

restrict the importation of certain animals, birds, and poultry into the United States to prevent the introduction of communicable diseases of livestock and poultry. Subpart D of part 93 (§§ 93.400 through 93.436, referred to below as the regulations) governs the importation of ruminants; within the regulations, §§ 93.424 through 93.429 specifically address the importation of various ruminants from Mexico into the United States.

The regulations in paragraph (b)(1) of § 93.427 contain conditions for the importation of ruminants from regions of Mexico that we consider free from fever ticks (*Boophilus annulatus*). Regions of Mexico that we consider free from fever ticks are listed at <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-and-animal-product-import-information/animal-health-status-of-regions/animal-health-status-of-regions>.

Mexico has asked the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to recognize the State of Baja California as a region free from fever ticks. In response to this request, we have prepared an evaluation of the fever tick status of this region. The evaluation concludes that the State of Baja California is free from fever ticks, and that ruminants imported from the region pose a low risk of exposing ruminants within the United States to fever ticks.

We are making the evaluation available for public review and comment. The assessment is available on the [Regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) website (see ADDRESSES above) or by contacting the person listed in this document under the heading **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. After the close of the comment period, we will notify the public of our final determination regarding the fever tick status of the State of Baja California.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 1622 and 8301–8317; 21 U.S.C. 136 and 136a; 31 U.S.C. 9701; 7 CFR 2.22, 2.80, and 371.4.

Done in Washington, DC, March 13, 2019.

Kevin Shea,

Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 2019–05072 Filed 3–18–19; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS–2018–0043]

Notice of Availability of an Evaluation of the Foot-and-Mouth Disease Status of Singapore

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: We are advising the public that we are proposing to recognize Singapore as being free of foot-and-mouth disease. This proposed recognition is based on an evaluation we have prepared in connection with this action, which we are making available for review and comment.

DATES: We will consider all comments that we receive on or before May 20, 2019.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by either of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to <http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=APHIS-2018-0043>.
- *Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery:* Send your comment to Docket No. APHIS–2018–0043, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3A–03.8, 4700 River Road, Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737–1238.

Supporting documents and any comments we receive on this docket may be viewed at <http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=APHIS-2018-0043> or in our reading room, which is located in Room 1141 of the USDA South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC. Normal reading room hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. To be sure someone is there to help you, please call (202) 799–7039 before coming.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Roberta A. Morales, Senior Staff Veterinarian, Regionalization Evaluation Services, Strategy and Policy, VS, APHIS, 920 Main Campus Drive, Raleigh, NC 27606; (919) 855–7735; Roberta.A.Morales@aphis.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The regulations in 9 CFR part 94 (referred to below as the regulations) govern the importation of certain animals and animal products into the United States to prevent the introduction of various animal diseases, including foot-and-mouth disease (FMD). The regulations prohibit or restrict the importation of live ruminants and swine, and products

from these animals, from regions where APHIS considers FMD to exist.

Within part 94, § 94.1 contains requirements governing the importation of ruminants and swine from regions where FMD exists and the importation of the meat of any ruminants or swine from regions where FMD exists to prevent the introduction of this disease into the United States. We consider FMD to exist in all regions except those listed in accordance with paragraph (a) of that section as free of FMD.

Section 94.11 of the regulations contains requirements governing the importation of meat of any ruminants or swine from regions that have been determined to be free of FMD, but that are subject to certain restrictions because of their proximity to or trading relationships with FMD-affected regions. Such regions are listed in accordance with paragraph (a) of that section.

The regulations in 9 CFR part 92, § 92.2, contain requirements for requesting the recognition of the animal health status of a region (as well as for the approval of the export of a particular type of animal or animal product to the United States from a foreign region). If, after review and evaluation of the information submitted in support of the request, APHIS believes the request can be safely granted, APHIS will make its evaluation available for public comment through a document published in the **Federal Register**. Following the close of the comment period, APHIS will review all comments received and will make a final determination regarding the request that will be detailed in another document published in the **Federal Register**.

Singapore submitted a request to APHIS to evaluate the FMD status of the country. In response to this request, APHIS conducted a qualitative risk assessment to evaluate Singapore with respect to this disease. Based on this evaluation, APHIS recognizes Singapore to be free of FMD. APHIS has also determined that the surveillance, prevention, and control measures implemented by Singapore are sufficient to minimize the likelihood of introducing FMD into the United States via imports of species susceptible to this disease or products of those species. Our determination supports adding Singapore to the Web-based list of regions APHIS considers free of FMD.

