Keeping U.S. Agriculture Healthy for America and the World
The core of our Nation’s $134 billion agricultural industry—one that feeds, clothes, and fuels America and the world—is how healthy it is. That’s our mission at APHIS: We protect the health and value of U.S. animals and plants.

Healthy agriculture is central to our country’s ability to thrive. It means abundant and affordable food, open trade markets, more than 19 million U.S. jobs, and a growing economy—with new opportunities and a better future for all. As our Nation continues moving through unprecedented challenges, the APHIS mission is ever more urgent. Keeping U.S. agriculture healthy intersects with some of the most pressing issues of our time: zoonotic diseases, public health, climate change, global population growth, and food security.

For decades, APHIS has taken a One Health approach, knowing that the health of animals, people, and the environment are linked. The COVID-19 pandemic brought stark attention to the importance of One Health. In 2021, through the American Rescue Plan Act, Congress allocated $300 million to APHIS to strengthen our One Health capacity and develop an early warning system for SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19). This initiative establishes APHIS as a critical part of preventing future pandemics and builds upon our long history of One Health work.

Another important initiative from this past year was APHIS’ direct support for the nationwide COVID-19 vaccination effort. Due to our experience in responding to animal and plant disease emergencies, APHIS was uniquely qualified to help the Federal Emergency ManagementAgency with this effort. From January to June 2021, APHIS deployed 465 volunteer employees across the Nation, who helped administer approximately 400,000 vaccines and supported efforts to deliver hundreds of thousands more. Employees who did not deploy took on extra work to make sure APHIS’ essential duties continued.

This is just one example of the “all-in” mentality among APHIS employees. Whenever and wherever called to serve, APHIS shows up. We understand the hard work it takes to address the toughest challenges and want to be part of the solution. In that way and so many more, APHIS’ work brings value well beyond the farm, touching the lives of all Americans every day.

As APHIS approaches our 50th anniversary year, I am deeply proud of our employees. Their work keeps U.S. agriculture healthy for our country and the world today—so we can all have a stronger tomorrow.

Sincerely,

Kevin Shea, Administrator
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

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

WHO WE ARE

- 8,297 employees worldwide
- $2.6B annual budget
- 6 operational programs
- 6 labs and research hubs

WHERE WE SERVE

- 50 states
- 87% field locations
- 13% DC/MD headquarters
- 3 territories
- 27 countries

OUR FOCUS

- Thriving crops and forests
- Healthy livestock and poultry
- Safe trade
- Balanced healthy wildlife populations
- Humane care for vulnerable animals
- Safe biotech products

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Impact Report

3
Thriving Crops and Forests

American farms and forests produce vast resources for our country and the entire world. Millions of people depend on our Nation’s plant resources for food, clothing, fuel, and jobs. We protect these resources from harmful pests—so they stay healthy.

Allocated $22.54 million from the Plant Pest and Disease Management and Disaster Prevention Program to cooperators across the country for over 500 projects that help safeguard U.S. plant health

Inspected and cleared 3.7 billion pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables from 21 countries before they were shipped to the United States and oversaw a systems approach for the safe import of 3.4 billion pounds of avocados in Mexico

Cleared 30,372 imported shipments containing 2.17 billion plant units (cuttings, rooted plants, tissue culture, etc.) and over 755,993 kilograms of seeds of woody plants and prevented entry of 1,974 quarantine-significant pests at U.S. plant inspection stations

Identified 122,000 pests found during U.S. Customs and Border Protection inspections of cargo, mail, and express carrier shipments and took quick action to prevent those of concern from entering the United States

Issued 24,939 import permits and 11,518 regulatory guidance letters for plants and plant products and responded to over 11,174 inquiries about imports and plant health permits

Monitored grasshopper and Mormon cricket populations in 14 Western States and treated 815,531 rangeland acres to control outbreaks and protect valuable forage and at-risk agricultural production areas

Helped expand the Global Electronic Phytosanitary (ePhyto) Solution, which makes the exchange of export certificates fast, efficient, and fraud-resistant—in fiscal year 2021 alone, the United States sent 280,246 ePhytos to 50 trading partners and received 178,359 ePhytos from 21 trading partners

