies to show that the reasons for the proposed cancellation are incorrect or do not support VS' action.

9 CFR 81.3, 81.4; Interstate Certificate of Veterinary Inspection; (Business, State)

No covered cervid may move interstate unless it meets the requirements of 9 CFR 81.3. This includes, but is not limited to, cervids originating from a herd enrolled in the CWD Herd Certification Program that has reached certified status as well as imported animals and non-enrolled animals moving interstate directly to slaughter, zoo and exhibition animals from non-enrolled facilities moving interstate, animals for research, and captured wild cervids moving interstate. The animals must be accompanied by a certificate completed by an accredited veterinarian that documents the origin, identity, and health status of the animal being moved. The certificate must show the official identification numbers of each animal being moved, the number of animals covered by the certificate, the purpose for which the animals are being moved, the points of origin and destination, the consignor, and the consignee. The certificate must also include a statement by the issuing accredited veterinarian that the animals were not exhibiting clinical signs associated with CWD at the time of examination. States receiving a request for import of animals into their State provide instructions of what import requirements are to be met and documents to be presented.

9 CFR 81.2, 81.4; Wild Cervid Identification, ICVI, and Surveillance Data for Interstate Movement; (State) (Third Party Disclosure)

Each captive wild cervid must be identified with at least two forms of identification attached to the animal by the originating State. One form of identification must be official. The animal also must be accompanied by a certificate documenting the source population to be low risk for CWD based on surveillance in that population. Summary surveillance information provided by the originating State is reviewed by VS and the receiving State to determine interstate movement approvals.

9 CFR 55.23(b) Inspections and Inventories, Herd Records; (Business, State)

Herd owners must complete annual inspections and triennial physical herd inventories for all herds enrolled in the CWD Herd Certification Program. Triennial physical inventories are conducted no more than 3 years after the last complete physical herd inventory for the herd. States must review and reconcile records of all inspections and inventories for each owner. VS may also participate in inspections and physical inventories activities that an owner may need to complete.

In addition, participating herd owners must maintain herd records that include complete inventories of animals stating the species, date of birth, age, and sex of each animal born into the herd; the date of acquisition and source of each animal not born into the herd; the date of disposition and destination of any animal removed from the herd; owner name, city, and State; and all individual identification numbers (from tags, tattoos, electronic implants, etc.) associated with each animal. The information must also include the name and address of the person from whom any animal was acquired or to whom it was disposed; and the cause of death, if the animal died while in the herd. The records must also state the herd's program status and any restrictions on the herd due to disease status, as well as the date of CWD sample submission, submitter, owner, premises, and animal information, and official CWD test results from the NVSL or another approved laboratory for required samples. These written records are critical during any trace out investigation conducted by VS or the Approved State, and must be maintained as long as the herd remains in the program.

9 CFR part 55; Cooperative Agreements and Grants Workplan; (State/Tribe/Research Institutions/Universities)

For the past 5 fiscal years (FY) VS received funding for cooperative agreements with States and Tribes to work to control the spread of CWD. In FY 2021, VS awarded \$2.78 million through a competitive funding opportunity to State departments of agriculture (15 agreements). In FY 2022, VS awarded \$4.8 million through a competitive funding opportunity to State departments of agriculture (17 agreements). In FY 2023, VS awarded \$6.15 million through a competitive funding opportunity (20 agreements) to State departments of agriculture, research institutions, and universities (newly eligible for this FY). In FY 2024, VS awarded approximately \$6 million through a competitive funding opportunity (31 agreements) to State departments of agriculture, research institutions, and universities. VS is currently awarding approximately \$6 million in cooperative agreement funds for FY 2025 through a non-competitive process due to APHIS staffing challenges and a delay in announcing the FY 2025 funding.

The cooperative agreement is a written commitment between APHIS and the State or Tribe to cooperatively administer the program. The work plan accompanies the cooperative agreements used by States and Tribal governments. These entities complete the work plan. The work plan asks the cooperator to provide the project title, the name of the organization submitting the plan, the type of applicant, the funding requested, contact information for the submitting organization, the project goals, objectives, and need for assistance; outcomes, activities, and deliverables; qualifications and relevant experience of the principal investigator, program manager, and lead technical experts; potential problems and suggested solutions; performance methods and criteria; and a budget justification.

9 CFR part 55; Cooperative Agreements and Grants Financial Plan; (State/Tribe/Research Institutions/Universities)

The financial plan accompanies the cooperative agreements used by States and Tribal governments. These entities complete the financial plan. The financial plan breaks out the category for each anticipated cost and allows the cooperator to state the individual anticipated expense as well as totals for each category.

