

### **Agricultural Quarantine and Inspection Achievement: Animal and Plant Pest Risk Rankings for International Airline Flights to the United States**

Agricultural Quarantine and Inspection (AQI) is the first line of defense for exotic pest exclusion. The Deputy Administrator established this award category to recognize extraordinary results from an existing, new, or significantly improved AQI method or practice. The criteria for this award are (1) superior results that can be measured in terms such as time or quantity and (2) demonstrable evidence that the achievement clearly supports our safeguarding mission.

This award goes to an interagency team that provided CBP port staff with annual pest risk rankings for international airline flights at the 28 busiest airports in the United States. The team developed national guidelines for passenger targeting, with a ranked list of targeting criteria, for distribution to CBP passenger analysis units in airports across the country. In July 2010, the team provided rankings for over 2,100 flights to CBP. Furthermore, the team developed the use of an unbiased, statistical approach that promises to improve current passenger targeting efforts by using port-generated data to inform and improve upon the national guidelines. The project has already yielded benefits for the cooperating agencies. CBP officers receive risk-based targeting information based on the data they collect. And an analysis of the effectiveness of targeting previous violators indicated that targeting them was no more effective than targeting non-violators. Most importantly, with each successful pilot project such as this one, the cooperating agencies move closer to the nationwide implementation of a risk-based targeting system for the international airline passenger pathway.