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.

$575M BUDGET
1,632 EMPLOYEES

WHERE WE WORK
90% in the field
10% at DC/MD headquarters

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

www.aphis.usda.gov/animal-health