



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Marketing and Regulatory Programs

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
2018 Accomplishments



Message From the MRP Under Secretary



Greg Ibach

Dear Stakeholders,

It's been just over a year since I joined USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue's team as Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs (MRP). When I first walked through USDA's doors, I could never have imagined how many diverse and important issues would cross my desk.

The breadth and complexity of these issues would be overwhelming for any one person, and it is a credit to USDA's team work, collaboration, and unwavering commitment to Do Right that helps us address these challenges and deliver solutions to our customers and stakeholders across the country.

Even more rewarding than working through challenging issues has been the honor and privilege to work with farmers and ranchers from so many vital agricultural industries. The work we do, day in and day out, is dedicated to making sure your operations are healthy and profitable. Throughout my

travels, I have had the good fortune to meet so many dedicated producers, and I have heard firsthand the important role that USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) play in your lives.

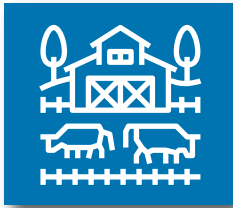
The past 12 months have provided many opportunities to fulfill Secretary Perdue's primary charge to ensure USDA programs are delivered efficiently, effectively, and with integrity and a focus on customer service. I firmly believe USDA is the most efficient and effective Department in the Federal Government, and this dedication extends from headquarters here in Washington, D.C., to our field offices in every single State and our international offices in 29 countries.

We have accomplished some incredible things over the past year. We have launched new initiatives, reduced a range of duplicative or unnecessary regulatory burdens, and accomplished almost every

one of our Mission Area first-year goals, including the completion of an action plan for animal disease traceability, the development of a conceptual framework for USDA's biotechnology regulations, and eradication of the pink bollworm. I'm pleased to share the following list of our efforts and customer-focused results with you.

Looking forward, we will keep pressing full steam ahead, and we are ready to accomplish even more. I will be listening to our many stakeholders and calling on our great team here at USDA to help us create new agency goals and set a course forward to again deliver achievements that benefit American agriculture.

Sincerely,
Greg Ibach
Under Secretary
Marketing and Regulatory Programs
U.S. Department of Agriculture



ANIMAL DISEASE TRACEABILITY

Demonstrate and deliver value to producers for complying with the Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) framework

Key Highlights

APHIS completed the Animal Disease Traceability Action Plan in September, and the Under Secretary presented the plan to stakeholders at the National Institute of Animal Health and the U.S. Animal Health Association's annual meetings.

The plan provides implementation strategies for USDA's four overarching goals for ADT:

- Advance the electronic sharing of data among Federal and State animal health officials, veterinarians, and industry;
- Use electronic ID tags for animals requiring individual identification in order to make the transmission of data more efficient;
- Enhance the ability to track animals from birth to slaughter through a system that allows tracking data points to be connected; and
- Elevate the discussion with States and industry to work toward a system where animal health certificates are electronically transmitted from private veterinarians to State animal health officials.





BIOTECHNOLOGY

Coordinate with Federal, State, industry, and international partners to foster innovation and position USDA to ensure timely review and approval of scientifically sound tools and technologies that do not pose a threat to plant health

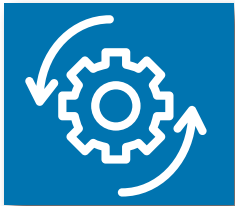
Key Highlights

APHIS led the development of a new conceptual framework for the Title 7, *Code of Federal Regulations*, Part 340 rule (Part 340) that contains a clear and transparent pathway for developers to deliver new technologies to farmers, is adaptable to emerging technologies, and provides regulatory relief and savings for taxpayers.

APHIS shared the proposed conceptual framework for Part 340 with 26 industry stakeholders, academics (18 universities in 13 States), international regulatory counterparts, nongovernmental organizations, and the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture and the National Plant Board to build coalitions and to create a pathway for the Administration to meet its goal of successfully updating Part 340.

