Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

2020

IMPACT REPORT

Message From the APHIS Administrator

2020 left our country and our world forever changed. The COVID-19 pandemic affected every facet of our lives, challenging us in ways we couldn't have imagined and bringing stark clarity to what we value most. Our guiding value at the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has remained simple: serve the American people. And in this time of extraordinary crisis, APHIS' mission to protect American agriculture—so we can feed, clothe, and fuel the world—has never been more important.

While the pandemic changed how we work at APHIS, it didn't stop us. In fact, we never stopped working. Our employees—8,620 strong in all 50 States, 4 Territories, and 27 countries—continued reporting for duty every day, virtually and onsite, to get the job done. Their capabilities, expertise, and long-held relationships with partners and stakeholders nationwide positioned us to meet the needs of the moment. APHIS employees responded with urgency to lend a helping hand wherever and however we could. They overcame obstacles and found new and innovative ways to deliver our services and keep everyone safe. While the empathy and resolve of APHIS employees didn't surprise me, it did make me proud.

APHIS continued to deliver on our safeguarding mission and far more throughout 2020. The highlights in our report tell just a brief story of APHIS' work. We will no doubt face new and persistent challenges, even when the pandemic ends. But as the uncertainty of our time continues, there's one thing I know for sure: APHIS is ready—to help, to serve, to do all we can. Because when we protect American agriculture, we protect the American people. That's why we're here, every day. And why we'll never stop working—for you.

It is my great honor to share with you our 2020 Impact Report.

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

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

WHO WE ARE

8,620 EMPLOYEES WORLDWIDE

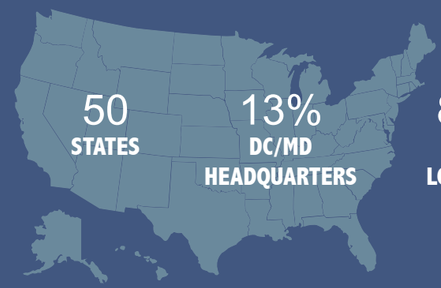
$1.6B ANNUAL BUDGET

6 OPERATIONAL PROGRAMS

6 LABS AND RESEARCH HUBS

WHERE WE SERVE

4 TERRITORIES



50 STATES

13% DC/MD HEADQUARTERS

87% FIELD LOCATIONS

27 COUNTRIES

OUR FOCUS

- PLANT HEALTH
- ANIMAL HEALTH
- WILDLIFE DAMAGE MANAGEMENT
- ANIMAL WELFARE
- GLOBAL TRADE
- BIOTECH

WHAT DRIVES US

22.2M jobs relying on U.S. agriculture and related industries

177M head of livestock to protect from predators and foreign animal diseases

900M acres of U.S. farmland to protect

1M+ animals to inspect for humane care and use under the Animal Welfare Act and the Horse Protection Act

$135B in U.S. agricultural exports for the global food supply

25+ agricultural sectors with diverse needs to serve

Plant Health

In 2020, APHIS safeguarded U.S. agriculture and natural resources against destructive pests and diseases and facilitated the safe trade of agricultural products.

Eradicated *Ralstonia solanacearum* race 3 biovar 2—a disease that can cause significant harm to U.S. agriculture—from more than 650 U.S. commercial greenhouses in 44 States just 2 months after it was detected

Allocated $63 million from the Plant Pest and Disease Management and Disaster Prevention Program to cooperators across the country for 357 projects that help safeguard U.S. plant health

Inspected and cleared 5 billion pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables, a 100% increase from last year—and 1.05 billion plants from 23 countries before they were shipped to the United States

Launched the Offshore Greenhouse Certification Program, giving U.S. producers a faster, more reliable supply chain of healthy plants and protecting our country from harmful pests

Cleared 179,522 imported shipments—at least 8 times more than in FY 2019—containing over 1.8 billion plant units (cuttings, rooted plants, tissue culture, etc.) and nearly 723,000 kilograms of plant seeds and prevented entry of 6,786 quarantine-significant pests at U.S. plant inspection stations

