What Is APHIS?

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is an agency with many missions vital to the health and welfare of animals and plants in Indian Country. For many years, APHIS has worked with Native American communities to help safeguard agricultural livestock and crops from disease, pests, and wildlife damage.

APHIS partners with Native American communities on important projects through cooperative agreements, technical and emergency training, outreach activities, and consultations that ensure Native cultural heritage and values are respected. APHIS also reaches out to teach young Native Americans about agriculture and offers work experiences through summer internship and training programs.

Where Can I Get More Information?

APHIS is eager to answer questions about the agency's many programs and to discuss arrangements for assistance. For more information, please visit the APHIS Web site at www.aphis.usda.gov or contact:

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APHIS:

Partnering Across Nations To Safeguard Native American Agriculture

Protecting Livestock and Fisheries

APHIS' Veterinary Services (VS) program offers a broad range of services to help ensure the health of Native American animals and aquatic life. VS works to:

- **Survey** and test for diseases that can affect animals and aquatic life on or near Native American lands, including brucellosis, tuberculosis, scrapie, and viral hemorrhagic septicemia
- **Prevent** diseases and pests from harming livestock herds and fisheries by holding rabies vaccination clinics, restricting movement of potentially diseased animals in interstate or international transit, conducting collaborative disease investigations, and providing training on foreign animal diseases
- **Prepare** Native American communities to respond to animal disease and pest emergencies by developing emergency response plans, taking part in full-scale drills, participating in National Veterinary Stockpile activities, creating a database of community animals, and other measures
- **Provide** information on animal traceability and other animal disease program regulations dealing with chronic wasting disease, pseudorabies, scrapie, tuberculosis, and other diseases

Keeping Crops and Plants Healthy

APHIS' Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) program protects crops, fields, forests, and other natural plant resources. Among its many services and programs in Indian Country, APHIS-PPQ can:

- **Provide** early detection of potentially damaging foreign weeds, plant diseases, mollusks, and insects
- **Suppress** outbreaks of rangeland grasshoppers and Mormon crickets
- **Combat** invasive pests that attack forests, including gypsy moths and exotic wood borers such as the emerald ash borer and Asian longhorned beetle
- **Cooperatively use** biological control organisms to control rangeland weeds
- **Train** tribal members to respond rapidly to plant disease and pest outbreaks by developing emergency-response plans and participating in full-scale Incident Command System exercises
- **Facilitate exporting** plants and plant products by issuing internationally recognized phytosanitary certificates for your products

Controlling Wildlife Damage

APHIS' Wildlife Services (WS) program provides assistance in controlling wildlife that prey on livestock, damage property, or carry diseases that may harm livestock or people. WS may be able to help you:

- **Protect** livestock from predators like wolves, coyotes, mountain lions, and certain birds
- **Reduce** damage to property, crops, and natural resources from feral swine, bears, beavers, and other wildlife
- **Offer** technical guidance to help indigenous wildlife species important to Native American communities thrive on Native lands
- **Work** cooperatively with Native American communities to manage rabies in wildlife
- **Monitor** and test for diseases in wildlife that might be transmitted to livestock and people such as plague, tularemia, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, and brucellosis

Funding for Spay and Neuter Clinics

APHIS' Animal Care program helps Native American communities control populations of dogs and cats by providing funding for spay and neuter clinics on their lands.

Engaging on Biotechnology

APHIS' Biotechnology Regulatory Services (BRS) program provides information about field trials and petitions for non-regulated status of genetically engineered (GE) organisms that may have an impact on Native American communities. BRS is committed to ensuring that these communities have the opportunity to provide input on how these GE products may affect them, their cultures, and their lands.