On March 28, Secretary Perdue issued a statement clarifying USDA's oversight of plants produced through innovative new breeding techniques. APHIS chairs the intra-agency USDA Biotechnology Task Force, which developed this statement.





GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY

Ensure USDA programs are delivered efficiently and effectively, with integrity and a focus on customer service



Key Highlights

On October 1, the Marketing and Regulatory Programs Information Technology (MRP IT) Services organization was officially launched, with a 397-employee staff of IT personnel from AMS and APHIS. This merger consolidated IT services for the two agencies.

APHIS Veterinary Services (VS) completed a reorganization this year to better align with USDA's goal of providing the best customer service. This reorganization includes: consolidating public-facing field services into one Field Operations unit, which will streamline service delivery and make it easier for customers to get what they need from one office or point of

contact; creating a centralized Policy and Strategy Unit by realigning the existing policy and strategy units from various VS organizations; and consolidating VS laboratory services into a new Diagnostics and Biologics unit. These changes ensure that VS can expedite regulated animal movement and deliver endorsement services at the speed of commerce.



PLANT AND ANIMAL HEALTH

Protect the health and value of American agriculture and natural resources

Key Highlights

APHIS declared eradication of pink bollworm from Arizona, California, New Mexico, and Texas, allowing for unrestricted movement of cotton plant parts and other host commodities from these areas. U.S. cotton production accounts for nearly 30 percent of global trade in raw cotton and \$25 billion in products and services annually. It also provides more than 400,000 jobs from farms to textile mills.

APHIS' Multi-Agency Coordination Group partnered with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and USDA in response to Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, Maria, and Florence; wildfires in the Western United States; spotted lanternfly and European cherry fruit fly occurrences; and virulent Newcastle disease and low pathogenic avian influenza outbreaks.

APHIS helped develop the National Bio- and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF) Scientist in Training Program, with four universities and eight students

enrolled to meet workforce needs for subject matter experts in foreign animal and zoonotic diseases. This supports the facility's move from Plum Island, NY, to Manhattan, KS. Congressional support for the program is broad and funding is expected to continue.

APHIS coordinated multi-agency efforts in the disposition of bison held in National Park Service facilities, resulting in Fort Peck Tribe's Bison (Conservation Herd) Facility meeting the requirements of an assurance testing facility.





DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN MARKET ACCESS

Develop and advance science-based standards with trading partners to protect America's agricultural exports, worth more than \$50 billion annually, from unjustified restrictions

Key Highlights

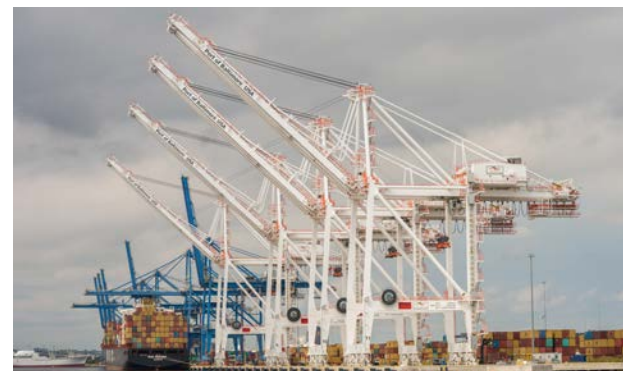
APHIS partnered with USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service and other Federal partners to open, expand, and retain foreign markets for U.S. farmers and ranchers. Examples of new market access in fiscal year (FY) 2018 include: U.S. chipping potatoes to the Dominican Republic (valued at \$2 million); U.S. rice seed for planting to Colombia (worth \$1.4 million in 2019, growing to \$7.2 million by 2023); and U.S. corn to Myanmar (valued at \$6 million), along with U.S. avocado propagative material (\$30,000) and sorghum to Myanmar (\$176,000). New markets opened in Peru include blackberry plants, in vitro, from Arkansas and Oregon (\$2 million); calla lily rhizomes (\$50,000); flaxseed grain from North Dakota (\$120,000); and orchid plants in vitro (\$25,000).