Intercepted 56,653 pests found during U.S. Customs and Border Protection inspections of 25,315 ships and more than 1.4 million cargo, mail, and express carrier shipments and took quick action to prevent those of concern from entering the United States

Issued more than 30,000 import permits and regulatory guidance letters for plants and plant products and responded to over 9,800 inquiries about imports and plant health permits

Issued 658,079 Federal phytosanitary certificates directly or through authorized State and county cooperators to aid the export of U.S. plants and plant products to 206 international destinations

Provided critical support—such as inspecting and certifying shipments, conducting technical negotiations, and providing online trade tools—for the export of U.S. plants and plant products valued at $92 billion

Completed 270 risk analyses associated with imports, exports, invasive pest threats, and program requirements to support safe trade and protect American agriculture

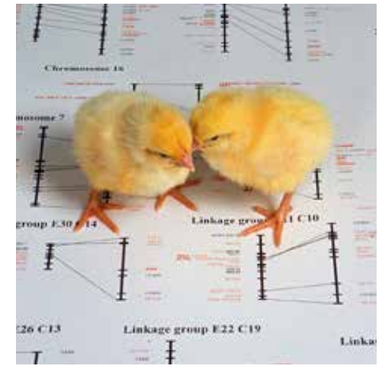
Conducted 253 plant pest surveys with cooperators in 50 States and 3 Territories and coordinated the response to 25 species that were new or re-introduced into the United States

Worked with 184 International Plant Protection Convention members to advance international standards that facilitate safe agricultural trade

www.aphis.usda.gov/plant-health

Animal Health

In 2020, APHIS supported ranchers and farmers by regulating the import of animals and animal products; responding to animal disease emergencies; managing national programs for controlling animal diseases; conducting diagnostic testing; ensuring pure, safe, potent, and effective veterinary biologics; and facilitating U.S. exports of animals and animal products.



Declared Southern California free of virulent Newcastle disease[1] (vND) after a 2-year, $57-million effort with our State partners to protect poultry from this highly contagious and fatal bird disease

Continued surveying the health of backyard birds at more than 226,000 premises in California, testing over 11,500 diagnostic samples for vND—and finding 0 new cases since February 2020

Established confirmatory testing services for animal samples for SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19)—tested over 430 animals, with 66 confirmed positive—and set up further support at 37 National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) labs, including 22 with capability to test human samples

Created a National Incident Coordination Center and quickly deployed over $600,000 in critical supplies and equipment from the National Veterinary Stockpile to support producers impacted by COVID-19 closures and slowdowns at meat processing plants

Awarded more than $2.78 million to 25 proposals from State and Tribal governments for work to combat chronic wasting disease (CWD) in farmed and wild deer and elk populations

Further increased testing capacity for African swine fever (ASF) among NAHLN labs—to 200,000 animals within 24 hours, if needed—enhancing U.S. preparedness for this deadly foreign animal disease

Monitored U.S. livestock health, including 5,833 samples tested for both ASF and classical swine fever (with all results negative) and more than 623,000 animals tested for other diseases such as brucellosis, cattle tuberculosis, swine pseudorabies, and scrapie

Stood up the National Animal Vaccine and Veterinary Countermeasures Bank and invested $27.1 million to purchase foot-and-mouth disease vaccine

Conducted 3,001 foreign animal disease investigations with 82 percent targeting vesicular disease, mainly due to the ongoing presence of Senecavirus A (formerly known as Seneca Valley virus) in pigs in the United States and Canada

Distributed over 2.19 million free radio-frequency identification tags to States and their accredited veterinarians, giving cattle producers a no-cost alternative to official metal tags for their animals and increasing disease traceability in U.S. livestock

Provided market release of more than 120.7 billion doses of veterinary biologics prepared by 87 licensed manufacturers and permit holders targeting 280 animal diseases that threaten American agriculture

Endorsed 85,048 health certificates to facilitate safe animal exports and approved 882 facilities to export U.S. animal products, expanding the network of USDA-approved establishments to move these products to global markets quickly and safely

[1]As defined by World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) criteria

www.aphis.usda.gov/animal-health

Wildlife Damage Management

In 2020, APHIS helped ranchers, farmers, wildlife managers, and others by providing national leadership and expertise to resolve conflicts between people and wildlife. Our programs and research protected U.S. agriculture; natural resources, including threatened and endangered species; property and infrastructure, and public health and safety.

