



Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



Keeping U.S. Agriculture Healthy for America and the World

2022  
IMPACT REPORT

# Healthy Agriculture: An Evolving Mission



The APHIS mission is simply stated: We protect the health and value of U.S. animal and plant agriculture and natural resources. Success in that mission means abundant and affordable food for the United States and the world, open trade markets for producers, and a healthy economy with opportunities for all.

Behind that simple summary is a complex reality. APHIS relies on scientific methods and knowledge to accomplish its goals while carrying out regulatory authorities and enforcement responsibilities. Our thousands of employees are from diverse backgrounds, span many professions and areas of expertise, and work across the country and around the world. But they have two things in common: an understanding of the challenges we face and a dedication to our mission.

Many of those challenges are ongoing and familiar, but they are also constantly evolving. In 2022, we battled a new and deadly strain of highly pathogenic avian influenza at home, while we fought offshore to keep African swine fever from entering the United States. We worked hard to create access for U.S. crops abroad while fighting against invasive pests like spotted lanternfly and Asian longhorned beetle.

As the challenges and threats evolve, so do our resources. We learn better surveillance techniques, use more sophisticated equipment, and access more advanced data analysis. We continue to build and strengthen partnerships across sectors and borders, deepening and enhancing our prevention and response capabilities.

APHIS continues its “One Health” approach based on the interconnection between people, animals, plants, and their shared environment. We continue programs made possible by American Rescue Plan Act funds, while supporting research projects to develop new disease prevention and intervention strategies, address surveillance gaps, and develop strategies to rapidly detect and characterize new variants in animals. Through public-private partnerships, APHIS is also working to improve access to information on antimicrobial resistance in livestock, poultry, and companion animals.

With all these advances, our employees remain our “secret weapon.” APHIS employees are used to working hard and under tough conditions, sometimes toward goals that take years to achieve. In 2022, we expanded market access in Mexico for U.S. potato exports, which will greatly increase U.S. exports and profits. That achievement took 15 years of hard work for a small but determined team.

And that is just one example. In addition to their professional expertise and skills, APHIS employees embody resilience and endurance. And that makes all the difference.

Sincerely,

**Kevin Shea, Administrator**

Animal and Plant Health  
Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture



**Mission:** To protect the health and value of America's agricultural and natural resources

## Who We Are



**10,773**  
Employees  
Worldwide



**\$2.3B**  
Annual Budget

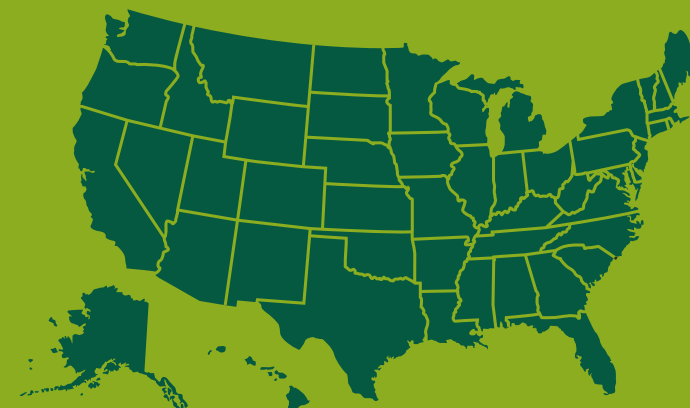


**6**  
Operational  
Programs



**7**  
Labs and  
Research Hubs

## Where We Serve



**50**  
States

**3**  
Territories

**26**  
Countries



## Our Focus



Thriving  
Crops and  
Forests



Healthy  
Livestock  
and Poultry



Safe  
Trade



Balanced,  
Healthy  
Wildlife  
Populations



Humane Care  
for Vulnerable  
Animals



Safe  
Biotechnology



# Thriving Crops and Forests

American farms and forests produce vast resources for our country and the entire world. Millions of people depend on our Nation's plant resources for food, clothing, fuel, and jobs. We protect these resources from harmful pests—so they stay healthy.