APHIS retained access for ash wood to the European Union, worth \$47 million. APHIS also achieved market retention for strawberry plantlets to Argentina (\$25,000) and several products to Myanmar: pulses for consumption and further processing (\$2.5 million); stone fruit from California (\$100,000); and dried dates (\$5,000). In support of

U.S. animal agriculture, APHIS retained access for live poultry to Indonesia in FY 2018, a market worth \$22 million in 2017. APHIS successfully secured the release of more than 270 shipments held up in foreign ports of entry worth more than \$50 million in FY 2018. These detained shipments included a shipment of poultry products destined for Afghanistan worth \$5 million and a shipment of live cattle in Turkey worth more than \$1 million.

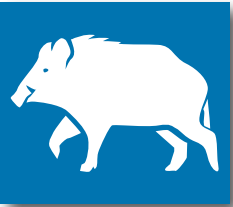
APHIS continues to enhance U.S. efforts to retain markets threatened or lost due to outbreaks of avian health diseases including highly pathogenic avian influenza, low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI), and virulent Newcastle disease (vND). Key successes in FY 2018 include more regionalized restrictions related to the detection of vND in backyard exhibition flocks in California and the various detections of LPAI in the United States. As part of this effort to support U.S. poultry exports, APHIS met with key trading partners in South America, the Middle East, and Asia and responded to individual countries' concerns through numerous venues.

APHIS launched the development of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)



global ePhyto system, achieving an important milestone in completing the hub system pilot with 11 countries demonstrating its feasibility. Currently, the United States is exchanging ePhytos with Argentina, Chile, and New Zealand.

APHIS continues to increase the number of animal health certificates issued electronically. APHIS has digital signature capabilities, a certificate upload feature, and is working to expand the number of countries and commodities for which electronic certification is available. This includes establishing bilateral pilot projects with Mexico and expanding the ongoing project with Canada to allow or extend exports with electronically issued and digitally signed certificates.



WILDLIFE SERVICES

Enhance collaboration with State and industry partners to ensure access to all available and appropriate tools that producers need to protect their livestock from predation and their lands and forests from invasive species

Key Highlights

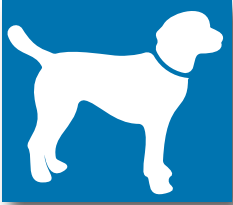
APHIS and our partners successfully eliminated feral swine from Maryland and New Jersey, and three additional States saw significant reductions in feral swine populations (Iowa, Maine, and Oregon).

APHIS removed 1,635 square miles of the ORV (rabies) zone in Alabama and Tennessee, suggesting the successful decrease of raccoon rabies in the previously baited areas. Preventing the westward spread of raccoon rabies saves an estimated \$58 million per

year and reduces possible exposure to rabies for approximately 20 million head of livestock.

APHIS used M-44s to reduce wildlife predation and protected sheep, cattle, and other livestock on more than 6.6 million acres in 11 States.