Helped 19,400 producers protect their livestock from predation

Presented 166 workshops on integrated wildlife damage management (a combination of techniques and tools, including those that can be used by the public), with more than 9,898 attendees from 23 States and Puerto Rico

Distributed more than 8.2 million vaccine baits to combat raccoon rabies in 17 Eastern States and more than 1.1 million baits in Texas to prevent canine rabies from reemerging along the Mexican border

Worked with State and Federal partners to reduce feral swine damage on approximately 192 million acres in 37 States and 3 Territories, directly protecting 119 threatened and endangered species and habitats

Dispersed 164,378 double-crested cormorants and removed 11,797 at 251 aquaculture facilities in 21 States, helping protect an industry worth $1.5 billion nationally[2]

Protected a total of 293 threatened and endangered species in 36 States and 2 Territories with $13 million of funding from cooperating agencies and others in support of the Endangered Species Act

Assessed and/or reduced wildlife strike hazards at 865 civil, military, and joint-use airports, including about 75% of all U.S. commercial passenger airports[3], and processed 11,780 wildlife-aircraft strike reports into the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) database

Donated 129 tons of deer, goose, and other meat—more than 1 million servings of protein for people in need—and 9 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

Initiated 108 research studies on wildlife damage issues; published 123 scientific papers, book chapters, and technical reports in 65 professional scientific journals; and partnered with the private sector to develop innovative products through 9 patents issued or applied for

Dedicated 18 biologist positions in 11 States to nonlethal strategies like range riding, fladry installation, and electric fence-building to protect livestock from large carnivore predation

Deployed Wildlife Services employees for a total of 343 days to support 5 emergency responses nationwide ranging from wildfires and agricultural pest responses to wildlife and domestic animal disease outbreaks

Collected 916 samples for chronic wasting disease (CWD) testing and removed 1,863 cervids for CWD management/sampling with $685,400 in State cooperative funding to help combat this fatal animal disease

[2] Per National Marine Fisheries Service values for aquaculture

[3] FAA, Part 139-certificated airports

www.aphis.usda.gov/wildlife-damage

Animal Welfare

In 2020, APHIS protected the welfare of animals by administering two important laws: the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) and the Horse Protection Act (HPA). We also provided national leadership on the safety and well-being of pet owners and animals during disasters.

Conducted 5,620 AWA site inspections, assessing the health, care, and treatment of 597,270 animals

Found 97% of AWA licensees and registrants in substantial compliance through the use of inspections, guidance, and outreach

Contacted 100% of regulated facilities with more than 18,000 phone calls and emails between March and August alone to review records, monitor compliance, and offer other remote support, ensuring continued AWA oversight during the COVID-19 pandemic

Issued 2,667 permits covering 9,941 dogs entering the United States—a more than 30% increase from the number of permits issued in 2019—and shortened the processing time for permit requests to just 5 workdays

Issued a final rule to amend the AWA licensing requirements for all regulated animals and strengthen veterinary care and watering standards for dogs—changes that incorporated feedback from more than 110,000 public comments on the proposed rule

Launched a new website with tech notes, training videos, and other resources to help those engaged in AWA-regulated activities and others understand and carry out the new licensing requirements and standards, gaining 5,417 visitors and 8,131 page views in FY 2020

Finalized an electronic reporting system that allows research facilities to complete their annual reporting to APHIS online—with 383 reports submitted in FY 2020—saving time, improving the customer experience, and reducing burden for registered facilities

Conducted 48 inspections at all animal research facilities owned by the USDA Agricultural Research Service, which voluntarily registered its facilities with APHIS in FY 2016 to assure animal welfare

Opened 30 new cases for alleged AWA violations and collected or assessed $624,875 in penalties (from 4 settlements and 24 administrative orders) to support AWA compliance and deter future violations

Inspected 328 horses at shows and exhibitions for HPA compliance

Assessed $11,800 in penalties for HPA violations and disqualified 10 individuals from participating in HPA-regulated activities

www.aphis.usda.gov/animal-welfare

International Services

In 2020, our team of domestic policy staff, Foreign Service officers, and foreign nationals supported APHIS' mission on the global stage. They worked closely with other governments to control pests and diseases before they could enter the United States, build technical and regulatory skills to prevent the spread of pests and diseases, and help resolve sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) barriers to advance agricultural trade.

