



USDA Calls for Public Comments on Regulatory Reform

The USDA [published a notice in the Federal Register](#) requesting comments from the public about the regulatory burden they have experienced and ideas for regulatory reform at the department. Specifically, USDA is looking for “public ideas on regulations, guidance documents, or any other policy documents that are in need of reform, for example ideas to modify, streamline, expand, or repeal those items.”

Public comments will be accepted in four batches over a one-year period; the deadline for the first batch is September 15. The second batch of comments is due on November 14. The third and fourth batches are due on February 12, 2018 and July 17, 2018, respectively. **NABR is planning to submit comments during the November batch and we encourage your institution to submit comments as well.**

The questions below have been excerpted in full from the USDA’s notice in the Federal Registrar:

1. Are there any regulations that should be repealed, replaced, or modified?
2. For each regulation identified in question number 1, please identify whether the regulation:
 1. Results in the elimination of jobs, or inhibits job creation;
 2. Is outdated, unnecessary, or ineffective;
 3. Imposes costs that exceed benefits;
 4. Creates a serious inconsistency or otherwise interferes with regulatory reform initiatives and policies;
 5. Is inconsistent with the requirements or regulations of section 515 of the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act, 2001 (44 U.S.C. 3516 note), which requires that agencies maximize the quality, objectivity, and integrity of the information (including statistical information) they disseminate; or
 6. Derives from or implements Executive Orders or other Presidential directives that have been subsequently rescinded or substantially modified.
3. Are there any existing USDA requirements that duplicate or conflict with requirements of another Federal agency? Can the requirement be modified to eliminate the conflict?
4. What are the estimated total compliance costs of the USDA regulations to which you or your organization must comply? This should include the costs of complying with information collections, recordkeeping, and other requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act.

Comments may be submitted electronically, by mail, hand delivery, or courier. The USDA has requested that submitters please specify “Identifying Regulatory Reform Initiatives” in the comment for submission. To read the full notice in the Federal Register and to submit comments, [please click here](#).

