



# many goals



“By protecting America’s agricultural and natural resources, we protect America. And that will never change.”

**For nearly 40 years, the central mission of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has been protecting America’s agriculture. But as America has changed, that mission has expanded and evolved.**

Today, in addition to protecting the health of livestock, poultry, and crops from foreign diseases and pests, APHIS helps defend the environment from invasive species, promote animal welfare, regulate the movement and environmental release of certain genetically engineered organisms, ensure commodities traded internationally are free of animal and plant pests and diseases, limit agricultural damage caused by wildlife, and protect natural resources while contributing to efforts to ensure public health and safety.

The name of APHIS may not be well known to many Americans, but our work is seen and felt, both far

and wide. From air travel kept safe against wildlife-related accidents, to an abundance of healthy agricultural commodities from around the world, to our own beautiful tree-lined streets, millions of Americans benefit from the efforts of APHIS employees every day.

Even though APHIS’ mission has changed through the decades, our ultimate goal remains the same. By protecting America’s agricultural and natural resources, we protect America. And that will never change.



“APHIS is composed of several different program units, each focused on its own unique responsibilities and duties.”



## many units

APHIS is composed of several different program units, each focused on its own unique responsibilities and duties. Together, these programs work as a dynamic whole—a world-class system designed to safeguard the health of animals, plants, and ecosystems throughout the United States and foster safe agricultural trade worldwide.

Agriculture is vital to the health and strength of the U.S. economy and our citizens. However, globalization and free trade place great pressure on our safeguarding system. Protecting agriculture requires special attention from all of us who work in and with the agriculture sector. We need to respond and work together on issues that impact the health and safety of American agriculture.

Our dynamic safeguarding system is built on a foundation of collaboration and partnership.

At APHIS, we believe in working closely with our partners and stakeholders, both inside and outside the agency, to get results. States, tribes, and industry groups play a big role in helping us manage the issues that affect agriculture. Our employees work cooperatively with growers and producers, industry representatives, State and local governments, professional organizations, various interest groups, and scientists and academia throughout the United States. We also collaborate with internationally recognized scientists and participate in world animal and plant health organizations. And as our work increasingly intersects with human health issues, we find ourselves reaching out to new partners, such as public health officials. Without strong collaboration, APHIS would not be able to accomplish all that we do.

Safeguarding agricultural and natural resources is a complex task. Our strategy is divided into three pillars of action: Prevent, Protect, and Respond.

## Prevent

Experience shows that the best way to eliminate pests and diseases is to prevent them from becoming a threat. To accomplish that goal, APHIS employees:

- Negotiate protocols for the safe import and export of agricultural commodities,
- Certify the health and safety of animal and plant products entering and leaving the United States,
- Regulate the field testing and movement of certain genetically engineered organisms to protect against risks to plant health, and
- Collaborate with counterparts overseas to combat foreign threats to agriculture before they reach the United States.

## Protect

When a potential threat to U.S. agriculture enters the country, APHIS employs a variety of protective strategies, including:

- Monitoring and surveying throughout the country for pests and diseases such as avian influenza or Asian longhorned beetle,
- Inspecting markets and vendors to intercept prohibited agricultural items that have been smuggled into the United States,
- Managing endemic diseases such as rabies, and

# many tasks

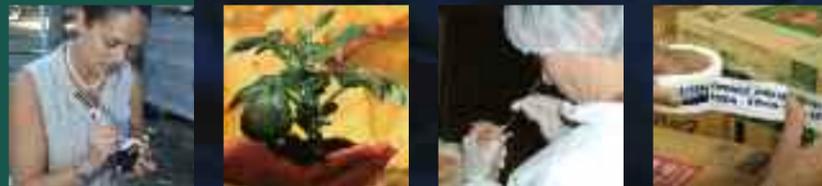
- Mitigating damage to agriculture and threats to human health caused by wildlife.

In addition to APHIS' work to protect America's agricultural and natural resources, we also enforce the Federal Animal Welfare Act and Horse Protection Act. These laws provide important protections for regulated animals by establishing minimum standards of humane care and treatment.

## Respond

As an emergency response agency, APHIS is prepared to respond quickly and efficiently in times of crisis. Whether it's a disease or pest emergency or a natural disaster, APHIS officials are on the ground, ready to secure the health and safety of our country's animals, plants, and food supply. Before and during emergencies, we work with our Federal and State partners to:

- Prepare and implement pest and disease response plans,
- Combat pests that may attack our Nation's agricultural and natural resources,
- Provide emergency food, water, and care to agricultural animals, and
- Ensure the safe evacuation and shelter of pets during emergencies.



“Safeguarding agricultural and natural resources is a complex task. Our strategy is divided into three pillars of action: Prevent, Protect, and Respond.”

# many faces



“APHIS employees are on the job 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, protecting America’s agricultural and natural resources.”

APHIS employees are located in all 50 States, several Territories, and 25 countries worldwide. We are on the job 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, protecting America’s agricultural and natural resources.