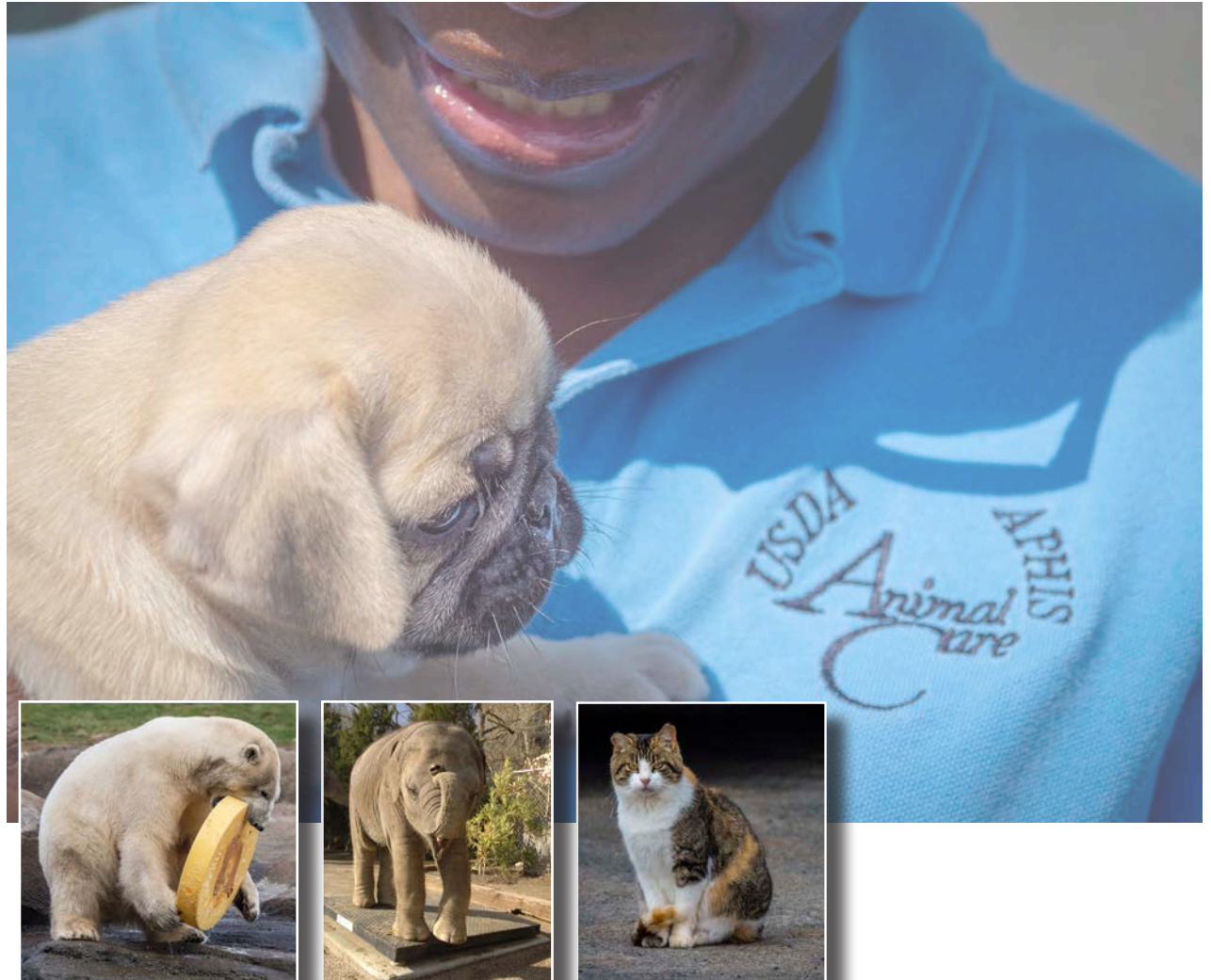
ANIMAL CARE

Improve the consistency and integrity of Animal Welfare Act inspections, compliance, and enforcement

Key Highlights

APHIS initiated a program to reduce our response time for critical and repeat noncompliance of the Animal Welfare Act, resulting in a reduction from over 365 days to approximately 60 days.

