Please state that your comment refers to Docket No. 04–136–1.

Reading Room: You may read any comments that we receive on this docket in our reading room. The reading room 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) 690–2817 before coming.


FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information regarding the Cooperative State-Federal Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication Program, contact Dr. Michael Dutcher, National Tuberculosis Program Coordinator, Eradication and Surveillance Team, National Center for Animal Health Programs, VS, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 43, Riverdale, MD 20737; (301) 734–5467. For copies of more detailed information on the information collection, contact Mrs. Celeste Sickles, APHIS' Information Collection Coordinator, at (301) 734–7477.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Tuberculosis.
OMB Number: 0579–0084.

Type of Request: Extension of approval of an information collection.

Abstract: The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of the United States Department of Agriculture is responsible for, among other things, preventing the interstate spread of serious diseases and pests of livestock, and for eradicating such diseases from the United States when feasible.

In connection with this mission, APHIS participates in the Cooperative State-Federal Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication Program, which is a national program to eliminate bovine tuberculosis from the United States.

Bovine tuberculosis is a serious disease of livestock that also affects humans through contact with infected animals or their byproducts.

The Cooperative State-Federal Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication Program is conducted under the various States’ authorities supplemented by Federal regulations on the interstate movement of affected animals. A concerted effort (State and Federal) requires that we conduct epidemiologic investigations to locate the disease and provide an effective means of controlling it. Federal regulations also provide for the payment of indemnity to owners of animals that must be destroyed because of tuberculosis.

This program necessitates the use of a number of information-gathering documents, including various forms needed to properly identify, test, and transport animals that have been infected with tuberculosis, or that may have been exposed to tuberculosis. We also employ national epidemiology forms for the purposes of recording, reporting, and reviewing epidemiological data. Still other documents provide us with the information we need to pay indemnity to the owners of animals destroyed because of tuberculosis.

The information provided by these documents is critical to our ability to locate herds infected with tuberculosis and to prevent the interstate spread of tuberculosis. The collection of this information is therefore crucial to the success of the Cooperative State-Federal Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication Program.

We are asking the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve our use of these information collection activities for an additional 3 years.

The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public (as well as affected agencies) concerning our information collection. These comments will help us:

(1) Evaluate whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(2) Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the burden of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(3) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(4) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, through use of appropriate, of automated, electronic, mechanical, and other collection technologies; e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

Estimate of burden: The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 0.324473748 hours per response.

Respondents: State animal health protection personnel, accredited veterinarians, livestock inspectors, shippers, herd owners, and slaughter establishment personnel.

Estimated annual number of respondents: 6,897.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Food Safety and Inspection Service
[Docket No. 02–046N] Generic E. coli and Salmonella Baseline Results

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is making available and publishing the results of baseline studies that it has conducted on generic Escherichia coli (E. coli) and Salmonella. Although these studies were conducted between 1997 and 2000, FSIS has decided to make the results available because they may assist inspected establishments in assessing their processes. The publication of these baseline results does not affect the current generic E. coli criteria and Salmonella standards listed in the regulations.

ADDRESSES: FSIS invites interested persons to submit comments on these baseline results. Comments may be submitted by the following methods:

Mail, including floppy disks or CD–ROM’s, and hand-or courier-delivered items: Send to Docket Clerk, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, 300 12th Street, SW., Room 102 Cotton Annex, Washington, DC 20250.

All submissions received must include the Agency name and docket number 02–046N.

All comments submitted in response to this notice, as well as research and background information used by FSIS in developing this document, will be
available for public inspection in the
FSIS Docket Room at the address listed
above between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.,
Monday through Friday. The comments
also will be posted on the Agency’s Web
site at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OPPDE/
rdad/FRDockets.htm.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For
further information contact Daniel
Engeljohn, Ph.D., Deputy Assistant
Administrator for Office of Policy,
Program and Employee Development,
FSIS, U.S. Department of Agriculture,
Room 3147, South Building, 14th and
Independence SW., Washington, DC
20250–3700; telephone (202) 205–0495,
fax (202) 401–1760.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:
Background
On July 25, 1996, FSIS published a
final rule, “Pathogen Reduction; Hazard
Analysis and Critical Control Point
(HACCP) Systems” (61 FR 38806). The
final rule required that all
establishments slaughtering cattle,
swine, chickens, or turkeys test for
generic E. coli at a frequency based on
production volume to verify that the
plants are meeting the established
performance criteria. The final rule also
established pathogen reduction
performance standards for Salmonella
for certain slaughter establishments and
for establishments producing certain
raw ground products.

FSIS developed the criteria and
standards by conducting nationwide
baseline programs or surveys on
different classes of product. While the
final rule provided generic E. coli
criteria and Salmonella standards for
certain classes of product, the Agency
committed to conducting additional
baseline studies to develop additional
criteria and standards in the future. The
term “baseline studies” covers both the
FSIS Nationwide Microbiological
Baseline Data Collection Programs and
its Nationwide Microbiological Surveys
as referenced in the existing regulations.