## Experts

APHIS employees are highly qualified experts in their fields; each is deeply committed to applying his or her skills to the APHIS mission. In addition to scientists, veterinarians, entomologists, and biologists, APHIS employs professionals from a wide range of disciplines, including political science, communications, information technology, finance, emergency management, biosafety, biosecurity, acquisition, facilities management, investigative services, and human resources.

## Leaders

Strong leadership and proven technical competence are the key attributes of APHIS employees. These are the organizational values that help us accomplish our mission every day and improve our organizational performance for the future. Today, as we face new challenges nationwide in strengthening our safeguarding systems, addressing increased trade volume, and responding to agricultural emergencies, APHIS is investing in continued employee training

and development as the key to success in an evolving world.

## Diverse Workforce

From our Administrator’s office to senior leadership, through the employee ranks to our summer interns, APHIS is a diverse and dynamic mixture of exceptional individuals. We work hard to foster an environment in which employees feel encouraged to bring their differences to the table, share them with colleagues, and build on their own unique experiences by learning about the perspectives of their co-workers.

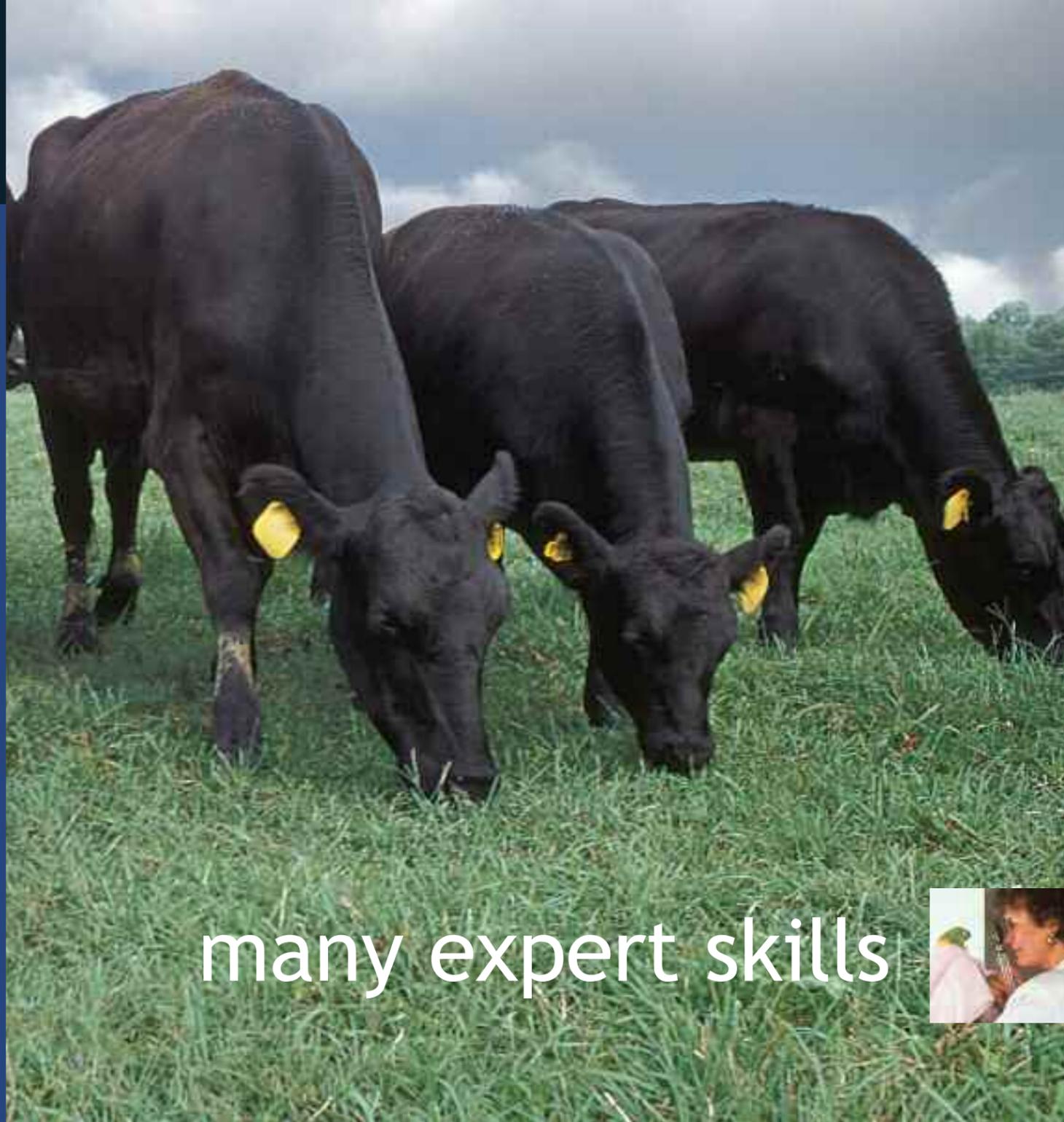
APHIS believes that each employee can benefit from the knowledge and experience of others. That’s why we have made diversity enhancement a key organizational goal and a central part of our strategic plan. We are committed to employing a diverse workforce, creating a positive work environment, and delivering top-notch services both fairly and impartially to all of our customers.