9 CFR part 55; Cooperative Agreement or Grant Quarterly Report; (State/Tribe/Research Institutions/Universities)

States and Tribal governments complete quarterly reports on activities carried out under their cooperative agreements.

9 CFR 55.4; Laboratory Disinfection Worksheet; (Business, State)

When producers enter into a certification plan, they must agree to follow a disinfection protocol requiring use of a product registered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) specifically for reduction of prion infectivity in accordance with the label or with an emergency exemption issued by the EPA for reduction of prion infectivity. On April 29, 2013, the EPA amended 40 CFR Part 152 to include prions as a “pest” under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). Accordingly, only products registered with the EPA specifically for the reduction of prion infectivity can be used to disinfect premises, laboratories, and research facilities after prion exposure. Currently there are no EPA-registered products available; EPA therefore granted APHIS an exemption for the use of chlorine and sodium hydroxide (lye) in its prion control and eradication programs. The exemption requires APHIS to submit an annual report to EPA detailing the total amount of bleach and lye used by APHIS, our partners (State

laboratories), and TSE-infected premises. For bleach, respondents must report the date of use, the concentration used, the amount used, and any adverse reactions noted in people, livestock, wildlife, or the environment. For lye, respondents must report the date of use, formulation (powder or liquid) used, the amount used, and any adverse reactions noted in people, livestock, wildlife or the environment.

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 the E-Government Act, 2002 (E-Gov) and to provide for alternative submission of information collections.

VS Form 11-2 may be completed online and printed for signature. [VS Form 11-2](#) may be digitally signed but is usually signed in ink by State and business respondents. The form is available online at <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/organization/business-services/forms/aphis-forms?column=form%20number&filter=vs->. APHIS anticipates 75 percent of the data will be submitted electronically.

About half of the Memoranda of Understanding submitted are signed electronically. This is not a requirement.

VS has integrated the CWD annual report spreadsheet into its Data Integration Services electronic database to allow electronic submission of annual report data.

Electronic collection and submission of cervid identification information currently varies by State and is managed at the State level.

Epidemiological investigations and reporting of out-of-State traces to affected States is also handled at the State level.

The cooperative agreements, MOUs, and grants can also be handled electronically with verified digital signatures of State/Tribal and Federal personnel.

APHIS has specific Excel spreadsheets for completing the disinfection worksheets; these may be submitted by email or in hard copy.

Herd plans, interstate movement certificates, and appeal letters are tailored documents requiring original signatures to be valid. They are not candidates for electronic completion and signature.

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 collects is not available from any other source and every effort has been made to avoid duplication. APHIS is the only Federal Agency responsible for preventing, detecting, and controlling CWD in the United States.

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

APHIS estimates 75 percent of the cervid herd owners participating in the Federal CWD Herd Certification Program are small entities. The information APHIS collects in connection with this program is the absolute minimum required to effectively operate a certification program designed to identify and track farmed cervids in the United States.

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 is a mandatory information collection request; information is required to administer the CWD eradication program and Herd Certification Program. The latter is voluntary, but participants must submit the requested information to be a part of the program. Collecting this information less frequently or failing to collect it would make it impossible for VS to maintain its CWD Herd Certification Program, thereby hindering APHIS' ability to prevent and control the spread of CWD in the United States.

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;**

Epidemiology investigation reports: VS requests that States provide preliminary information within 7 business days of NVSL confirmation of a CWD-positive animal in a newly identified CWD-positive herd.

Letter to Appeal Suspension, Cancellation, or Change in Status: Herd owners must appeal cancellations or changes in status within 10 days of receiving notice. This ensures the proper treatment of herds regarding their status in the CWD program and helps maintain program efficacy.

- **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;**

Inspections and Inventories, Herd Records: VS requires herd owners to maintain their herd records for as long as the herd remains in the CWD program. This time varies from herd to herd.

- **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 other 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 record keeping, 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 consulted each of the following individuals concerning the information collection activities associated with this program. It contacted these respondents by phone to discuss the information APHIS collects to administer its CWD herd certification and control programs. We discussed the necessity for the requested data and the frequency of collection; the amount of data available; and whether APHIS could improve reporting formats and other collection instruments as well as its recordkeeping requirements. The consulted individuals had no concerns with any of these items, but the State partners indicated a need for a stable recordkeeping platform for their use. Pennsylvania received CWD cooperative agreement funding to develop such a platform with a vendor and that work is still in progress.

