



NIES AT ITS BEST

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)
 Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)
 Veterinary Services (VS)
 National Import Export Services (NIES)

Animal Products Permitting and Negotiation Services (APPNS)

June 2017 Quarterly Edition, Volume 3

Our Mission

- Safeguard the health of domestic livestock and poultry by inspecting and quarantining animals and animal products to mitigate animal disease risk through risk assessments and sound science
- Facilitate trade, promote safe movement, negotiate science-based import and export requirements, and collaborate with other agencies and departments to remove technical barriers to trade
- Serve as the preeminent resource for safeguarding the nation's food supply from agricultural select agents and toxins
- Cooperate and collaborate with international animal health standard setting organizations to develop science-based health measures for safe trade
- Utilize science-based performance measures and a focus on consistent, standard practices carried out by a responsive workforce

What Is An Animal Product?

Any material derived from the body of an animal. Examples are fat, meat, skin, organs, blood, milk, eggs, and lesser known products such as rennet, gelatin, and rendered animal meals.



Contact Us

For **permit applications or status requests** related to animal products or by-products, please contact us via email at animalproducts.application@aphis.usda.gov. For faster assistance, remember to include permit or application numbers in your email.

For **questions** related to animal products or by-products, please email us at asknies.products@aphis.usda.gov. We will respond within 48 business hours.

If email is not convenient, please feel free to contact us using the information below:

4700 River Road, Unit 40

Riverdale, MD 20737

Fax: (301) 734-8226

Tel: (301) 851-3300, Option 1

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APNS in Action

PRESENTS TO CHINESE DELEGATION

A delegation of nine Fellows from China visited Riverdale on April 18 to learn more about APHIS' role in regulating and certifying animal and plant products. Thought the primary focus was plants and plant products, VS provided a general presentation on regulation of animal product imports. They also answered questions about the roles and relationships of Customs and Border Protection (CBP), APHIS, and the Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS).

PRESENTS AND MEETS WITH CHINA

May 3-9, APNS representatives provided presentations to stakeholders in Hong Kong and Shanghai, China. Presentation recipients included the International Serum Association, on importation of fetal bovine serum (FBS) into the United States, and the USA Poultry and Egg Export Council Member Conference Asia, on avian influenza emergency response.

During the visit, APHIS representatives met with Hong Kong's Food and Environment Hygiene Department and Agriculture, Fisheries, and Conservation Department, regarding protocols for avian influenza regionalization and export of live horses to the United States. They also met with China's General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection, and Quarantine regarding the upcoming avian influenza audit and review of Chinese zoosanitary certificates for authenticity.



MEETS WITH FAS

APNS provided general information about NIES for new Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS) employees, as part of an ongoing training program to provide FAS new hires familiarity with different APHIS programs.

MEETS WITH BRAZILIAN REPRESENTATIVES

APNS met with representatives from Brazil to discuss the certification requirements for different types of bovine meat and meat products. The discussion also included certification issues for beef products, resulting in Agriculture holds, and requirements for the U.S. import of cooked perishable beef. APNS provided guidance on the above issues, updates on APHIS and MAPA certificate negotiation, and suggestions to further improve trade.

MEETS WITH REGULATED INDUSTRY

APNS Imports Staff met with a representative from U.S. Pet Nutrition on April 13. U.S. Pet Nutrition has a sister company in Thailand that manufactures pet food and also supplies multiple U.S. importers. The meeting focused on import permit requirements.

PARTICIPATES IN MARYLAND DAY

APNS joined others from VS to participate in Maryland Day, the University of Maryland's largest community outreach event. The event was a campus-wide open house, packed with exciting events and exhibits in six learning neighborhoods spread across the university. VS provided information to participants about VS' mission and role in protecting American agriculture.

HOT TOPICS

International Trade Data System (ITDS)

Implementation of the International Trade Data System (ITDS) is underway now. Upon full implementation, ITDS, through the Automated Commercial Environment (ACE), will allow businesses to electronically submit the data required by CBP and its Partner Government Agencies to import or export cargo through a "Single Window" concept. Through ACE as the Single Window, manual processes are streamlined and automated, paper is reduced, and the trade community is able to more easily and efficiently comply with U.S. laws and regulations. APHIS VS animal product import data (excluding government-to-government certificates, which must be presented in paper) can be submitted through ACE. Currently, it is optional for such APHIS import data to be submitted via ACE; however, this will become mandatory in the future (date has not yet been decided). We encourage all importers to contact their broker to learn more about submitting APHIS VS animal product import information through ACE, or to visit the APHIS website, [here](#). For technical questions regarding the submission of APHIS data, please contact ace.itds@aphis.usda.gov.

Smuggling Interdiction & Trade Compliance (SITC) Program

NIES Educated on eCommerce SITC Applications

SITC Officers Julie Hong-Sakowski and Corey Marker, of the SITC Internet Team (SIT), presented on monitoring internet sites for prohibited agricultural commodities, during a weekly NIES Veterinary Medical Officer (VMO) training seminar. The SIT explained that with tips from headquarters, the field, other agencies, and industry they are able to follow up on leads and significant seizures.