# Animal Health

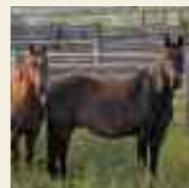
## Veterinary Services

Protects and improves the health, quality, and marketability of U.S. animals, animal products, and veterinary biologics.

- Coordinate national animal health emergency preparedness and management
- Ensure the safe import of animals, animal products, and biologics
- Diagnose foreign and domestic animal diseases
- Monitor the health status of livestock and poultry
- Certify animals, animal products, and veterinary biologics for export
- Develop, implement, and enforce standards for safe animal vaccines
- Provide time-critical animal health information and data to address challenges faced by animal producers and stakeholders
- Direct national programs to eradicate certain animal diseases
- Manage a national network of laboratories used for testing and emergency response



many expert skills



“APHIS stands in the first line of defense against the spread of disease.”

**Increases in global trade**, the emergence of zoonotic diseases, and the threat of agroterrorism demand a comprehensive approach to protecting animal and public health. Through its Veterinary Services program, APHIS brings a wealth of skills and expertise to this effort—from global disease surveillance and animal health certification to disease eradication and emergency preparedness.

### Monitoring and Surveying for Disease

To protect animal and public health throughout the United States, APHIS continuously monitors the worldwide animal-health environment, analyzing data and trends as they are reported. Our specialists identify potential and emerging animal health threats and take action not only to mitigate the impact on U.S. agriculture, but also—when the threat is zoonotic (transmissible from animals to humans)—to protect public health.

### Safeguarding Against Foreign Animal Diseases

APHIS stands in the first line of defense against the spread of foreign animal diseases—a threat that can cost billions of dollars to eradicate and cause significant damage to the U.S. economy. Since 1972, APHIS has successfully eradicated several foreign animal diseases from the United States, including exotic Newcastle disease, classical swine fever, and highly pathogenic avian influenza.

### Eradicating Domestic Animal Diseases

Working together with local and State officials, APHIS' incident command teams provide on-the-ground support in responding to outbreaks among U.S. livestock and poultry. These teams help eradicate domestic diseases such as brucellosis in cattle, low pathogenic avian influenza in poultry, and scrapie in sheep and goats.

### Facilitating Trade and Opening New Markets

Through the inspection and certification of animals and animal products being shipped into and out of the country, APHIS helps protect both American producers and consumers. Our specialists work closely with producers to certify their exports as pest- and disease-free, while consumers trust APHIS to ensure that imported animals and animal products pose no threat to the United States, our agriculture, or our food supply. At the same time, we work to expand producer access to foreign markets by engaging in direct trade negotiations with other nations.

### Providing World-Class Animal Health Research, Diagnostics, and Product Evaluation

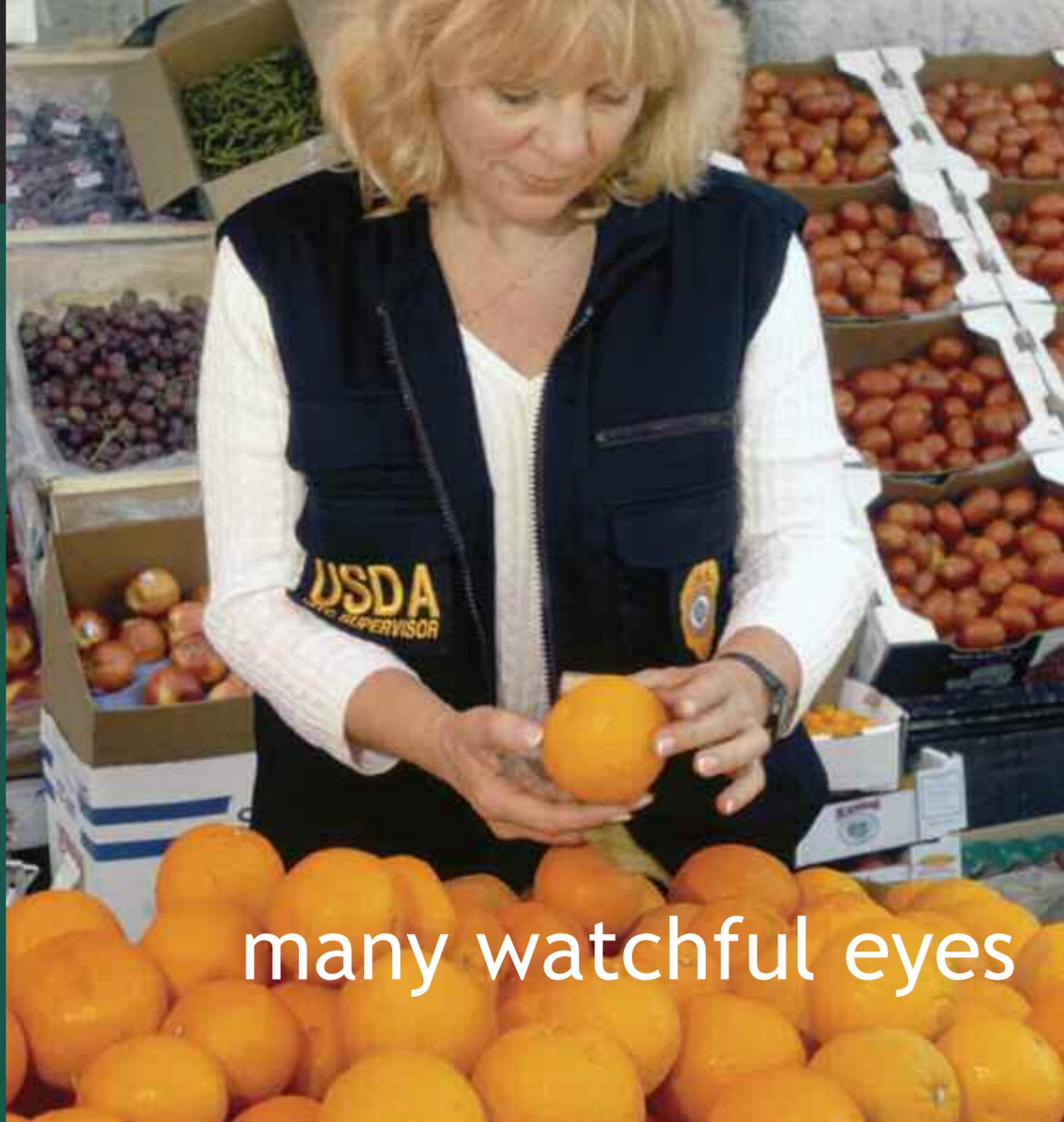
With extensive networks of laboratories and research facilities, APHIS is a leader in animal health science and technology. From researching and diagnosing foreign animal diseases and studying the production practices of U.S. producers to ensuring that veterinary biologics available for the diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of animals are pure, safe, potent, and effective, our employees develop and apply scientific methods that form the foundation of the Nation's animal health infrastructure.