Therefore, in accordance with § 92.2(e), we are announcing the availability of our risk evaluation of the FMD status of Singapore for public review and comment. We are also announcing the availability of an environmental assessment (EA), which

has been prepared in accordance with: (1) The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), (2) regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality for implementing the procedural provision of NEPA (40 CFR parts 1500–1508), (3) USDA regulations implementing NEPA (7 CFR part 1b), and (4) APHIS' NEPA Implementing Procedures (7 CFR part 372). The evaluation and the EA may be viewed on the *Regulations.gov* website or in our reading room. (Instructions for accessing *Regulations.gov* and information on the location and hours of the reading room are provided under the heading **ADDRESSES** at the beginning of this notice.) The documents are also available by contacting the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

Information submitted in support of Singapore's original request is available by contacting the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

After reviewing any comments we receive, we will announce our decision regarding the disease status of Singapore with respect to FMD and the import status of susceptible animals and products of such animals in a subsequent notice.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 1633, 7701–7772, 7781–7786, and 8301–8317; 21 U.S.C. 136 and 136a; 31 U.S.C. 9701; 7 CFR 2.22, 2.80, and 371.4.

Done in Washington, DC, this March 13, 2019.

Kevin Shea,

Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 2019–05073 Filed 3–18–19; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food and Nutrition Service

Agency Information Collection Activities: How States Safeguard SNAP Participant Personally Identifiable Information

AGENCY: Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice invites the general public and other public agencies to comment on this proposed information collection. This is a new information collection. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is the largest domestic nutrition assistance program in the

United States, having served approximately 20.1 million low-income households in 2018, with \$60.1 billion in benefits provided during that time. Section 11(e)(8) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 requires that these millions of households must submit personally identifiable information (PII) in order to receive SNAP benefits. PII includes information that directly identifies individuals, such as individuals' names and Social Security numbers, as well as information like home addresses, which can be used to deduce the identity of an individual. While State agencies (SAs) implement policies to safeguard SNAP PII, little is systematically known about the policies and practices that SAs have in place. Accordingly, FNS wants to assess the ways that States safeguard SNAP PII and identify best practices to protect such information.

DATES: Written comments on this notice must be received on or before May 20, 2019.

ADDRESSES: Comments are invited on (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information has practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions that were used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments may be sent to: Jenny Laster Genser, Office of Policy Support, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 1014, Alexandria, VA 22302. Comments may also be submitted via fax to the attention of Jenny Laster Genser at 703–305–2576 or via email to jenny.genser@fns.usda.gov. Comments will also be accepted through the Federal eRulemaking Portal. Go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and follow the online instructions for submitting comments electronically.

All written comments will be open for public inspection at FNS offices during regular business hours (8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday) at 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 1014, Alexandria, VA 22302.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request

for Office of Management and Budget approval. All comments will be a matter of public record.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information should be directed to Jenny Laster Genser at 703–305–2559.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: How States Safeguard SNAP Participant Personally Identifiable Information.

OMB Number: 0584–NEW.

Expiration Date of Approval: Not yet determined.

Type of Information Collection

Request: New Collection.

Abstract: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits are funded by the Federal Government through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS). FNS and State SNAP agencies (SAs) share responsibility for program administration and associated administrative expenses. As part of their administrative responsibilities, SAs are required to ensure that all personally identifiable information (PII) provided by SNAP applicants and participants is properly safeguarded and secure. SAs develop security plans as part of their Advanced Planning Document (OMB number 0584–0083, expires 7/30/2020), which is required in order for the SA to obtain federal funding for information systems updates.

No known breaches of SNAP data have occurred to date. However, the following circumstances suggest a need for more focus on data security: (1) The growing amount of data stored by SAs (and by the Federal Government as a whole); (2) the degree to which PII is shared or matched with data from multiple State and Federal agencies, with a wide variety of matches required by statute; and (3) the increasingly sophisticated methods for breaching datasets. These trends, in combination with limited resources for many SAs, may have left many States vulnerable to data security breaches. The contexts in which SAs must operate (for example, outdated computer systems) may also contribute to inadequate levels of PII security. Because little is known about the security protocols, policies, and procedures that SAs implement in protecting PII, FNS seeks to examine how States are currently protecting SNAP applicant/participant PII that is submitted in SNAP applications and maintained in SNAP caseload files.

This study has five main objectives: (1) Describe legislation, regulations, and policies that address how participants' PII must be safeguarded; (2) describe methods that can be used to safeguard