



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Animal and Plant
Health Inspection
Service

Veterinary Services

National Animal
Health Monitoring
System

National Animal Health Monitoring System Report to the Office of Management and Budget

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On Implementation of The Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2018

Calendar Year 2025

This report is being issued by the Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service's (APHIS) National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) in accordance with Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Implementation Guidance for Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act (CIPSEA) of 2018, Title III of Pub. L. No. 115-435, codified in 44 U.S.C. Ch. 35. CIPSEA establishes strong confidentiality protections for information acquired by the NAHMS for exclusively statistical purposes. Among other things, CIPSEA strictly limits who may have access to protected data, sets strict fines and penalties for knowing and willful disclosures of confidential information to unauthorized persons, and explicitly exempts protected statistical information from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act.

As directed by OMB, this report covers calendar year 2025 (CY 2025). It addresses which NAHMS statistical projects have issued CIPSEA confidentiality pledges in the collection of data from respondents and the conditions under which the NAHMS has designated agents for access to confidential data for statistical activities.

Use of the CIPSEA Confidentiality Pledge

During CY 2025, NAHMS acquired data under one active information collection: Poultry 2025 Small Enterprise (OMB clearance number 0579-0260).

The following statement was used on the Poultry 2025 Small Enterprise data collection instrument.

The information you provide will be used for statistical purposes only. Your response will be kept confidential and any person who willfully discloses ANY identifiable information about you or your operation is subject to a jail term, a fine, or both. This survey is conducted in accordance with the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2018, Title III of Pub. L. No. 115-435, codified in 44 U.S.C. Ch. 35 and other applicable Federal laws. For more information on how we protect your information please visit: <https://www.nass.usda.gov/confidentiality>. Response is voluntary.

CIPSEA Data Storage

NAHMS maintains electronic data collected as part of current and previous NAHMS studies of livestock, poultry, and aquaculture health and health management in the physical Data Lab and on a secure APHIS computer network. NAHMS maintains physical paper copies of data collected for the Goat 2019 (OMB clearance number 0579-0354), Feedlot Health 2021 (OMB clearance number 0579-0079), Bison 2022 (OMB clearance number 0579-0420), and HPAI 2022 Turkey Case-control (OMB clearance number 0579-0484) studies.

NAHMS used a secure Data Enclave to manage and analyze data for the HPAI 2022 Turkey Case-control and Sheep 2024 studies in 2025.

Use of the Agents Provision in CIPSEA

Recognized Federal statistical agencies and units are authorized to designate agents under CIPSEA. The number of individual agents NAHMS designated in CY 2025 follow below.

1. Federal or State Agencies: the number of different agencies and the total number of Federal and State agency employees designated as agents.
 - NAHMS designated 27 Federal NAHMS agents from APHIS in CY 2025 for the planning, design, administration, analysis, and reporting of NAHMS CIPSEA data from current and ongoing NAHMS studies.
 - NAHMS designated 2 Federal NAHMS agents in CY 2025 through USDA Marketing & Regulatory Programs Information Technology for system administration of the NAHMS Data Lab.
2. Researchers: the number of individual researchers the agency has designated as agents, separately by whether they were collaborator researchers or external researchers. Collaborator researchers include lab collaborators, with working relationships established through cooperative agreements, other USDA employees or interns, externs, or students working with USDA on work agreements who perform data processing, analysis, or planning and design to support a NAHMS study. External researchers are those designated to use NAHMS data in research for statistical purposes but are not directly connected to the implementation of a NAHMS study.
 - NAHMS designated 14 collaborator researchers as NAHMS agents in CY 2025 for data processing, analysis, or design/planning on data from the Swine 2021, Bison 2022, Sheep 2024, and other NAHMS studies.

Limited Sharing of Business Data

NAHMS did not make use of the data sharing provisions under subtitle B.

NAHMS AGENT AGREEMENT

I _____, understand and will abide by the following conditions concerning the use of unpublished data provided to/by the National Animal Health Monitoring System.

The specific data to which this request applies are: _____.

For the purposes of this certification, "unpublished data" includes the data source itself as well as any output (e.g., printed extracts) from that data that have not explicitly been cleared for publication using NAHMS disclosure review process.

APHIS is a regulatory Agency. NAHMS has been recognized as a statistical unit, and carries out its mission using APHIS' infrastructure. This presents a disclosure risk, as information collected for statistical purposes using a promise of confidentiality that is disclosed outside of NAHMS could potentially lead to uses of the data for nonstatistical purposes. Therefore, information must be secured in a manner that prevents disclosure outside of NAHMS as well as to the public.

The specific conditions of the agreement are:

1. The unpublished data will be used for statistical purposes only.
2. The only authorized storage areas for unpublished electronic data are the NAHMS/NASS data lab (2E78) and the CIPSEA SharePoint site. No unpublished data may be saved in other places or transferred to local devices.
3. Printed extracts of the unpublished data must be secured at all times. To secure printed extracts outside of the NAHMS lab, lock them in a file cabinet or desk drawer when not in use.
4. Unpublished data or output must not be viewed by unauthorized persons. Authorized individuals have completed annual CIPSEA training, a certification for access to unpublished data, and an APHIS 513 form specifically authorizing their access to unpublished data for a given project. The NAHMS Director maintains a list of approved personnel.
5. **All output constructed from unpublished data must be provided to the NAHMS Director for disclosure review prior to release to individuals who have not signed a certification for access to unpublished data form.** Data contained in any output must be summarized into a statistical (descriptive or inferential) aggregate form.
6. Field Agents: Personally identifiable information (PII), such as sampling lists containing a producer's name and address, may be removed from the worksite to administer surveys. All PII must be secured when not in use. Methods to secure PII include locking it in a file cabinet/desk, vehicle trunk, or storing it electronically on an approved device (such as an APHIS computer) when not in use.