FSIS regulations require that all
inspected slaughter establishments
conduct generic E. coli testing. FSIS has
established criteria for evaluating cattle
and swine test results only from
samples collected by the excision
sampling method, which in commercial
practice would unfortunately result in
defacement of carcasses and economic
loss. Cattle and swine establishments,
however, can meet their testing
requirements by using the sponge
method of sample collection as part of a
statistical process control (SPC) system (64 FR 66553, Nov.
29, 1999). Establishments can sample
young chicken or goose carcasses by the
rinse method of sample collection and
can sample turkey carcasses for generic
E. coli by either the sponge or rinse
method. Because there are no existing
FSIS-established criteria for either goose
or turkey carcasses, establishments must
use statistical process control
techniques to assess their processes.

Statistical process control initially
involves evaluating data to determine
process capability (the typical process
performance level), then checking
subsequent data to see whether they are
consistent with this baseline level to
ensure the process is in control and
variations are within normal and
acceptable limits. The value of
microbiological testing is not negated by
the lack of national m and M criteria
against which to evaluate results. E. coli
testing is intended to provide
verification of process control for fecal
contamination within individual
establishments by use of a
microbiological measure rather than
solely relying upon a visual observation
of carcasses for fecal contamination.

FSIS is responsible for conducting the
Salmonella sampling program for
carcasses and raw product. The National
Advisory Committee on Microbiological
Criteria for Foods (NACMCF) in its
report of August 8, 2002 stated that
Salmonella test results are useful
criteria of the level of process controls
(Final—Response to the Questions
Posed by FSIS Regarding Performance
Standards with Particular Reference to
Ground Beef Products). In addition, in
the most recent report on broilers
(adopted February 13, 2004), NACMCF
said the following about E. coli and
broilers: “Escherichia coli has been
viewed by FSIS as a direct measure of
control of fecal contamination and, by
implication, Salmonella or other enteric
pathogens. However, recent information
indicates that this may not be a valid
assumption for E. coli in broilers. For
example, in broilers, its presence may
also be a result of infectious process and
air sacculitis, in addition to fecal
contamination” [Response To The
Questions Posed By FSIS Regarding
Performance Standards With Particular
Reference To Broilers (Young Chickens),
p. 8]. FSIS therefore believes that broiler
operations, in particular, should take
into account increased levels of E. coli
and ensure that fecal contamination and
infectious process and air sacculitis are
not contributors.

Additional Baseline Results
FSIS is making available the results of
baseline studies of generic E. coli and
Salmonella that the Agency conducted
over the past seven years but has not
incorporated into regulations. These
baseline studies are the Nationwide
Sponge Microbiological Baseline Data
Collection Programs for Young
Chickens, November 1999–October
2000; Young Turkeys, July 1997–June
1998; Goose, September–November
1997; Cattle, June 1997–May 1998; and
Swine, June 1997–May 1998. FSIS is not
proposing to use these baseline results
as performance standards because of
their age and because it intends to
conduct new baseline studies in coming
years. Nevertheless, FSIS believes that
publishing the results of these baseline
studies, which have been used by the
Agency to evaluate trends, can serve as
a valuable support to an establishment’s
process control efforts. These results can
be used by establishments in assessing
the effectiveness of their processes,
using their own test results. These
baselines are for use as guidance to
establishments and do not replace the
criteria and standards incorporated in
the regulations (Title 9 CFR
310.25(a)(5)(i), 310.25(b)(i),
381.94(a)(5)(i), and 381.94(b)(1)).
Establishments using SPC may find this
guidance to be helpful in gauging their
process control.

The generic E. coli results are for
cattle, swine, and goose carcasses
sampled using the sponge method of
sample collection; for young chicken
carcasses using the rinse method; and
for turkey carcasses using the sponge
and rinse methods of sample collection
(see Table 1). These results increase the number of
product classes and sampling methods
for which baseline information is now
available. For example, for generic E.
coli, the results that FSIS is making
available provide measures of process
control for cattle and swine production
using the sponge sampling method
rather than the excision sampling
method that was used in setting the PR/
HACCP Rule performance standards.

Baseline E. coli information on turkeys
and geese is being made available by the
Agency for the first time, for both
spoon and rinse sampling methods.
The baseline results include data for young
chickens, using the rinse method,
that are more recent than the data, also
collected by the rinse method, that were
available for the PR/HACCP Rule.

One way that baseline results being
made available in this document can
support or supplement an
establishment’s process control efforts is
through their use in tandem with SPC, as required by the PR/HACCP Rule, to help define when a process may be out of control. SPC for generic E. coli is required with products that were not represented in the PR/HACCP Rule by a performance standard, because no relevant baseline studies were available at the time (62 FR 2619, May 13, 1997; 64 FR 66549, Nov. 29, 1999). These E. coli results can complement SPC by providing establishments with an additional measure of process control. For example, SPC principles require corrective action when sample results reach a certain threshold, such as three Standard Deviations above a running mean average. As a complement to such SPC criteria, the 80th and 98th percentile results can be used as an additional “early warning” for taking corrective action.