# Plant Health

## Plant Protection and Quarantine

Safeguards U.S. agricultural and natural resources from risks associated with the entry, establishment, or spread of agricultural pests and diseases, as well as invasive and harmful weeds.

- Prevent, detect, manage, and if possible, eradicate foreign pests and diseases in the United States
- Develop scientifically advanced, environmentally sound methods to respond to plant health threats
- Collect and analyze pest data, both in the United States and overseas, to identify and evaluate pathways for the introduction and movement of invasive plant pests and weeds
- Partner with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to prevent the introduction of agricultural pests and diseases at ports of entry
- Develop quarantine policies and regulatory requirements for agricultural commodities and plant resources
- Establish requirements for and facilitate the safe import and export of agricultural products



many watchful eyes

“The continuous process of research, analysis, methods development, survey, detection, and response is central to the success of APHIS’ safeguarding activities.”

Through its **Plant Protection and Quarantine** program, APHIS vigilantly protects agriculture and the environment against pest and disease threats to ensure a diverse natural ecosystem and an abundant and healthy food supply for all Americans.

### Protecting Agriculture and the Environment From Invasive Pests

An invasive pest is a non-native species whose introduction into the country can cause damage to the economy, natural resources, or human health. Preventing pests from entering the country is our number one priority. At ports of entry, APHIS employees work with DHS to inspect agricultural imports and treat shipments that pose a risk of pest introduction. When an invasive pest or disease does enter the country, early detection is the key to preventing its establishment and spread. APHIS’ scientists and specialists use the best available science to develop new methods to prevent, detect, identify, manage, and, if possible, eradicate invasive pests, while protecting U.S. agricultural resources and the environment from harm.

### Establishing Effective Regulations and Policies

By determining which plants and plant products can be imported—and which pose a high risk and should be excluded—the regulations and policies established by

APHIS protect the environment and U.S. agriculture. Based on varying levels of risk, our regulations provide multiple layers of protection, ranging from product bans to commodity treatments that mitigate the dangers posed by pests. Working together with DHS inspectors at ports around the country, our experts provide guidance on recognizing threats and offer scientific advice and expertise on handling any possible risk to U.S. agriculture—from potentially infested shipments of imported plant and animal products to the proper disposal of foreign garbage.

### Safeguarding Through Science

Safeguarding America’s agriculture and environment requires a continuous flow of information about pests abroad that could threaten our plant resources and the likely pathways through which they could enter and transit the United States. APHIS scientists monitor pest data from around the world and throughout the country to uncover those pathways and develop strategies to both exclude pests before they arrive at our shores and to stop or limit their movement if they enter the country.

### Assisting U.S. Farmers and Exporters

APHIS assists American farmers and exporters by providing plant health inspection and certification for plants and plant products being shipped to foreign countries. Required by importing countries, these plant health certificates ensure that products are pest- and disease-free. We also work to expand producer access to foreign markets by engaging in technical trade discussions with other nations.