Allocated more than \$70 million to support 372 projects under the Plant Protection Act's Section 7721 program as part of a nationwide effort to strengthen the country's infrastructure for pest detection, surveillance, and mitigation, as well as protect the U.S. nursery system

Inspected and cleared 2.82 billion pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables from 19 countries before they were shipped to the United States and oversaw a systems approach for the safe import of 2.04 billion pounds of avocados from Mexico, representing 90 percent of avocados imported into the United States

Cleared 26,176 imported shipments containing 2.22 billion plant units (cuttings, rooted plants, tissue culture, etc.) and over 525,898 kilograms of seeds of woody plants and prevented entry of 1,702 quarantine-significant pests at U.S. plant inspection stations

Identified 109,000 pests found during U.S. Customs and Border Protection inspections of cargo, mail, and express carrier shipments and took quick action to prevent those of concern from entering the United States

Issued 36,999 import permits and 11,471 regulatory guidance letters for plants and plant products and responded to over 42,230 inquiries about imports and plant health permits

Issued more than 656,000 Federal phytosanitary certificates directly or through authorized State and county cooperators to aid the export of U.S. plants and plant products to approximately 200 trading partners



Inspected and certified plant and plant product shipments; conducted technical negotiations to open, maintain, and expand export markets; and facilitated the release of held shipments—an added value of approximately \$417.5 million

Helped expand the Global Electronic Phytosanitary (ePhyto) Solution, which makes the exchange of export certificates fast, efficient, and fraud-resistant—in fiscal year 2022 alone, the United States sent more than 292,000 ePhytos to 80 trading partners and received 203,000 ePhytos

Completed 278 risk analyses associated with imports, exports, invasive pest threats, and program requirements to support safe trade and protect American agriculture

Conducted 326 plant pest surveys with cooperators in 50 States and 5 Territories and coordinated the response to 50 pests that were identified during FY 2022 surveys and prior years

Worked with more than 180 International Plant Protection Convention members to advance international standards that facilitate safe agricultural trade

Monitored grasshopper and Mormon cricket populations in 13 Western States and treated 91,642 rangeland acres to control outbreaks, protecting more than 224,000 acres of rangeland forage and wildlife habitat

Eradicated three exotic fruit fly outbreaks from California during FY 2022 and continued responding to a large scale outbreak in Texas, reducing the quarantined area from more than 9,000 acres at the beginning of the fiscal year to 850 acres at the end of the fiscal year. Released the remaining quarantined acres in October and November 2022—ending the multi-year outbreak that threatened the Texas citrus industry



Protected American agriculture from harmful plant pests and foreign animal diseases like African swine fever by intercepting 292,698 prohibited agricultural items during baggage inspections of more than 14 million passengers bound for the U.S. mainland from Hawaii and Puerto Rico

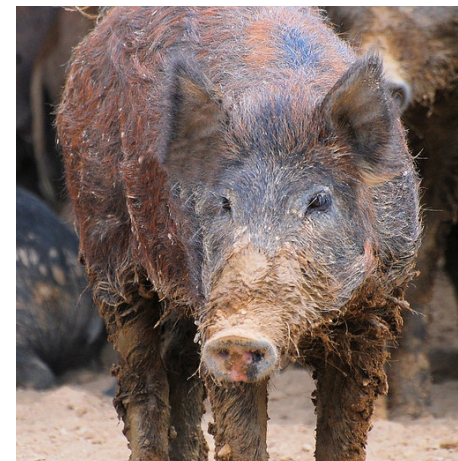
Expanded market access in Mexico for U.S. potato exports, providing a market potential of \$250 million per year in 5 years



# Healthy Livestock and Poultry

We keep America’s agricultural animals healthy. A critical part of this work includes responding to serious animal diseases—and preventing these diseases from entering the United States. Our experts work with partners across all disciplines—here at home and around the world—to find the best health outcomes for all.