The Salmonella baseline results are for cattle, swine, young turkey, and goose carcasses by sponge sampling, and for young chickens by whole bird rinse sampling (see Table 2). These baseline results do not replace the Salmonella standards incorporated in the regulations (9 CFR 310.25(b)(1) and 381.94(b)(1)). As with E. coli, the Salmonella baseline results provide new information for young turkeys and geese, and more recent data for categories of livestock carcasses that are already partially covered by PR/HACCP Rule performance standards. Although FSIS, rather than the industry, takes Salmonella samples under the regulations, the Agency believes that establishments can benefit from comparing data obtained about their processes to the national baseline data.

### Table 1.—Generic E. coli Baseline Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class of product</th>
<th>Method</th>
<th>80th percentile</th>
<th>98th percentile</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cattle carcasses</td>
<td>sponge</td>
<td>0.0 CFU/cm²</td>
<td>3.1 CFU/cm²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swine carcasses</td>
<td>sponge</td>
<td>0.46 CFU/cm²</td>
<td>400 CFU/cm²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey carcasses</td>
<td>sponge</td>
<td>7.8 CFU/cm²</td>
<td>190 CFU/cm²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goose carcasses</td>
<td>rinse</td>
<td>89 CFU/ml</td>
<td>1,700 CFU/ml</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young Chicken carcasses</td>
<td>sponge</td>
<td>7.0 CFU/cm²</td>
<td>43 CFU/cm²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>rinse</td>
<td>35 CFU/ml</td>
<td>390 CFU/ml</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The corresponding 80th and 98th percentile values for the previously published baseline studies were defined as the performance criteria m and M for generic E. coli. The criteria defined a marginal range of values in which no more than 3 out of 13 samples were allowed to fail.*

The Salmonella baseline results are for cattle, swine, young turkey, and goose carcasses by sponge sampling, and for young chickens by whole bird rinse sampling (see Table 2). These baseline results do not replace the Salmonella standards incorporated in the regulations (9 CFR 310.25(b)(1) and 381.94(b)(1)). As with E. coli, the Salmonella baseline results provide new information for young turkeys and geese, and more recent data for categories of livestock carcasses that are already partially covered by PR/HACCP Rule performance standards. Although FSIS, rather than the industry, takes Salmonella samples under the regulations, the Agency believes that establishments can benefit from comparing data obtained about their processes to the national baseline data.

### Table 2.—Salmonella Baseline Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class of product</th>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Baseline prevalence (percent positive for salmonella)</th>
<th>Number of samples to test if implemented as a standard</th>
<th>Maximum number of positives to achieve if used as a standard</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Young Turkey carcasses</td>
<td>sponge</td>
<td>19.6</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goose carcasses</td>
<td>sponge</td>
<td>13.7</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cattle carcasses</td>
<td>sponge</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swine carcasses</td>
<td>sponge</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young Chicken carcasses</td>
<td>rinse</td>
<td>8.7</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Additional Public Notification**

Public awareness of all segments of rulemaking and policy development is important. Consequently, in an effort to ensure that the public and in particular minorities, women, and persons with disabilities, are aware of this notice, FSIS will announce it on-line through the FSIS web page located at [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/notifications/2005_Notices_Index/](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/notifications/2005_Notices_Index/).

FSIS also will make copies of this Federal Register publication available through the FSIS Constituent Update, which is used to provide information regarding FSIS policies, procedures, regulations, Federal Register notices, FSIS public meetings, recalls, and other types of information that could affect or would be of interest to our constituents and stakeholders. The update is communicated via Listserv, a free e-mail subscription service consisting of industry, trade, and farm groups, consumer interest groups, allied health professionals, scientific professionals, and other individuals who have requested to be included. The update also is available on the FSIS web page. Through Listserv and the web page, FSIS is able to provide information to a much broader, more diverse audience.

In addition, FSIS offers an e-mail subscription service which provides an automatic and customized notification when popular pages are updated, including Federal Register publications and related documents. This service is available at [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/news_and_events/email_subscription/](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/news_and_events/email_subscription/) and allows FSIS customers to sign up for subscription options across eight categories. Options range from recalls to export information to regulations, directives and notices. Customers can add or delete subscriptions themselves and have the option to password protect their account.

Done at Washington, DC on February 7, 2005.

Barbara J. Masters,
Acting Administrator.
[FR Doc. 05–3030 Filed 2–16–05; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3410–DM–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Forest Service

RIN 0596–AB93

Forest Service Outdoor Recreation Accessibility Guidelines and Integration of Direction on Accessibility Into Forest Service Manual 2330

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.