Keeping U.S. Agriculture Healthy for America and the World

2022 IMPACT REPORT
The APHIS mission is simply stated: We protect the health and value of U.S. animal and plant agriculture and natural resources. Success in that mission means abundant and affordable food for the United States and the world, open trade markets for producers, and a healthy economy with opportunities for all.

Behind that simple summary is a complex reality. APHIS relies on scientific methods and knowledge to accomplish its goals while carrying out regulatory authorities and enforcement responsibilities. Our thousands of employees are from diverse backgrounds, span many professions and areas of expertise, and work across the country and around the world. But they have two things in common: an understanding of the challenges we face and a dedication to our mission.

Many of those challenges are ongoing and familiar, but they are also constantly evolving. In 2022, we battled a new and deadly strain of highly pathogenic avian influenza at home, while we fought offshore to keep African swine fever from entering the United States. We worked hard to create access for U.S. crops abroad while fighting against invasive pests like spotted lanternfly and Asian longhorned beetle.

As the challenges and threats evolve, so do our resources. We learn better surveillance techniques, use more sophisticated equipment, and access more advanced data analysis. We continue to build and strengthen partnerships across sectors and borders, deepening and enhancing our prevention and response capabilities.

APHIS continues its "One Health" approach based on the interconnection between people, animals, plants, and their shared environment. We continue programs made possible by American Rescue Plan Act funds, while supporting research projects to develop new disease prevention and intervention strategies, address surveillance gaps, and develop strategies to rapidly detect and characterize new variants in animals.

With all these advances, our employees remain our "secret weapon." APHIS employees are used to working hard and under tough conditions, sometimes toward goals that take years to achieve. In 2022, we expanded market access in Mexico for U.S. potato exports, which will greatly increase U.S. exports and profits. That achievement took 15 years of hard work for a small but determined team.

And that is just one example. In addition to their professional expertise and skills, APHIS employees embody resilience and endurance. And that makes all the difference.

Sincerely,

Kevin Shea, Administrator
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Mission: To protect the health and value of America’s agricultural and natural resources

Who We Are

10,773 Employees Worldwide
$2.3B Annual Budget
6 Operational Programs
7 Labs and Research Hubs

Where We Serve

50 States
3 Territories
26 Countries

Our Focus

Thriving Crops and Forests
Healthy Livestock and Poultry
Safe Trade
Balanced, Healthy Wildlife Populations
Humane Care for Vulnerable Animals
Safe Biotechnology
Monitored grasshopper and Mormon cricket populations in 13 Western States and treated 91,642 rangeland acres to control outbreaks, protecting more than 224,000 acres of rangeland forage and wildlife habitat.

Eradicated three exotic fruit fly outbreaks from California during FY 2022 and continued responding to a large scale outbreak in Texas, reducing the quarantined area from more than 9,000 acres at the beginning of the fiscal year to 850 acres at the end of the fiscal year. Released the remaining quarantined acres in October and November 2022—ending the multi-year outbreak that threatened the Texas citrus industry.

Allocated more than $70 million to support 372 projects under the Plant Protection Act’s Section 7721 program as part of a nationwide effort to strengthen the country’s infrastructure for pest detection, surveillance, and mitigation, as well as protect the U.S. nursery system.

Inspected and cleared 2.92 billion pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables from 19 countries before they were shipped to the United States and oversaw a systems approach for the safe import of 2.04 billion pounds of avocados from Mexico, representing 90 percent of avocados imported into the United States.

Cleared 26,176 imported shipments containing 2.22 billion plant units (cuttings, rooted plants, tissue culture, etc.) and over 525,898 kilograms of seeds of woody plants and prevented entry of 1,702 quarantine-significant pests at U.S. plant inspection stations.

Identified 109,000 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 36,999 import permits and 11,471 regulatory guidance letters for plants and plant products and responded to over 42,230 inquiries about imports and plant health permits.

Issued more than 656,000 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.

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.

Protected American agriculture from harmful plant pests and foreign animal diseases like African swine fever by intercepting 292,698 prohibited agricultural items during baggage inspections of more than 14 million passengers bound for the U.S. mainland from Hawaii and Puerto Rico.

Expanded market access in Mexico for U.S. potato exports, providing a market potential of $250 million per year in 5 years.
Healthy Livestock and Poultry

We keep America’s agricultural animals healthy. A critical part of this work includes responding to serious animal diseases—and preventing these diseases from entering the United States. Our experts work with partners across all disciplines—here at home and around the world—to find the best health outcomes for all.

Assisted the Dominican Republic and Haiti in their African swine fever (ASF) eradication program, including providing advice and assistance on surveillance, quarantine, depopulation, and disposal methods; providing testing support; 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 regulated or prohibited products and ensure their removal from the marketplace.

Collected 72,500 samples for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) testing—representing 100 species from wildlife, zoos, aquaria, and other facilities across 36 States and the District of Columbia. 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.

Provided training to support a nationwide network of more than 71,000 USDA-accredited veterinarians who serve as the first line of defense for reportable domestic and foreign animal diseases.

Provided $7.6 million to States, universities, and industry/veterinary organizations for 36 projects to support animal movement decisions during a disease outbreak and enhance States’ emergency-vaccination plans.

Invested $16.9 million in the National Animal Vaccine and Veterinary Countermeasures Bank, including $13.8 million in additional foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) vaccine antigen concentrate, $500,000 for diagnostic test kits for high consequence animal diseases, and $2.6 million to purchase classical swine fever (CSF) vaccine for APHIS’ National Veterinary Stockpile.