For SITC's purposes, SIT:

- Monitors virtual storefronts (stores with online catalogs but not necessarily the ability to order online), as well as buying/selling/trading on websites, forums, online marketplaces, and social apps
- Gathers data through forums, sites and social media
- Collaborates with internet companies to exchange data, ideas to close pathways, and gain seller compliance

SITC currently has agreements with the three major eCommerce sites, as well as increasing number of smaller companies and start-ups, to implement filters to block prohibited items from being sold.

Illegally Imported Animal Product Seizure



Based on a trace request from Texas SITC, NY Metro SITC discovered 30 cases (352.8 kg) of non-compliant milk and documented a pathway for smuggled milk from China. The product was first found in a market by an Austin, TX SITC employee, who provided an invoice for a company in Queens, NY. Through repeated interviews and follow up, the company eventually admitted they imported 66 cases of the milk without the required VS permit or health certificate. Entry documents demonstrate the milk was not on the manifest.

A VS permit is required to import this sweetened milk product, as the it contains ingredients imported from China, which is affected by foot and mouth disease (FMD).

Work Around the World

Gaining Market Access for U.S. Agricultural Commodities

THAILAND

March 2—USDA (APHIS, FSIS, FAS) and Thai government officials agreed to an export certificate for bone-in beef and beef products (excluding offal) exported from the United States to Thailand. This certificate will be endorsed under FSIS authority with some verifications made on behalf of APHIS.

CANADA

March 8-9—APHIS and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) participated in an animal health bilateral in Albany, New York. NIES participated in discussions focused on a wide range of topics related to the import and export of live animals and animal products. One of the positive outcomes of the bilateral include agreement between APHIS and CFIA was a commitment to meet at least twice a year for an animal health bilateral.

BARBADOS

After extensive work and cooperation between APHIS, FSIS, and the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) to develop and launch the new Pork Quality Assurance Source Verification Program (PQA Plus), the Barbados Chief Veterinary Officer announced on April 7 that Barbados will now accept pork exported from the United States, based in part on the PQA Plus program. This agreement will allow producers participating in the PQA Plus program to export fresh pork products without additional testing or application of mitigation treatments for *Trichinella spiralis* based on assurances provided by PQA Plus and verification by USDA.

BRAZIL

May 4—The first shipment of fresh U.S. beef arrived in Brazil after a 13-year hiatus. APHIS, FSIS and FAS have worked continuously with Brazilian officials to regain market access, which they granted on August 1, 2016. Brazil had closed its market to imports of U.S. fresh beef in 2003 due to bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) concerns, but the possibility of reopening the market was revived after the decision by the World Organization for Animal Health to recognize the United States as a country with negligible risk with regards to BSE. The USDA led the process to regain market access by facilitating an audit by Brazilian officials to assess the U.S. beef production system, submitting a comprehensive response to the import questionnaire requested by Brazil, and negotiating the food safety and animal health certification requirements for export of beef and beef products to Brazil.

May 9-11—APHIS and Brazil held an animal health bilateral meeting in Riverdale, Maryland. APHIS raised issues regarding poultry facility registration, regionalization and compartmentalization, bovine embryos, and concerns with recent Brazilian beef imports as well as the status of a U.S. pork certificate. Brazil also addressed poultry regionalization, bovine embryo and semen, fetal bovine serum, and their request for expanded access for beef. Both countries agreed to establish timelines and action plans for the various market access and technical issues. For example, Brazil agreed to present a proposal for treated fetal bovine serum within 30 days and APHIS agreed to resend pending registrations for poultry facilities. With regard to beef access, APHIS clarified risk assessment requirements and recommended Brazil include all 12 new States rather than submitting separate requests.

USDA
e-Authentication



Do I need a permit?

ATTENTION ALL CUSTOMERS!

In the very near future, NIES will be retiring the ePermits system in favor of CARPOL, a newer, more customer friendly system. However, to experience all the benefits and features of the new system, we strongly recommend that you become e-Authenticated as early as possible. The new system requires customers to be a Level-2 subscriber in order to retrieve even the simplest of items, such as finished permits. **Please don't delay; become eAuthenticated today!**

To apply for a USDA e-Authentication account, please visit our website at :

www.eauth.usda.gov



Application Fees to import an animal or animal byproduct into the United States are as follows:

“But, They’re Holding My Shipment.....”

In striving to make our website more user friendly for our customers we have updated guidance for the On Hold Process. Hopefully, the changes will make the process more efficient for everyone that may have products on hold. You can view the updated website by visiting the following link.

[On Hold](#) - Shipment Notification Application (for Animal Products and By-Products)

Application	Fee
New Application	\$150
Renewal Application	\$97
On-Hold Applications	\$565
Amendments	\$75
Fetal Bovine Permits	\$512

Payment for services rendered is considered a processing fee (non-refundable) and does not guarantee permit approval or shipment release