Completed 278 risk analyses associated with imports, exports, invasive pest threats, and program requirements to support safe trade and protect American agriculture

Conducted 434 plant pest surveys with cooperators in 50 States and 5 Territories and coordinated the response to 47 species that were new or re-introduced into the United States

Protected American agriculture from harmful plant pests and foreign animal diseases like African swine fever by intercepting over 190,780 prohibited agricultural items during baggage inspections of more than 9 million passengers bound for the U.S. mainland from Hawaii and Puerto Rico

Worked with more than 180 International Plant Protection Convention members to advance international standards that facilitate safe agricultural trade

Issued more than 703,000 Federal phytosanitary certificates directly or through authorized State and county cooperators to aid the export of U.S. plants and plant products to approximately 200 trading partners

Eradicated the giant African snail from Florida, protecting the State’s multibillion-dollar nursery industry and many of its valuable fruit and vegetable crops

www.aphis.usda.gov/plant-health

4 Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Impact Report 5
Confirmed African swine fever (ASF) in the Dominican Republic and Haiti and worked with authorities in-country—advising on best practices, testing samples, training staff, and expanding surveillance—to help contain this deadly animal disease.

Established an ASF protection zone in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands; quickly ramped up monitoring and surveillance among higher-risk animals and farms, testing over 4,500 samples for ASF (with all results negative); and began a major public outreach campaign to prevent the disease from spreading to these locations or the U.S. mainland.

Conducted ASF Action Week to deliver critical biosecurity, preparedness, and disease awareness information to U.S. producers nationwide.

Developed a strategic framework to strengthen One Health capacity and improve our Nation’s ability to prevent, detect, report, and respond to SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19) in animals, including potential emerging variants.

Provided confirmatory testing services for animal samples for SARS-CoV-2—testing over 1,000 animals, with 235 confirmed positive across 13 species—and maintained further support at 32 National Animal Health Laboratory Network labs, including 22 with capability to test human samples.

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Provided training to support a nationwide network of more than 70,000 USDA-accredited veterinarians who serve as the first line of defense for reportable domestic and foreign animal diseases.

Awarded $16.3 million to States, universities, and other cooperators for 64 projects that help safeguard U.S. animal health and invested $14.9 million to further increase the U.S. stockpile of foot-and-mouth disease vaccine.

Monitored U.S. livestock health, including 16,643 samples tested for ASF and/or classical swine fever (with all results negative); over 1,495 investigations for foot-and-mouth disease in swine (with all results negative); and more than 214,000 samples tested for other diseases such as brucellosis, cattle tuberculosis, swine pseudorabies, and scrapie.

Tested more than 1.4 million samples from commercial flocks and wild birds for avian influenza (with 0 cases of highly pathogenic avian influenza found in FY 2021), helping protect the U.S. poultry industry—whose production is valued at $35.5 billion.

Provided market release of more than 110.6 billion doses of veterinary biologics prepared by 87 licensed manufacturers and permit holders targeting 277 diseases that threaten U.S. animals.

Endorsed 311,859 health certificates to facilitate safe animal and animal product exports and approved 1,069 facilities to export U.S. animal products, maintaining and expanding the network of USDA-approved establishments to move these products to global markets quickly and safely.

Healthy Livestock and Poultry

We keep America’s agricultural animals healthy. In doing so, we take a One Health approach, knowing that animals, people, and the environment are interconnected. Our experts work with partners across all disciplines—here at home and around the world—to find the best health outcomes for all.

www.aphis.usda.gov/animal-health
Facilitated new markets for a wide range of U.S.-origin animals and animal products, including cattle, goats, and sheep to Moldova (worth an estimated $3 million per year); aquatic animals to Azerbaijan and Georgia (estimated value of $1.5 million); swine to Bosnia and Herzegovina (worth $500,000); bovine genetics to Uzbekistan (worth $500,000); and cattle and bovine genetics to the Gambia (worth $500,000).