Provided $4.4 million to support 21 new NAHLN projects in 14 States to enhance early detection of high-consequence animal diseases and improve emergency response capabilities at NAHLN veterinary diagnostic laboratories.

Monitored U.S. livestock health, including testing 23,783 samples for ASF and/or CSF (with all results negative), and conducting 3,515 foreign animal disease investigations, of which 1,464 involved investigations of vesicular diseases such as FMD and 1,322 involved poultry diseases.

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—which production is valued at $46.1 billion.

Licensed 86 manufacturers and permit holders for 1,448 active product licenses/permits for the control of 278 animal diseases in FY 2022.

Endorsed 329,344 health certificates to facilitate safe animal and animal product exports and approved 2,663 facilities to export U.S. animal products, maintaining and expanding the network of USDA-approved establishments to quickly and safely move these products to global markets.

Accepted electronic USDA Accredited Veterinarian signature for the issuance of all live animal export health certificates submitted for endorsement from 39 countries.

www.aphis.usda.gov/animalhealth
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.

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 poultry products to the Philippines (valued at $158 million in 2021) and eggs to Brazil (valued at $26 million in 2021), among other markets threatened by the avian influenza outbreaks in the United States.

Negotiated with foreign officials in-country to resolve delays with 261 U.S. shipments at foreign ports, totaling more than $94 million.

Expanded market access in Mexico for U.S. potato exports, providing a market potential of $250 million per year in 5 years.

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.

Produced 5.24 billion sterile Mexican fruit flies at the San Miguel Petapa facility in Guatemala (an average of 100.8 million weekly) to support eradication activities in Texas and California. These flies also supported preventive release programs in northern Mexico, Texas, and California to help protect America’s valuable citrus production.

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.

Hosted 5 virtual sessions for 107 foreign officials from Canada, Mexico, and the Philippines to build awareness of the U.S. regulatory process and ease future market access and resumed in-person meetings, with 3 sessions attended by 29 officials from 5 countries.

We have Foreign Service Officers and staff in 26 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. We also help our international partners establish and manage sustainable animal and plant health programs to ensure the safe trade of agriculture commodities between our countries.
Balanced, Healthy Wildlife Populations

Wildlife are one of America’s most valued public resources. Yet wildlife-related problems—including disease threats, livestock predation, crop losses, property damage, and more—are common. In response, we lead our Nation’s efforts to find innovative solutions that protect people, agriculture, and wildlife so all can coexist.

Maintained or created 32,781 different agreements with cooperators to protect livestock from predation through a combination of techniques and tools, including nonlethal methods like range riding, fladry, fencing, and husbandry practices.

Continued researching and promoting nonlethal methods to cooperators nationwide under the Nonlethal Initiative, which started in 2020 to protect livestock from large carnivores, was expanded in FY 2022 to include nonlethal beaver damage management, and currently implements nonlethal assistance in 13 States.

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.

Partnered with Federal and State resource agencies, private organizations, and community groups on approximately 7,250 damage management projects that helped protect threatened and endangered bird species across 50 States, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Worked with State and Federal partners to reduce or prevent feral swine damage on approximately 231 million acres in 36 States and 3 Territories, directly protecting agriculture, human health and safety, property, and natural resources.

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We protect more than 1 million vulnerable 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.

Oversaw 13,376 licensees and registrants, including nearly 2,500 new registrants, ensuring the humane care and treatment of animals covered under the Animal Welfare Act (AWA).

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 and found 96 percent of licensees and registrants in substantial compliance with the AWA.

Finalized a rule that reduces duplicative requirements and administrative burden on more than 1,000 AWA-registered biomedical facilities, while maintaining scientific integrity and humane animal care.

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.

Continued supporting the Zoological All Hazards Partnership—which reached 600 animal facilities, professional and industry groups, private owners, veterinarians, and others in the exotic animal community in FY 2022—covering topics such as hurricanes, wildfires, SARS-CoV-2, highly pathogenic avian influenza in zoos, and biosecurity and resilience for zoos and aquariums.

Took civil and administrative action to address alleged AWA violations, including opening 262 cases, issuing 204 official warnings, obtaining 17 administrative orders, and permanently revoking 7 other licenses to support AWA compliance and deter future violations.

Attended 41 horse events, inspected 1,300 horses, and identified 323 instances of the Horse Protection Act (HPA) noncompliance. In collaboration with industry, representatives sampled 1,578 horses for prohibited substance testing and found that nearly half the samples tested were positive for prohibited numbing agents.

Provided training to Agency inspectors to promote consistency in HPA compliance inspections, increasing communication with management about USDA’s HPA Disqualification List.

Worked with State and local partners to confiscate or facilitate the surrender of more than 140 animals to relieve their suffering and provide them with humane care.
Fully implemented USDA’s revised biotechnology regulations, which allow APHIS to focus oversight on products that may pose a risk 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, the first under the new RSR process in the revised regulations.

Responded to 9 requests for confirmation that a plant met the criteria for exemption from regulation, confirming all 9 and issuing responses within an average of 39 days from receiving the requests.

Processed over 758 authorizations in 42 States for the movement or field testing of organisms developed using genetic engineering.

With State agricultural officials, performed more than 660 inspections of authorized field trials involving organisms developed using genetic engineering, with an 88-percent rate of compliance.

Completed 1 petition for non-regulated status under the legacy regulations, bringing the total number of determinations to 136.

Delivered more than 13 presentations to international stakeholders representing 40 countries to offer technical information and build capacity abroad for regulating biotechnology.

Safe Biotechnology

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.
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