Dawn Dilling, Cervid Health Program Specialist
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Animal Health and Diagnostic Services
2301 North Cameron Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110
Phone: (717) 443-1183
Fax: (717) 787-1868
ddilling@pa.gov

Dolores Clausen, Program Planner 3
Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship
Hoover State Office Building
1305 E. Walnut Street
Des Moines, IA 50319
Phone: (515) 281-8236
Delores.Clausen@iowaagriculture.gov

Glenn Dice, Deer Farm Owner
Chambersburg , PA 17202
Personal: (717) 658-6373
glenndicefarms@yahoo.com

On Friday, 01/23/2026, APHIS published in the Federal Register (VOL 91, No. 15, Pages 2896-2897) a 60-day notice seeking public comments on its plans to request a 3-year renewal of this collection of information. APHIS received 4 comments from the public were received. All comments received were in agreement to continue the collection of information in connection with its efforts to identify, prevent, and control chronic wasting disease (CWD) in the United States.

9. Explain any decision to provide any payment or gift to respondents, other than renumeration 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 institute, regulation, or agency policy.

No additional assurance of privacy, safeguards, or protections are 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 5 U.S.C. 552a, Privacy Act of 1974. The APHIS Privacy Officer, Tonya Woods has reviewed this collection in December 2025.

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

This information collection activity asks 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.

A) 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-I.

APHIS is seeking approval for an estimated 1,588 respondents (affected public: 1,524 Business; 64 State, Local, and Tribal Governments), 50,156 total annual responses, and 162,510 total annual burden hours. Burden estimates were developed from discussions with cervid herd owners, industry representatives, and State animal health authorities. See APHIS Form 71.

B) 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 \$9,074,043.41 computed by multiplying the estimated average hourly wage of the above respondents (\$39.09) by the total number of burden hours needed to complete the work (162,510) and then multiplying the result (\$6,351,703.35) by 1.4286 to capture benefit costs.

Dept of Labor SOCC Code	Average Hourly Wage	Occupation Description
11-9013	\$47.99	Farmers, ranchers, and other agricultural managers
19-1011	\$42.48	Animal scientists
29-1131	\$68.60	Veterinarians
45-1011	\$30.16	Supervisors for agricultural workers
45-2011	\$26.40	Agricultural Inspectors
45-2093	\$18.88	Farmworkers, farm, ranch, and aquaculture animals
	\$39.09	Average Hourly Salary

APHIS derived the estimated wage by averaging the above figures from the [U.S. Department of Labor; Bureau of Labor Statistics website](#).

According to news release [USDL-25-0958](#), released June 13, 2025, 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 1). The cost estimates should be split into two components: (a) a total capital and start-up cost component annualized over its expected use full 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, or ongoing operation, maintenance costs, and purchase of services in connection with this program.

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 annualized cost to the Federal Government is estimated at \$3,338,154.23.

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

APHIS is seeking approval of a revision of a currently approved information collection request. The currently approved burden for this request is 9,053 total annual respondents, 78,128 total annual responses and 322,546 total annual burden hours. This request for a renewal and revision is for 1,588 respondents, 50,156 estimated responses and 162,510 estimated burden hours. This request reflects a decrease of 7,465 respondents, a decrease of 27,972 estimated responses and a decrease of 160,036 hours of estimated burden from the previous renewal request.

There are 12,194 third-party disclosure burden estimates.

	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	50,156	0	-30,480	2,508	0	78,128
Annual Time Burden (Hours)	162,510	0	-65,845	-105,323	0	322,546
Annual Cost Burden (\$)	0	0	0	0	0	0

Program Change(s) in estimate due to Agency discretion include:

There is a program changes decrease of -23 respondents and -30,480 responses resulting in a decrease of -54,713 burden hours. APHIS has moved the use of the VS forms 10-4 and 1-23 to the New VS Permit information collection, also VS never implemented the testing exemption activity and removed the Private for laboratory disinfection worksheets.

- Item 1: VS has moved all uses of the Form 10-4, Specimen Submission, to a separate information collection. That removes 23 nonprofit respondents, 30,379 responses, and 54,229 burden hours from the collection.
- Item 2: VS has moved all uses of the Form 1-23, Appraisal, Destruction, and Payment of Indemnity, to a separate information collection. That removes 76 responses and 76 total burden hours from this collection.
- Item 3: VS never implemented the testing exemption activity, cutting 10 responses and 400 burden hours.
- Item 4: Private entities do not submit laboratory disinfection worksheets, so VS removed that line from the APHIS Form 71. This eliminated 15 responses and 8 burden hours.