Assisted the Dominican Republic and Haiti in their African swine fever (ASF) eradication program, including providing advice and assistance on surveillance, quarantine, depopulation, and disposal methods; providing testing support; and bolstering in-country testing capacity



Continued to enforce an ASF protection zone in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands; enhanced pre-departure activities by adding temporary staff, canine detector teams, and x-ray machines, as well as conducting training for staff in inspecting for animal products; and increased Smuggling Interdiction and Trade Compliance market surveys in the protection zone to identify regulated or prohibited products and ensure their removal from the marketplace

Collected 72,500 samples for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) testing—representing 100 species from wildlife, zoos, aquaria, and other facilities across 36 States and the District of Columbia. Sequenced 500 samples, with 161 being variants first detected in humans before animals. Maintained further support at 30 National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) labs, including 7 with capability to test human samples

Provided training to support a nationwide network of more than 71,000 USDA-accredited veterinarians who serve as the first line of defense for reportable domestic and foreign animal diseases

Provided \$7.6 million to States, universities, and industry/veterinary organizations for 36 projects to support animal movement decisions during a disease outbreak and enhance States’ emergency vaccination plans

Invested \$16.9 million in the National Animal Vaccine and Veterinary Countermeasures Bank, including \$13.8 million in additional foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) vaccine antigen concentrate, \$500,600 for diagnostic test kits for high consequence animal diseases, and \$2.6 million to purchase classical swine fever (CSF) vaccine for APHIS’ National Veterinary Stockpile

Provided \$4.4 million to support 21 new NAHLN projects in 14 States to enhance early detection of high-consequence animal diseases and improve emergency response capabilities at NAHLN veterinary diagnostic laboratories

Monitored U.S. livestock health, including testing 23,783 samples for ASF and/or CSF (with all results negative), and conducting 3,515 foreign animal disease investigations, of which 1,464 involved investigations of vesicular diseases such as FMD and 1,322 involved poultry diseases

Initiated an emergency program to address nationwide detections of highly pathogenic avian influenza. Performed 1,854,713 tests on commercial poultry flocks through National Poultry

Improvement Plan cooperative agreements and coordinated the collection of 20,860 wild bird samples, helping to protect the U.S. poultry industry—whose production is valued at \$46.1 billion

Licensed 86 manufacturers and permit holders for 1,448 active product licenses/permits for the control of 278 animal diseases in FY 2022

Endorsed 329,344 health certificates to facilitate safe animal and animal product exports and approved 2,663 facilities to export U.S. animal products, maintaining and expanding the network of USDA-approved establishments to quickly and safely move these products to global markets

Accepted electronic USDA Accredited Veterinarian signature for the issuance of all live animal export health certificates submitted for endorsement from 39 countries





# Safe Trade

We have Foreign Service Officers and staff in 26 countries overseas—on the front line for U.S. agricultural health. Working with foreign governments and industries, we help them build capacity to control, manage, and eradicate pests and diseases. We also help our international partners establish and manage sustainable animal and plant health programs to ensure the safe trade of agriculture commodities between our countries.

Facilitated new markets for a wide range of U.S.-origin animals and animal products, including bovine meat and bone meal to Peru worth an estimated \$5 million per year; wheat to Fiji worth an estimated \$3 million per year; sheep and goats to Senegal worth an estimated \$800,000 per year; and bovine, ovine, and caprine genetics to Tunisia worth an estimated \$500,000 per year



Worked with foreign partners and other APHIS experts to resolve challenges posed by pest detections, trading partner regulatory changes, and other issues, helping to preserve threatened markets for U.S.-origin goods, including poultry products to the Philippines (valued at \$158 million in 2021) and eggs to Brazil (valued at \$26 million in 2021), among other markets threatened by the avian influenza outbreaks in the United States

Negotiated with foreign officials in-country to resolve delays with 261 U.S. shipments at foreign ports, totaling more than \$94 million

Expanded market access in Mexico for U.S. potato exports, providing a market potential of \$250 million per year in 5 years



Produced 1.04 billion sterile Mediterranean fruit flies weekly at the El Pino sterile insect facility in Guatemala, supporting preventative release programs in California and Florida, along with population control efforts in Guatemala and Mexico

Produced 5.24 billion sterile Mexican fruit flies at the San Miguel Petapa facility in Guatemala (an average of 100.8 million weekly) to support eradication activities in Texas and California. These flies also supported preventive release programs in northern Mexico, Texas, and California to help protect America's valuable citrus production