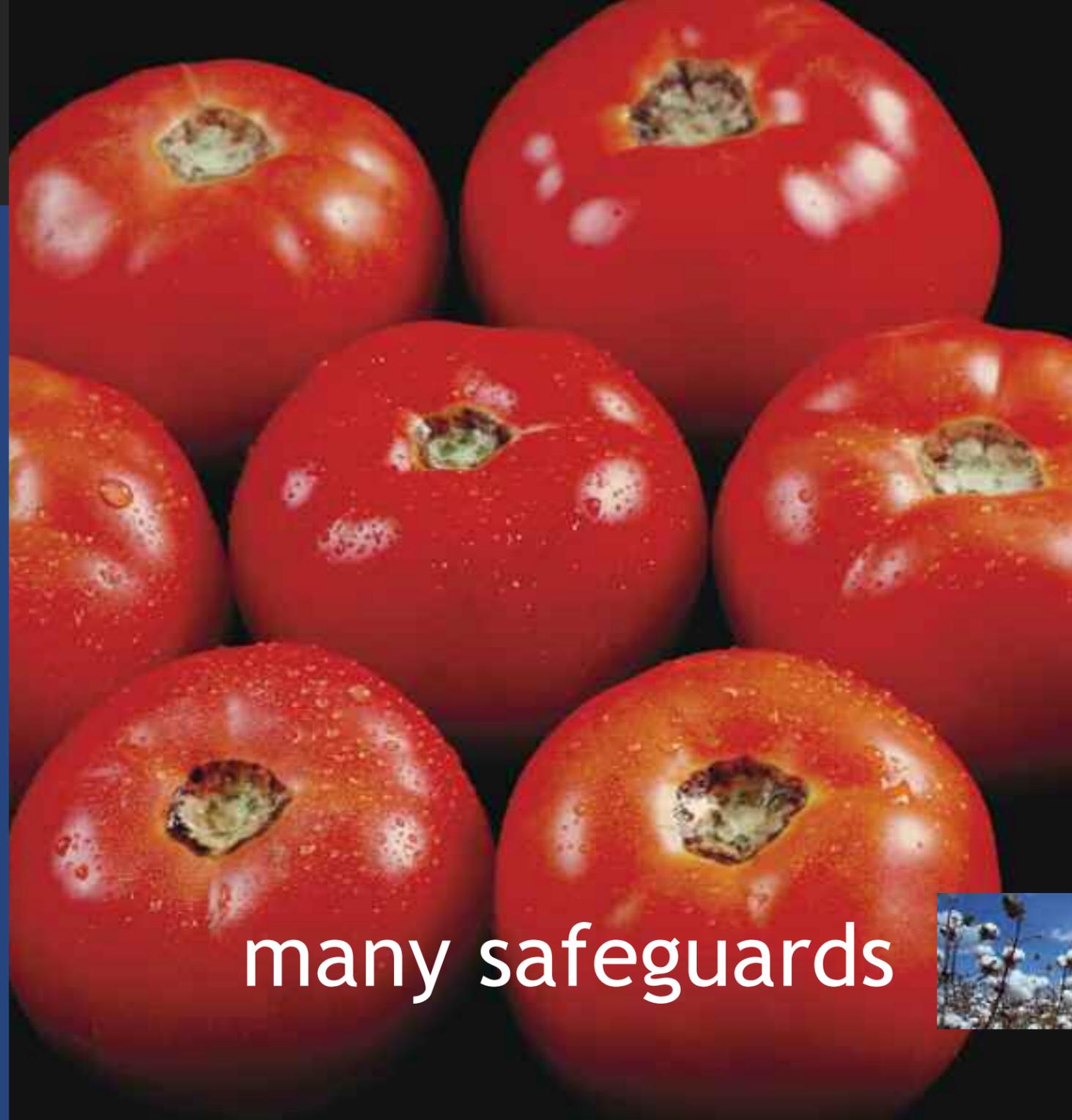


# Biotechnology

## Biotechnology Regulatory Services

Protects against risks to plant health by facilitating the safe importation, interstate movement, and environmental release of certain genetically engineered (GE) organisms.

- Establish requirements for the safe importation, interstate movement, and field testing of certain GE organisms
- Evaluate potential plant health risks associated with GE organisms
- Enforce regulatory requirements through high quality inspections
- Remove from oversight GE plant varieties that do not pose a risk to plant health
- Work in partnership with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to ensure that the development, testing, and use of biotechnology products occurs in a manner that is safe for plant and animal health, human health, and the environment



many safeguards

“APHIS provides oversight of certain GE organisms to protect against plant pest risks to U.S. agriculture and the environment.”

As the world changes and technology advances, so must the strategies for plant protection. From corn that deters insect pests to papayas resistant to viruses, new GE organisms are being tested and introduced every day. Through its Biotechnology Regulatory Services program, APHIS ensures that newly developed GE organisms do not pose a future risk to U.S. agriculture and the environment.

### Ensuring the Safety of GE Organisms

Through a comprehensive program of rigorous regulatory oversight, APHIS requires that applicants wanting to move, import, or field test a GE organism submit detailed information for thorough review by our regulatory scientists to assess potential environmental impacts or plant health risks before the introduction can be allowed. Upon completion of field testing, developers can petition APHIS to grant nonregulated status to a GE organism once they have gathered sufficient information to demonstrate that the new GE variety does not pose a risk to plant health and is safe to be grown in the environment without any regulatory oversight. Before APHIS grants a GE plant nonregulated status, our scientists must determine that

the new GE variety is just as safe for agriculture and the environment as traditionally bred crop varieties.

