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APHIS Releases 2022 Impact Report

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Dear Stakeholders,

Each year, we have the honor of sharing the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services' (APHIS) achievements through our Impact Report. In 2022, we celebrated APHIS' 50th anniversary. We did this while battling the twin challenges of the COVID-19 global pandemic and the largest animal health outbreak in this country's history – the ongoing Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) outbreak, which stretched to 47 states.

No matter what challenges we faced, we rose to the occasion and made sure that our work of safeguarding America's agriculture and natural resources, protecting vulnerable animals, and feeding and clothing the world continued.

On behalf of our more than 8,600 employees, working in all 50 States, 4 territories, and 27 countries, I am pleased to share with you our 2022 Impact Report. Among the highlights:

- Inspected and cleared **2.82 billion** pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables from **19** countries before they were shipped to the United States. Oversaw a systems approach for the safe import of **2.04 billion** pounds of avocados in Mexico.
- Expanded the export of U.S. fresh potatoes to Mexico beyond the 26-kilometer border zone which is estimated to provide a market potential of \$250 million, in five years. This is an increase of \$190 million from the current export value of \$60 million.

- Initiated an emergency program to address nationwide detections of highly pathogenic avian influenza. Performed **1,854,713** tests on commercial poultry flocks through National Poultry Improvement Plan cooperative agreements and coordinated the collection of **20,860** wild bird samples, helping to protect the U.S. poultry industry--whose production is valued at **\$46.1 billion**.
- **Assisted** the Dominican Republic and Haiti in **their African swine fever (ASF)** program by providing advice and assistance on surveillance, quarantine, depopulation, and disposal methods; providing testing support; outreach; staff training; expanding surveillance; and bolstering in-country testing capacity.
- Continued to enforce an **ASF protection zone** in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands; enhanced pre-departure activities by adding temporary staff, canine detector teams, and x-ray machines, as well as conducting training for staff in inspecting for animal products; and increased Smuggling Interdiction and Trade Compliance market surveys in the protection zone to identify potential regulated or prohibited product and ensure its removal from the marketplace.
- Collected 72,500 samples for SARS-CoV-2 testing— representing 100 species from wildlife, zoos, aquaria and other facilities across 36 States and DC. Sequenced 500 samples, with 161 being variants first detected in humans before animals. Maintained further support at 30 National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) labs, including 7 with capability to test human samples.
- Facilitated new markets for a wide range of U.S.-origin animals and animal products, including bovine meat and bone meal to Peru worth an estimated **\$5 million** per year; wheat to Fiji worth an estimated **\$3 million** per year; sheep and goats to Senegal worth an estimated **\$800,000** per year; and bovine, ovine, and caprine genetics to Tunisia worth an estimated **\$500,000** per year.
- Produced **1.04 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
- In a **One Health initiative** with Federal, State, and Tribal partners, monitored and surveyed **thousands** of white-tailed deer and other animals (both wild and domestic) for SARS-CoV-2 to help identify species that may serve as reservoirs or hosts for the virus and better understand exposure, disease susceptibility, and the risks of cross-species transmission.

- Protected wildlife and public health by distributing more than 8.5 million oral rabies vaccination (ORV) baits to combat raccoon rabies in **16** Eastern States and more than **1.2 million** ORV baits in Texas to prevent canine rabies from reemerging along the Mexican border.
- Oversaw **13,376** licensees and registrants, including nearly **2,500** new registrants, ensuring the humane care and treatment of AWA-covered animals.
- Conducted **10,595** AWA site inspections—including **1,248** unannounced inspections at research facilities—to assess the health, care, and treatment of more than **1.4 million** animals. Found **96%** of licensees and registrants in substantial compliance with the AWA.
- Fully implemented USDA's revised biotechnology regulations, which allow APHIS to regulate with greater precision and reduce regulatory burden for developers of organisms that are unlikely to pose plant pest risks, providing over **\$8 million** in annual cost savings.
- Issued **2** Regulatory Status Review (RSR) decisions, which replaced the petition process in the legacy regulations to determine whether a plant developed using genetic engineering is subject to regulations as a plant pest. These were the first decisions under the new RSR process in the revised regulations. (APHIS has completed nine RSR reviews to date.)

You can read about these and other APHIS accomplishments in the [2022 Impact Report](#).

Mike Watson
Acting APHIS Administrator

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