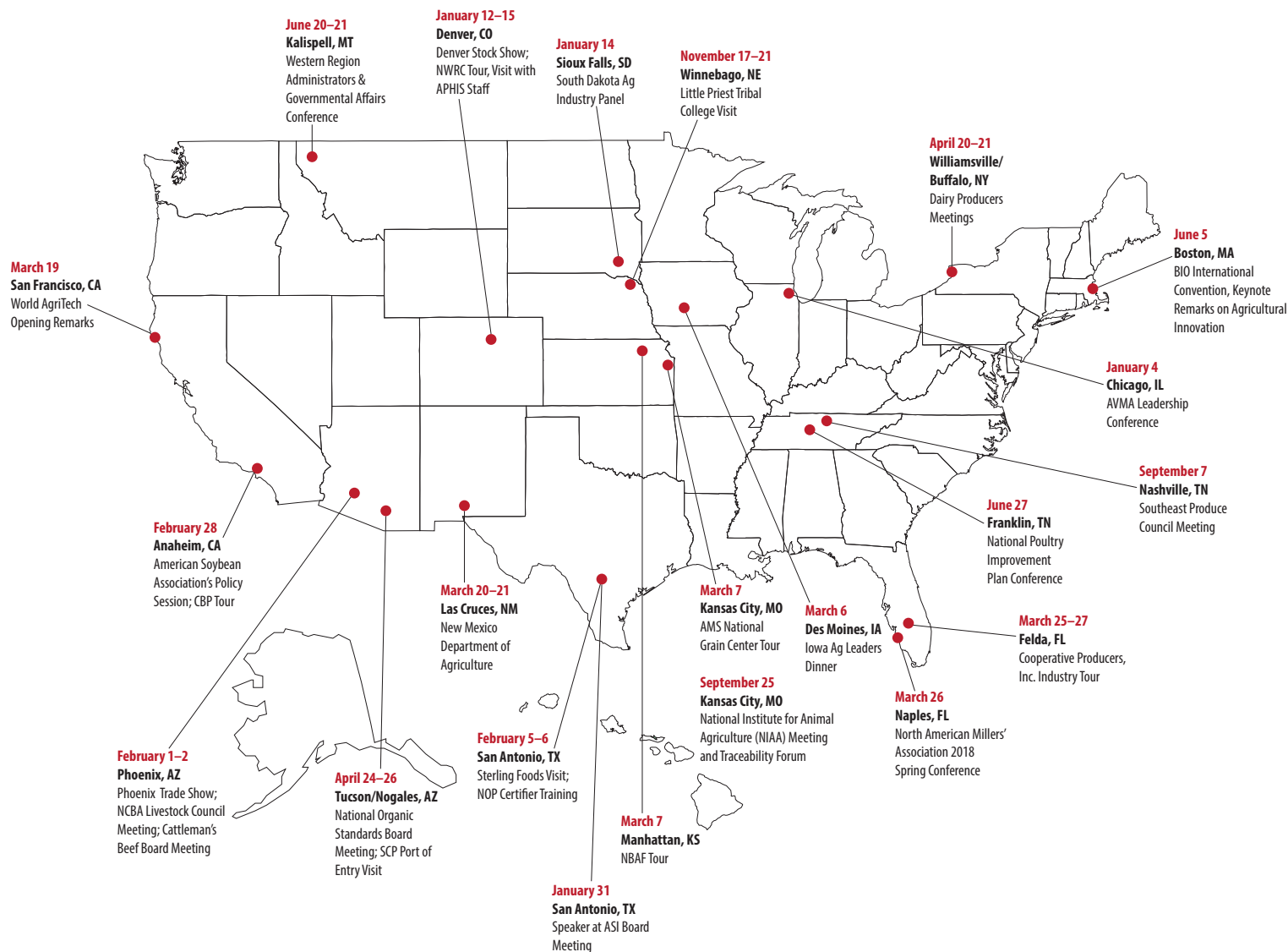
APHIS established a framework to deliver joint learning opportunities to USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) personnel responsible for ensuring the humane treatment of animals at ARS facilities. As a result of these initiatives, 100 percent of inspections of ARS facilities identified no noncompliances to date, compared to 77 percent for FY 2017.



2017–2018 Travel Highlights: Ibach On the Road

*“Under OneUSDA,
our customers are
our number 1
priority: we put your
needs first. Listening
and talking with you
face to face is the
best way I know to
do that.”*

~ Greg Ibach



Ibach On the Road



California FFA students at the 2017 Almond Conference



Colorado farmers and ranchers talking about important agricultural issues



World Pork Expo



Nebraska Corn Board young leaders



Midwestern Association of State Departments of Agriculture annual meeting



2018 Cattle Industry Convention and National Cattlemen's Beef Association Trade Show