Since 1987, when we approved the first field trial for GE plants, APHIS has issued more than 27,000 field trial and movement authorizations and deregulated more than 75 products for use—effectively establishing APHIS as a leader in the safe regulation of GE products.

### Permitting Progress in Biotechnology

To foster public confidence, APHIS maintains a strong and dynamic regulatory system that responds to the rapidly evolving field of biotechnology. Our officials work continually to review and strengthen regulations and policies as needed, based on new trends in biotechnology, changes in the field, and experience gained. APHIS makes it a priority to ensure that its processes, decisions, and activities are transparent to the public and to its stakeholders and encourages public participation throughout the permitting, petition, and rulemaking processes.



# International Services

Provides animal and plant health expertise to protect American agriculture and facilitate safe agricultural trade around the world.

- Manage cooperative agricultural health programs in other countries to address priority foreign diseases and pests such as screwworm and Mediterranean fruit fly
- Provide training and technical support to build animal and plant health infrastructures in developing countries
- Help establish and promote the use of international animal and plant health standards to prevent the spread of pests and diseases
- Monitor significant animal and plant pests and diseases worldwide
- Inspect agricultural commodities prior to shipment to the United States to minimize risk to U.S. agriculture
- Facilitate the entry of U.S. agricultural and food shipments at foreign ports of entry
- Negotiate agricultural import and export protocols to expand trade opportunities for U.S. exporters and provide a diverse range of agricultural products year round for American consumers



“Working with scientists and officials around the world, we strive to make global agricultural trade safe, predictable, and fair.”

**More than ever**, we live in a truly interconnected, global economy. That’s why, as recognized experts in the assessment and regulation of risks associated with agricultural imports, APHIS’ International Services program shares its knowledge and skills with foreign officials around the world. Because the stronger those countries’ agricultural health infrastructures are, the safer our animal and plant imports will be.

### **Building Health Capacity Overseas**

Within the larger mission of APHIS, one key goal is to enhance the abilities of foreign officials to address the very types of animal and plant health issues APHIS works to prevent here in the United States. By partnering with other countries to control animal and plant pests and diseases, we significantly reduce the risk of them passing through our borders.

An area of primary focus is the co-sponsoring of cooperative foreign pest and disease operation programs to prevent the spread overseas—and reintroduction domestically—of threats already eliminated in the United States.

### **Minimizing Pest Risks Offshore**

APHIS conducts pest surveillance and risk mitigation outside the United States to address the challenges posed by rapidly accelerated travel and trade. In an effort to mitigate the risks of exotic pests where they originate, rather than after they reach the United States, our safeguarding officers stationed around the world monitor changes in international production, processing, and shipping practices.

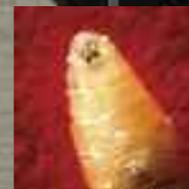
### **Facilitating Safe Agricultural Trade**

Under the terms of prevailing international trade agreements, APHIS is recognized as the primary U.S. agency in charge of animal and plant health issues associated with agricultural trade. In that capacity, the agency facilitates trade by issuing certificates attesting to the health status of U.S. products being exported and negotiating scientifically based trade agreements with foreign countries.

APHIS plays a major role in building and maintaining strong agricultural trade relations between the United States and other countries. Through our close work with foreign governments, APHIS employees stationed abroad are instrumental in protecting existing markets and opening up new markets for trade worldwide. Providing assistance and information as needed, our officials also become involved when a shipment is detained at a foreign port due to health documentation or pest/disease interception problems. Additionally, APHIS works hard to ensure that any trade restrictions placed on U.S. exports are based on sound science.

### **Developing International Standards**

Through our work with the World Organization for Animal Health, the International Plant Protection Convention, and the Joint Codex Alimentarius Commission, APHIS veterinary and plant health scientists, along with officials from around the world, play a crucial role in setting international standards for animal and plant health and food safety. These science-based standards are designed to protect the health of consumers, animals, and plants against pests and diseases while increasing trade opportunities worldwide.



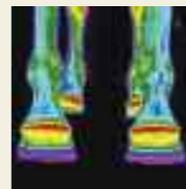
# Animal Welfare

## Animal Care

Protect and promote the welfare of animals bred for commercial sale, used in research, transported commercially, or exhibited to the public.

- Develop acceptable standards of humane care and treatment
- Actively work to eliminate the soring of horses
- Monitor animal care practices and achieve compliance through inspections, education, and cooperative efforts
- Provide national leadership on the safety and well-being of household pets during disasters

many caring hands



“APHIS gives protection to millions of animals each year, nationwide.”

For nearly 40 years, Congress has entrusted USDA and APHIS with the stewardship of animals bred for commerce, exhibited to the public, or used in research through its landmark Animal Welfare and Horse Protection Acts. Today, through its Animal Care program, APHIS continues to uphold that trust, giving protection to millions of animals each year, nationwide.