In addition to the above conditions, I have been provided (shown on reverse side) PL 107-347, Sec. 512, Limitations on Use and Disclosure of Data and Information; Sec. 513, Fines and Penalties; 18 U.S. Code 1905, "Disclosure of confidential information generally"; and the Whistleblower Protection Act.

By signing this certification, I agree, as an agent of the National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) to abide by the laws governing the collection of data for statistical purposes as shown on the next page and the rules established by NAHMS on the use of this unpublished data itemized in 1-6 above.

I certify that I have read the above mentioned regulations this _____ day of _____, 20____, and will abide.

Name (Type or print): _____

Signature: _____

Title V of the E-Government Act of 2002, Public Law 107-347, Section 512. Limitations on Use and Disclosure of Data and Information.

- (a) Use of Statistical Data or Information -- Data or information acquired by an agency under a pledge of confidentiality and for exclusively statistical purposes shall be used by officers, employees, or agents of the agency exclusively for statistical purposes.
- (b) Disclosure of Statistical Data or Information -- (1) Data or information acquired by an agency under a pledge of confidentiality for exclusively statistical purposes shall not be disclosed by an agency in identifiable form, for any use other than an exclusively statistical purpose, except with the informed consent of the respondent. (2) A disclosure pursuant to paragraph (1) is authorized only when the NAHMS Director approves such disclosure and the disclosure is not prohibited by any other law. (3) This section does not restrict or diminish confidentiality protections in law that otherwise apply to data or information acquired by an agency under a pledge of confidentiality for exclusively statistical purposes.
- (c) Rule for Use of Data or Information for Nonstatistical Purposes. -- A statistical agency or unit shall clearly distinguish any data or information it collects for nonstatistical purposes (as authorized by law) and provide notice to the public, before the data or information is collected, that the data or information could be used for nonstatistical purposes.
- (d) Designation of Agents. -- A statistical agency or unit may designate agents, by contract or by entering into a special agreement containing the provisions required under section 502(2) for treatment as an agent under that section, who may perform exclusively statistical activities, subject to the limitations and penalties described in this title.

Title V of the E-Government Act of 2002, Public Law 107-347, Section 513. Fines and Penalties

- (a) Whoever, being an officer, employee or agent of an agency acquiring information for exclusively statistical purposes, having taken and subscribed the oath of office, or having sworn to observe the limitations imposed by Section 412 (see above), comes into possession of such information by reason of his or her being an officer, employee, or agent and, knowing that the disclosure of the specific information is prohibited under the provisions of this title, willfully discloses the information in any manner to a person or agency not entitled to receive it, shall be guilty of a class E felony and imprisoned for not more than 5 years, or fined not more than \$250,000, or both.

Title 18, U.S. Code, Section 1905 Disclosure of confidential information generally

Whoever, being an officer or employee of the United States or of any department or agency thereof, publishes, divulges, discloses, or makes known in any extent not authorized by law any information coming to him in the course of his employment or official duties or by reason of any examination or investigation made by, or return, report or record made to or filed with, such department or agency or officer or employee thereof, which information concerns or relates to the trade secrets, processes, operations, style of work, or apparatus, or to the identity, confidential statistical data, amount or source of any income, profits, losses, or expenditures of any person, firm, partnership, corporation, or association; or permits any income return or copy thereof or any book containing any abstract or particulars thereof to be seen or examined by any person except as provided by law; shall be fined under this title, or imprisoned not more than one year, or both and shall be removed from office or employment.

Whistleblower Protection Act:

These restrictions are consistent with and do not supersede, conflict with, or otherwise alter the employee obligations, rights, or liabilities created by Executive order No. 12958; section 7211 of title 5, United States Code (governing disclosures to Congress); section 1034 of title 10, United States Code, as amended by the Military Whistleblower Protection Act (governing disclosure to Congress by members of the military); section 2302(b)(8) of title 5, United States Code, as amended by the Whistleblower Protection Act of 1989 (governing disclosures of illegality, waste, fraud, abuse or public health or safety threats); the Intelligence Identities Protection Act of 1982 (50 U.S. C. 421 et seq.) (governing disclosures that could expose confidential Government agents); and the statutes which protect against disclosure that may compromise the national security, including sections 641, 793, 794, 798, and 952 of title 18, United States Code, and section 4(b) of the Subversive Activities Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 783(b)). The definitions, requirements, obligations, rights, sanctions, and liabilities created by said Executive order and listed statutes are incorporated into this agreement and are controlling.

These provisions are consistent with, and do not supersede, conflict with, or otherwise alter the employee obligations, rights or liabilities created by existing statute or Executive order relating to (1) classified information, (2) communications to Congress, (3) the reporting to the Inspector General of a violation of any law, rule, or regulation, or mismanagement, a gross waste of funds, an abuse of authority, or a substantial and specific danger to public health or safety, or (4) any other whistleblower protection. The definitions, requirements, obligations, rights, sanctions, and liabilities created by controlling Executive orders and statutory provisions are incorporated into this agreement and are controlling.