Animal Health

Our Veterinary Services program supports 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.



2019 Highlights



Surveyed the health of backyard birds at more than **8,834** locations and tested over **9,993** diagnostic samples to prevent virulent Newcastle disease—a highly contagious and fatal bird disease—from spreading to commercial poultry, an industry valued at **\$46.3 billion**



Performed more than **1.7 million** surveillance tests for avian influenza, helping to protect our Nation's flocks from this infectious disease



Enhanced U.S. readiness to respond to foreign animal diseases by carrying out **4** African swine fever (ASF) exercises, Federal-State-industry responses to simulated disease outbreaks involving **14** States and over **300** participants



Increased the number of National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) labs approved for ASF testing to **47**—more than quadrupling U.S. lab capacity for this disease



Conducted **1,701** foreign animal disease investigations with **79 percent** targeting vesicular disease, mainly due to the ongoing Senecavirus A (formerly known as Seneca Valley virus) in pigs in the United States and Canada



Monitored U.S. livestock for disease, including **630,000** tests for brucellosis; **209,608** animal inspections or treatments for cattle fever tick; **815,000** tests for cattle tuberculosis; **10,000** tests for classical swine fever with **1,550** targeted tests for ASF; **80,000** tests for swine pseudorabies; and **34,000** tests for scrapie



Provided market release of more than **120 billion** doses of veterinary biologics prepared by **90** licensed manufacturers and permit holders targeting **280** animal diseases that threaten American agriculture



Endorsed **275,890** health certificates to facilitate safe animal exports and expanded use of digitally signed certificates by **30 percent**, overcoming challenges to improve service and speed commerce—with over **5,000** new users joining our electronic system (the Veterinary Export Health Certification System) this year and **35** countries to date now accepting these certificates



Approved **3,156** facilities to export U.S. animal products, expanding the network of USDA-approved establishments to move these products to global markets quickly and safely



Issued **17,933** import permits for live animals, animal products, organisms, and vectors



Coordinated or supported **13** audits of U.S. export systems as requested by foreign trade partners and engaged in bilateral trade meetings with **25** countries



Enhanced our ability to electronically collect data for the national animal disease tracing system, using mobile technology to speed the import of approximately **194,841** cattle from Canada

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