Released 20 million sterile New World screwworm flies weekly to maintain a biological barrier in Panama and Colombia to protect screwworm-free areas in North and Central America

Hosted 5 virtual sessions for 107 foreign officials from Canada, Mexico, and the Philippines to build awareness of the U.S. regulatory process and ease future market access and resumed in-person meetings, with 3 sessions attended by 29 officials from 5 countries

Coordinated APHIS' response to the presence of African swine fever (ASF) in the Dominican Republic—advising local authorities on public outreach, testing samples, training staff, expanding surveillance, and supporting APHIS' establishment of an ASF protection zone around Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands

Delivered seminars and workshops, supported continuing education courses, and shared information both virtually and in person on a wide range of technical topics for officials representing more than 41 countries in Asia, Africa, Europe, the Americas, and the Caribbean to increase their capacity to identify, diagnose, control, respond to, and recover from animal and plant diseases





# Balanced, Healthy Wildlife Populations

Wildlife are one of America’s most valued public resources. Yet wildlife-related problems—including disease threats, livestock predation, crop losses, property damage, and more—are common. In response, we lead our Nation’s efforts to find innovative solutions that protect people, agriculture, and wildlife so all can coexist.



Maintained or created 32,781 different agreements with cooperators to protect livestock from predation through a combination of techniques and tools, including nonlethal methods like range riding, fladry, fencing, and husbandry practices

Continued researching and promoting nonlethal methods to cooperators nationwide under the Nonlethal Initiative, which started in 2020 to protect livestock from large carnivores, was expanded in FY 2022 to include nonlethal beaver damage management, and currently implements nonlethal assistance in 13 States

In a One Health initiative with Federal, State, and Tribal partners, monitored and surveyed thousands of white-tailed deer and other animals (both wild and domestic) for SARS-CoV-2 to help identify species that may serve as reservoirs or hosts for the virus and better understand exposure, disease susceptibility, and the risks of cross-species transmission

Protected wildlife and public health by distributing more than 8.5 million oral rabies vaccination (ORV) baits to combat raccoon rabies in 16 Eastern States and more than 1.2 million ORV baits in Texas to prevent canine rabies from reemerging along the Mexican border

Partnered with Federal and State resource agencies, private organizations, and community groups on approximately 7,250 damage management projects that helped protect threatened and endangered bird species across 50 States, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands

Worked with State and Federal partners to reduce or prevent feral swine damage on approximately 231 million acres in 36 States and 3 Territories, directly protecting agriculture, human health and safety, property, and natural resources



Led feral swine eradication efforts and enhanced African swine fever (ASF) surveillance in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, removing 2,604 and sampling 1,732 feral swine, to help protect the United States from this deadly animal disease after its detection in the Caribbean

Dispersed more than 121,310 double-crested cormorants at aquaculture facilities in 15 States, helping protect an industry worth \$1.5 billion nationally



Helped nearly 784 civil, military, and joint-use airports worldwide—comprising about 75 percent of all U.S. commercial passenger airports—reduce or avoid wildlife strike hazards to protect people and aircraft

Led U.S. research to find innovative solutions for managing wildlife damage, initiating 197 studies with approximately 171 research partners nationwide—with the majority of our work devoted to nonlethal tools and techniques

Advanced our Nation’s ability to manage wildlife resources wisely and effectively by sharing our research results and encouraging the use of new methods, with 109 peer-reviewed papers and over 141,000 downloads from Digital Commons

Donated nearly 150 tons of deer, goose, and other meat—more than 1 million servings of protein for people in need—and more than 20 tons of meat for animal consumption to animal rehab centers, zoos, and other facilities, making full use of this resource from wildlife damage management work



# Humane Care for Vulnerable Animals

We protect more than 1 million vulnerable animals nationwide by enforcing the Animal Welfare Act and the Horse Protection Act. Through inspections and outreach, we oversee thousands of breeders, dealers, and exhibitors; research facilities; transporters; dog importers; and managers of horse shows, exhibitions, and sales to make sure their animals receive care and treatment that meets Federal standards. We also provide national leadership on the safety and well-being of pets and other animals during disasters.