Worked with foreign partners and other APHIS experts to resolve challenges posed by pest detections, trading partner regulatory changes, and other issues, helping to preserve threatened markets for U.S.-origin goods, including several animals and animal products to Kazakhstan (valued at $3.7 million per year); poultry products to Kazakhstan and Taiwan (potentially valued at $250 million); hatching eggs and day-old chicks to Turkey (valued at $3 million); and apples and pears to Argentina (worth $500,000).

Provided technical expertise and resources to help manage an invasive hippopotamus population in Colombia, helping to protect agriculture, the environment, and public safety.

Facilitated the newly opened Chinese market for U.S. potatoes—valued at nearly $10 million per year—by supporting technical communications between Chinese officials, U.S. industry, and other USDA agencies.

Negotiated with foreign officials in-country to resolve delays with 275 U.S. shipments at foreign ports, totaling more than $84 million.

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 more than 2 billion sterile Mexican fruit flies at the San Miguel Petapa facility in Guatemala (an average of nearly 42 million per week) to support preventive release programs in northern Mexico that help protect citrus production in Texas and California.

Released 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.

Coordinated APHIS’ response to the presence of African swine fever (ASF) in the Dominican Republic, advising local authorities on public outreach, testing samples, training staff, expanding surveillance, and supporting APHIS’ establishment of an ASF protection zone around Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Delivered seminars and workshops, through cooperative agreements with Kansas State University, University of Delaware, and Purdue University, supported continuing education courses, delivered by Iowa State University through a cooperative agreement with the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, and shared information both virtually and in-person on a wide range of technical topics for officials representing more than 45 countries in Asia, Africa, Europe, the Americas, and the Caribbean to increase their capacity to identify, diagnose, control, respond to, and recover from animal and plant diseases.

Safe Trade

We have Foreign Service Officers and staff in nearly 30 countries overseas—on the front line for U.S. agricultural health. Working with foreign governments and industries, we help them build capacity to control, manage, and eradicate pests and diseases and establish and manage sustainable animal and plant health programs to ensure the safe trade of agriculture commodities between our countries.

www.aphis.usda.gov/aphisoverseas
Balanced, Healthy Wildlife Populations

Wildlife are one of America’s most valued public resources. Yet in the dynamic landscape we share, wildlife-related problems—disease threats, livestock predation, crop losses, property damage, and more—are common. We lead our Nation’s efforts to manage these problems. Our programs and research find innovative solutions that protect people, agriculture, and wildlife so all of us can coexist.

Helped 23,461 producers protect livestock from predation through a combination of techniques and tools, including nonlethal methods like range riding, fladry, fencing, and husbandry practices.

Led U.S. research to find innovative solutions for managing wildlife damage, initiating 83 studies this year alone with approximately 150 research partners nationwide—and with the majority of our work devoted to nonlethal tools and techniques.

Continued promoting nonlethal methods to cooperators nationwide, beginning a new program this year that expanded use of nonlethal methods in 13 States to protect livestock from large carnivore predators—with 90 percent of cooperators in one of these States reporting they use some form of nonlethal method in their livestock protection work.

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 9 million vaccine baits to combat raccoon rabies in 16 Eastern States and more than 1.1 million baits in Texas to prevent canine rabies from reemerging along the Mexican border.

Dispersed more than 200,000 double-crested cormorants and removed over 7,900 at aquaculture facilities in 29 States, helping protect an industry worth $1.5 billion nationally.

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Helped nearly 784 civil, military, and joint-use airports worldwide, including about 75 percent of all U.S. commercial passenger airports, reduce or avoid wildlife strike hazards to protect people and aircraft.

Donated 164 tons of deer, goose, and other meat—more than 1 million servings of protein for people in need—and 19 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.

Advanced our Nation’s ability to manage wildlife resources wisely and effectively by sharing our research results and encouraging the use of new methods, with 132 peer-reviewed papers and 15 trade publications and book chapters published this year and numerous private sector partnerships formed to develop new products.

Partnered with Federal and State resource agencies, private organizations, and community groups on approximately 6,500 damage management projects that helped protect threatened and endangered bird species across 43 States, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Led feral swine eradication efforts and enhanced African swine fever (ASF) surveillance in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands to help protect the United States from this deadly animal disease after its detection in the Caribbean.