Change(s) in estimate due to adjustments in estimate include:

There is an adjustment of -7,442 respondents; however, there is an increase of +2,508 responses and a decrease of -105,323 total burden hours

- Item 1: The number of farmed and captive cervids identified dropped from 2,267 to 1,524, a decline in responses of 743 with fewer animals being identified during this reporting period. Though the time to tag the animals remained the same at 8 hours per tagging, the decline in number of animals tagged cut the burden hours for this activity from 18,136 to 12,192, a drop of 5,944 burden hours.
- Item 2: Similarly, the number of cervids reported missing fell from 9,000 to 8,869, a drop of 131 responses. However, as VS adjusted the response time from a rather unrealistic .167 to make the report to .5, total burden hours rose from 1,503 to 4,435, for an increase in burden hours of 2,932. Numbers shifted similarly for State respondents.
- Item 3: VS had 37 fewer private herd plans submitted during this renewal cycle and 41 fewer from States), with 76 and 80 respectively in 2022 versus 39 each for 2025. VS also adjusted the time estimate for submission of private herd plans from 10 hours per herd plan to 3 hours per herd plan, resulting in a 643 hour drop in total burden hours for private herd plans. The time estimate for submission of State plans remained the same at 20 hours per plan, but the reduction in responses caused a drop in burden hours from 1,600 hours to 780 hours, a reduction of 820 hours overall.
- Item 4: VS did an additional herd certification program review, increasing responses by 1 and burden hours by 20 hours.
- Item 5: The number of epidemiological investigations conducted on private premises rose from 76 to 780 owing to an uptick in findings of CWD. (States reported 80 in 2022 and 780 in 2025; these are likely the same premises in both cases.) While time to conduct investigations remained stable, at 20 hours for businesses and 40 hours for

States, this resulted in a total uptick in burden hours of 14,080 for businesses and 28,000 for States.

- Item 6: The number of wild cervids identified dropped from 4 to 1, while VS adjusted the time to identify from 10 hours to 2 hours, cutting the total burden hours from 40 to 2.
- Item 7: The numbers for inspections and inventories fell in coordination with the drop in captive/farmed cervids identified, from 2,267 (2,500 for recordkeeping) in 2022 to 1,524 for private entities in 2025, and 2,268 (30 for recordkeeping) in 2022 to 1,524 (51 for recordkeeping) for States in 2025. Total burden hours for business inspections fell 10,402 hours (time to do the work remained the same at 14 hours per response). Time spent on recordkeeping for private entities dropped from 50 hours to 20 hours per response, dropping the total burden hours by 121,952 hours. For States, responses dropped by 744 while burden hours for performing the work fell (because of a time adjustment from 14 hours per response to 2 hours per response) from 31,752 hours to 3,048 (28,704 fewer hours); for recordkeeping, responses rose by 1,494 while burden hours fell (because of a time adjustment from 30 hours to 4 hours) from 9,000 hours to 6,096, a total drop of 2,904 burden hours.
- Item 8: The number of State entities (including universities) entering into cooperative agreements rose from 24 to 55 (with 51 copies of agreements and each accompanying document except for quarterly reports, which rose to 229 from 96 in 2022) and the number of Tribes entering into agreements rising from 1 to 9 (although the number of agreements and accompanying documents did not change). This led to an increase in cooperative agreements, workplans, and financial plans of 81 and an increase of 133 quarterly reports. The time for State entities to prepare these documents was not changed, but the increase in the number of responses led to an overall increase of 1,870 hours. Time estimates for Tribal responses changed from 5 hours for the workplan and 10 hours each for the financial plan and quarterly report to 1 hour for each activity, dropping the total number of burden hours from 52 hours to 3 hours.
- Item 9: VS corrected the count of interstate certificates of veterinary inspection handled by States from 8,400 to 11,335 (same as for businesses), increasing the number of responses by 2,935; however, VS corrected the amount of time spent on this activity by States from 2 hours per response to half an hour, cutting the total burden hours for this activity by 11,132.

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 in appropriate.

VS Form 1-23 and VS Form 10-4 have been moved to new, subject-comprehensive information collections and thus have been removed from this collection.

The OMB expiration date will be displayed on VS Form 11-2.

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

APHIS is able to certify compliance with all the provisions under the Act.

B. Collections of Information Employing Statistical Methods

There are no statistical methods associated with the information collection activities used in this program.