Facilitated new markets for a wide range of U.S.-origin products, such as pet food to China (worth up to $300 million per year); bovine meat-and-bone meal to Mexico (valued at $65 million); and live cattle to Uzbekistan (valued at $25 million) and Morocco (valued at $10 million)

Worked with foreign partners and internal APHIS programs to resolve challenges posed by pest detections, trading partner regulatory changes, and other issues to preserve threatened markets for U.S.-origin goods, including poultry to Cuba (valued at $200 million); meat and meat products to Qatar (valued at $46 million); and egg products to Australia (valued at $2 million)

Supported APHIS negotiations to resolve delays with hundreds of U.S. shipments at foreign ports, totaling over $56 million in trade relief

Produced 1.2 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 2.5 billion sterile Mexican fruit flies—a 150% increase from last year—at the San Miguel Petapa facility in Guatemala to support eradication programs in California and Texas and population suppression efforts in northern Mexico

Released aerially 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

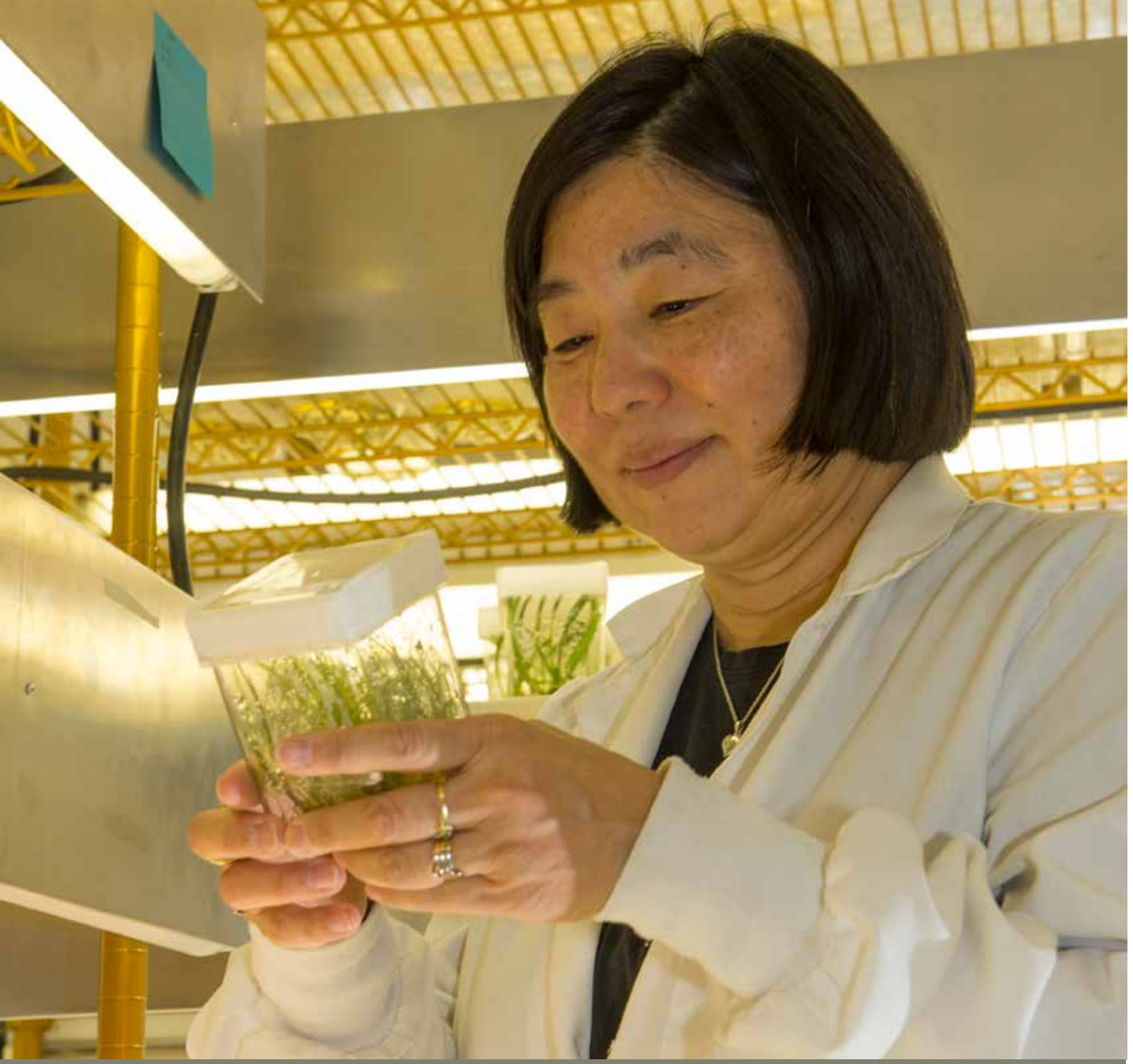
Eased future market access by building awareness of the U.S. regulatory process, hosting 140 foreign officials during 26 individual visits, including an in-person ePhyto and Emerging Pest workshop for plant health officials representing 26 African countries