Oversaw 13,376 licensees and registrants, including nearly 2,500 new registrants, ensuring the humane care and treatment of animals covered under the Animal Welfare Act (AWA)

Conducted 10,595 AWA site inspections—including 1,248 unannounced inspections at research facilities—to assess the health, care, and treatment of more than 1.4 million animals and found 96 percent of licensees and registrants in substantial compliance with the AWA

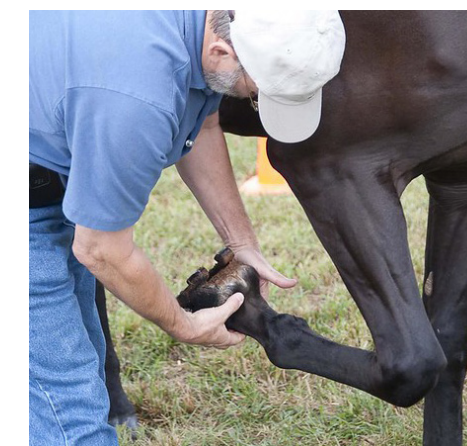
Finalized a rule that reduces duplicative requirements and administrative burden on more than 1,000 AWA-registered biomedical facilities, while maintaining scientific integrity and humane animal care

Launched a nationwide outreach initiative for attending veterinarians, including a new website, educational webinars, and other resources, to strengthen our partnership in protecting the health and well-being of AWA-regulated animals

Issued 3,167 import permits covering 15,412 dogs for resale in the United States, ensuring they are healthy, vaccinated, and over 6 months of age

Continued supporting the Zoological All Hazards Partnership—which reached 600 animal facilities, professional and industry groups, private owners, veterinarians, and others in the exotic animal community in FY 2022—covering topics such as hurricanes, wildfires, SARS-COV-2, highly pathogenic avian influenza in zoos, and biosecurity and resilience for zoos and aquariums

Took civil and administrative action to address alleged AWA violations, including opening 262 cases, issuing 204 official warnings, obtaining 17 administrative orders, and permanently revoking 7 other licenses to support AWA compliance and deter future violations



Attended 41 horse events, inspected 1,300 horses, and identified 323 instances of the Horse Protection Act (HPA) noncompliance. In collaboration with industry, representatives sampled 1,578 horses for prohibited substance testing and found that nearly half the samples tested were positive for prohibited numbing agents



Provided training to Agency inspectors to promote consistency in HPA compliance inspections, increasing communication with management about USDA's HPA Disqualification List

Worked with State and local partners to confiscate or facilitate the surrender of more than 140 animals to relieve their suffering and provide them with humane care





# Safe Biotechnology

We help American agriculture stay at the forefront of science and innovation. From drought-tolerant corn and insect-resistant crops to canola that produces healthier oils, people develop new products every day using genetic engineering. We work alongside other Federal agencies to make sure these products are safe for U.S. agriculture and the environment.



With State agricultural officials, performed more than 660 inspections of authorized field trials involving organisms developed using genetic engineering, with an 88-percent rate of compliance

Completed 1 petition for non-regulated status under the legacy regulations, bringing the total number of determinations to 136

Delivered more than 13 presentations to international stakeholders representing 40 countries to offer technical information and build capacity abroad for regulating biotechnology

Fully implemented USDA's revised biotechnology regulations, which allow APHIS to focus oversight on products that may pose a risk and reduce regulatory burden for developers of organisms that are unlikely to pose plant pest risks, providing over \$8 million in annual cost savings

Issued 2 Regulatory Status Review (RSR) decisions, the first under the new RSR process in the revised regulations

Responded to 9 requests for confirmation that a plant met the criteria for exemption from regulation, confirming all 9 and issuing responses within an average of 39 days from receiving the requests



Processed over 758 authorizations in 42 States for the movement or field testing of organisms developed using genetic engineering



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To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint ([www.usda.gov/oascr/how-to-file-a-program-discrimination-complaint](http://www.usda.gov/oascr/how-to-file-a-program-discrimination-complaint)) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of

Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

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