### Ensuring Humane Treatment

Over the years, APHIS has worked tirelessly to strengthen animal welfare regulations—from establishing exercise requirements for dogs to ensuring the psychological well-being of nonhuman primates to requiring alternatives to potentially painful or distressful procedures in animal research. APHIS also prohibits “soring,” the practice of applying irritants to a horse’s forelegs to enhance its gait—a cruel shortcut to proper training. We work actively with the horse industry to protect against such abuse and ensure that only sound and healthy horses participate in shows.

APHIS inspectors conduct unannounced inspections at zoos, circuses, marine mammal facilities, research facilities, exhibitions, horse shows and sales, and commercial airports to achieve compliance and ensure that animals receive humane care and treatment.

### Not Just Meeting, But Exceeding the Standards of Care and Treatment

APHIS’ veterinary medical officers and animal care inspectors are committed to helping licensed and registered entities not just meet, but exceed the requirements of the Animal Welfare and Horse Protection Acts. Our personnel are experts in the care of various species and in the areas of nutrition, research, and transportation. We also have extensive experience in the care and handling of animals. Each year, we offer a multitude of training opportunities and informative workshops to licensees on various animal welfare topics in an effort to achieve compliance through education and cooperation.

### Saving Pets to Save Lives

In the event of a disaster, the safe movement, housing, husbandry, and reunification of household pets with their owners require a unique combination of expertise—one both logistical and veterinary. That’s why APHIS is working closely with other government organizations under the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) National Response Framework to develop an integrated approach to disaster relief for pets. Providing technical expertise as well as planning and coordination support, our animal welfare experts are helping States and localities prepare to provide for the safety and well-being of pets during disasters. We serve as a powerful planning resource that State and local officials can turn to in advance of a disaster. During a response, we can often provide a critical injection of manpower and expertise where it’s needed most.

# Wildlife Damage Management

## Wildlife Services

Provides Federal leadership to resolve conflicts between people and wildlife and create a balance allowing people and wildlife to coexist peacefully.

- Manage conflicts between people and wildlife
- Protect agriculture
- Protect natural resources, including threatened and endangered species
- Protect property
- Protect public health and safety
- Monitor for wildlife disease

many solutions



“APHIS acts as a protective buffer between wildlife and people.”

**Wildlife is an important public resource** highly valued by the American people. By its very nature, however, wildlife is dynamic and mobile—and can damage agricultural and environmental resources and pose risks to human safety and health. APHIS’ Wildlife Services program provides leadership in creating a balance that allows people and wildlife to coexist. APHIS’ wildlife managers must thoughtfully consider not only the needs of those directly affected by wildlife damage, but also a range of environmental, sociocultural, and economic factors. Our wildlife biologists and technicians provide biologically sound, environmentally safe, socially acceptable, and—whenever possible—non-lethal responses to wildlife conflicts.

### Protecting Agricultural Resources

Despite producers’ best efforts to protect their livestock and crops, millions of dollars of damage are caused each year by wildlife. APHIS works to reduce this damage by providing producers with both technical and direct management assistance to resolve wildlife conflicts. From recommendations on habitat modification or husbandry practices to reduce the likelihood of wildlife damage to capturing and relocating predators that are preying on livestock, APHIS acts as a protective buffer between wildlife and agriculture.

### Monitoring for Wildlife Disease

Throughout the United States, APHIS is responsible for the monitoring and surveillance of wildlife diseases such as highly pathogenic avian influenza, West Nile virus, chronic wasting disease, foot-and-mouth disease, and Lyme disease. Through these efforts, we increase

our understanding of these diseases and enhance our ability to respond to outbreaks in wildlife and domestic animals, as well as to prevent disease threats to humans.

### Protecting Public Health and Safety

Unfortunately, wildlife can pose significant threats to public health and safety—from wildlife diseases that can affect domestic animals and humans to birds and animals that collide with aircraft during takeoff and landing. Since 1995, APHIS has been working cooperatively with local, State, and Federal government, universities, and other partners to prevent the further spread of wildlife rabies and eventually eliminate the disease in the United States through an integrated program that involves the use of oral rabies vaccination targeted to wild animals. And to help prevent these potentially dangerous interactions between wildlife and aircraft, APHIS biologists provide airport operators across the Nation with advice and recommendations on how to keep runways and flight paths clear of wildlife.

### Safeguarding Natural Resources

APHIS works in every State and several U.S. Territories to protect and preserve natural resources, such as wetland habitats, forests, and threatened and endangered species that are vital parts of America’s unique landscape. Our scientists and wildlife biologists, partnering with the U.S. Department of the Interior’s (DOI) Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), State wildlife management agencies, landowners, and others, help protect more than 100 threatened and endangered plants, birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, fish, and insects.

# Emergency Response

Coordinates emergency response efforts that protect the health and value of U.S. agricultural, natural, and other resources.

- Operate and maintain the state-of-the-art APHIS Emergency Operations Center
- Monitor threats to U.S. agriculture and food sectors
- Coordinate with DHS and other Federal and State emergency management entities
- Collect and disseminate agricultural information, technology, and expertise relating to terrorism and homeland security
- Develop strategies and policies for effective incident management
- Coordinate and direct animal and plant health emergency incident response efforts
- Provide support during all-hazards emergencies
- Conduct training exercises to ensure personnel are ready for emergency response work

many responsibilities



“When a disaster strikes, APHIS is prepared to respond.”