Collaborated with APHIS' Plant Protection and Quarantine program to deliver 2 Sanitary/Phytosanitary workshops to 60 Cambodian government plant health officials

Coordinated 2 virtual webinars on animal health, with a focus on surveillance and emergency response for African swine fever (ASF) and foot-and-mouth disease, for 700 government officials from 28 countries representing Africa, Europe, and Asia

Supported ASF surveillance in Asia (China, Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos, and India) and offered several online workshops in emergency management and epidemiology for 150 veterinarians and government animal health officials to help with ASF response efforts in these countries

www.aphis.usda.gov/international-services



Biotechnology

In 2020, APHIS protected against risks to U.S. plant health by overseeing the safe import, interstate movement, and environmental release/field testing of certain organisms developed using genetic engineering. APHIS coordinated these responsibilities along with the other designated Federal agencies as part of the Federal Coordinated Framework for the Regulation of Biotechnology.

Published the final SECURE[4] rule, the first-ever major revision of USDA's biotechnology regulations, which streamlines and modernizes our system, providing over $8 million in annual cost savings

Responded to 85 "Am I Regulated" requests before retiring the process and launching the SECURE rule's new regulatory exemptions and confirmation process

Held 10 informational meetings, 2 technical webinars, and over 30 one-on-one sessions—all virtually— for more than 350 stakeholders to offer continued guidance on biotechnology regulatory processes throughout the COVID-19 pandemic

With APHIS' Plant Protection and Quarantine program and States, performed more than 500 compliance inspections of authorized field trials involving organisms developed using genetic engineering, with over 80% done virtually to maintain this essential function during the COVID-19 pandemic

Continued conducting a pilot version of APHIS eFile, a new online permitting system—with 45 stakeholders participating this year and 40 permits and notifications issued in the new system

Provided over $260,000 in cooperative funding to universities and other partners for critical biotechnology work, including State inspections, risk assessments, and protecting natural plant heritage

Completed 1 petition for deregulation within time targets, bringing the total number of deregulated products to 133

Delivered presentations to 50 visitors representing 16 countries to offer technical information and build capacity abroad for regulating biotechnology

Processed over 730 permits and notifications authorizing more than 17,000 locations and over 3,000 sites in 49 U.S. States and Territories for the movement or field testing of organisms produced using genetic engineering

[4]"SECURE" stands for "Sustainable, Ecological, Consistent, Uniform, Responsible, and Efficient"

www.aphis.usda.gov/biotechnology

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

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) 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.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Mention of companies or commercial products does not imply recommendation or endorsement by USDA over others not mentioned. USDA neither guarantees nor warrants the standard of any product mentioned. Product names are mentioned solely to report factually on available data and to provide specific information.

Program Aid No. 2270
Issued March 2021

www.aphis.usda.gov