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Oversaw 11,785 licensees and registrants, ensuring the humane care and treatment of animals covered by the Animal Welfare Act (AWA)

Conducted 7,670 AWA site inspections, including 1,277 unannounced inspections at research facilities, to assess the health, care, and treatment of more than 1.4 million animals and found 96 percent of licensees and registrants in substantial compliance with the AWA

Launched a nationwide outreach initiative for attending veterinarians, including a new website, educational webinars, and other resources, to strengthen our partnership in protecting the health and well-being of AWA-regulated animals

Issued 3,167 import permits covering 15,412 dogs for resale in the United States, ensuring they are healthy, vaccinated, and over 6 months of age

Finalized a rule that requires AWA-regulated facilities to maintain contingency plans—and train employees on those plans—for handling animals during emergencies, helping ensure they are prepared to safeguard the health and welfare of animals in their care in the event of emergencies or disasters

Worked with State and local partners to confiscate or facilitate the surrender of more than 400 animals to relieve their suffering and provide them with humane care

Continued supporting the Zoological All Hazards Partnership (ZAHP)—which this year alone reached 600 animal facilities, professional and industry groups, private owners, veterinarians, and others in the exotic animal community—to assure close collaboration on COVID-19 in exotic species, hurricane and wildfire preparedness, and other critical topics in emergency management

Procured new technologies for detecting soreness in horses, including ultrasound, thermography, iris scanning, and portable gas chromatograph/mass spectrometers, to ensure APHIS has every tool available to detect violations at future horse shows

Took civil and administrative action to address alleged AWA violations, including opening 118 cases, issuing 58 official warnings, obtaining 8 administrative orders, suspending 1 facility’s license for 5 years, permanently revoking 2 other licenses, and continuing to pursue license suspension or revocation for 6 other entities to support AWA compliance and deter future violations

Inspected 541 horses at 17 shows and exhibitions, swabbing 332 (more than double APHIS’ average annual swab rate) and radiographing 147 for HPA-prohibited substances and devices—maximizing HPA enforcement given available resources and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic

We protect more than 1 million animals nationwide by enforcing the Animal Welfare Act and the Horse Protection Act. Through inspections and outreach, we oversee thousands of breeders, dealers, and exhibitors; research facilities; transporters; dog importers; and managers of horse shows, exhibitions, and sales to make sure their animals receive care and treatment that meets Federal standards. We also provide national leadership on the safety and well-being of pets and other animals during disasters.

www.aphis.usda.gov/animal-welfare
Safe Biotechnology Products

We help American agriculture stay at the forefront of science and innovation. From drought-tolerant corn and insect-resistant crops to canola that produces healthier oils, people develop new products every day using genetic engineering. We work alongside other Federal agencies to make sure these products are safe for U.S. agriculture and the environment.

- 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.
- Responded to 13 requests for confirmation that a plant met the criteria for exemption from regulation, resulting in 6 letters confirming exemption, issued in an average of 44 days from receiving a complete request.
- With APHIS’ Plant Protection and Quarantine program and States, performed more than 700 inspections of authorized field trials involving organisms developed using genetic engineering, with a 98-percent rate of compliance.
- Fully implemented APHIS eFile, processing over 300 authorizations in APHIS’ new online permitting system.
- Published an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for regulatory oversight of certain animals developed using genetic engineering, receiving over 51,000 written comments and conducting 68 one-on-one outreach meetings.
- Provided over $74,000 in cooperative funding to universities and other partners for critical biotechnology work, including State inspections and protecting natural plant heritage.
- Completed 6 petitions for nonregulated status, bringing the total number of determinations to 135.
- Delivered more than 20 presentations to international stakeholders representing 9 countries to offer technical information and build capacity abroad for regulating biotechnology.
- Processed over 750 authorizations in 48 States for nearly 100 different species of organisms for the movement or field testing of organisms developed using genetic engineering.

www.aphis.usda.gov/biotechnology
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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.

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