**When a disaster strikes**, APHIS is prepared to respond. From agricultural pest and disease outbreaks to natural disasters like hurricanes and floods to threats of agro-terrorism, APHIS has the expertise and the infrastructure necessary to protect animals, plants, natural resources, and people.

### Combating Pests and Diseases

As the lead national agency for animal and plant emergencies, APHIS has developed and implemented a science-based framework designed to provide optimum protection against pests and diseases. Based on FEMA's National Response Framework, our activities are organized around the principles of prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery. Before an emergency, we work tirelessly to ensure that our emergency management plans, procedures, and training are current with the highest national and international standards. During an emergency, we coordinate actions with other Federal, State, and local entities to contain, control, or eradicate the pest or disease. And following an emergency, we provide long-term stability and protection from pest or disease recurrence through the implementation of

regulations, education about best management and biosecurity practices, and support for restoration.

### Supporting “All Hazards” Emergencies

Under Emergency Support Function #11 of FEMA's National Response Framework, APHIS has been tasked with a key role in responding to emergency incidents—including “all hazards” emergencies that may be unrelated to outbreaks of animal and plant pests and diseases. The unique skills of APHIS employees, coupled with our vast networks of diagnostic and research laboratories, veterinary stockpiles, and other assets, make us valuable partners in responding to a wide range of emergencies—from recovering and protecting wildlife impacted by an environmental disaster, such as an oil spill, to providing food to animals stranded by blizzards, hurricanes or other natural disasters, to assisting States and localities with the evacuation of pets—and therefore residents—in disaster-stricken areas.

### Partnering for Success

The key to effective emergency response is a strong network of people trained and prepared to respond. We work in close partnership with national and international animal and plant health protection organizations; Federal, State, tribal, and local governments; universities; industries; and private entities to develop strategies and policies for effective incident management and to coordinate incident responses.



## Sound Science

Developing and applying scientific methods to benefit agricultural producers and consumers, protect the health of domestic animal and plant resources, and sustain agricultural ecosystems.

- Identify and analyze pest and disease pathways
- Conduct diagnostic testing
- Develop and adapt technologies
- Conduct risk assessments

many advanced facilities

“APHIS keeps America on the cutting edge of agricultural science.”

With an extensive network of laboratories and research facilities, APHIS draws from among the most advanced and specialized scientific resources available today.

### Advancing the Science of Safeguarding

APHIS relies on the unique skills of its highly trained staff—as well as its unmatched access to the most advanced technical resources—for the benefit of U.S. agriculture and producers. From our work on biocontrol techniques to wildlife fertility management and molecular diagnostics, APHIS keeps America on the cutting edge of agricultural science.

APHIS' scientific facilities include the:

- **Center for Plant Health Science and Technology**, where scientists identify and evaluate pathways for the introduction of invasive plant pests and weeds;
- **Centers for Epidemiology and Animal Health**, where multidisciplinary specialists track emerging animal health threats, monitor U.S. livestock management and production, and design comprehensive animal health surveillance programs;

- **National Wildlife Research Center**, the world's only research center devoted entirely to the development of methods for effective wildlife damage management;
- **National Veterinary Services Laboratories**, the Nation's premier animal health diagnostic laboratory and a World Animal Health Organization reference laboratory for animal diseases of importance to the Americas;
- **National Animal Health Laboratory Network**, an extensive and integrated system of Federal, State, and university laboratories that provide animal disease diagnostic services in both routine and emergency situations, including bioterrorism events;
- **Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory**, a high-security facility where experts conduct research into both new and known high-consequence animal diseases as well as potential bioterrorist releases; and
- **The Center for Veterinary Biologics**, the Nation's sole laboratory involved in the testing and regulation of commercial veterinary biologics (vaccines and diagnostic kits) in the United States.





many opportunities ahead



**Many goals. One mission. Even as the challenges and responsibilities have grown for APHIS and its employees, our mission has not changed—it's only become more important.**

Today, protecting America's agricultural and natural resources means many things. It means ensuring the health of our animal and plant resources both at home and as they move through the global marketplace. Guarding against the introduction or re-emergence of animal and plant pests and diseases that could limit agricultural production and damage export markets. Monitoring and responding to potential acts of agricultural bioterrorism, as well as to invasive species, disease outbreaks, and conflicts between humans and wildlife. It means eliminating trade barriers and ensuring the humane treatment of animals. And it means making sure that biotechnology-derived agricultural products are safe for release into the environment.

Those are just a few of the ways in which APHIS helps support USDA in its overall mission to protect and promote food, agriculture, and natural resources. But it's just the beginning. As America's agricultural needs and complexities multiply in the years and decades ahead, it's the goal of APHIS to adapt proactively as new challenges occur. Our experienced cadre of scientists, veterinarians, biologists, and other professionals are better prepared than ever to protect America's agricultural and natural resources well into the 21st century and beyond.

That's our goal, our mission...and our promise.



**United States Department of Agriculture**  
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

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