

IMPORT/EXPORT

PROGRAM PROFILE

Goal	To prevent the introduction of animal disease by imported animals or animal products. Ensure that animals offered by the U.S. for export meet the criteria of the importing country.
Enabling Legislation	21 USC 134; PL 87-518 (Act to Provide Protection Against Livestock and Poultry Disease). Sect. 2509 of the 1990 Farm Bill, as amended by the 1991 Budget Reconciliation Act to authorize user fees.
Economic Significance	The United States is free of many foreign animal diseases that could cost billions of dollars if they entered the country. The value of U.S. exports of animals and animal products exceeds \$6 billion annually.
Principal Approach and Methods Used to Achieve Goals	This is a regulatory program that consists of inspection, testing, and quarantine. Quarantine stations are located in Newburgh, New York; Miami, Florida; and Fleming Key, Florida. The Agency also operates or regulates pet bird quarantine facilities. The program assures that all imported animals are free of infectious diseases and that all inspections of livestock, live poultry, and hatching eggs exported from the United States and certifications of freedom from contagious diseases comply with USDA health agreements with importing countries.
History	Program began in 1923 to prevent foreign animal disease introduction. In FY 1992, user fees were implemented for animals and birds quarantined in APHIS animal import centers, use of buildings at these centers, export health certificates, inspection and supervision services provided within the United States for export birds and animals, and inspection services outside the United States. Since FY 1992, user fees have financed testing and certification of exported live animals. As of January 21, 1994, user fees are in place for almost all import-export services. These new regulations cover the costs associated with providing supervision and inspection of animals presented for importation into the United States at all entry ports. These new regulations also cover embryos and semen, import

animal products and byproducts, and a few more AIC user fees. In June 1997, APHIS closed the animal import center located in Honolulu, Hawaii. In 1999, APHIS closed the Harry S Truman animal import center.

State and Local Cooperation

Because import-export involves international movement, the responsibilities are delegated to a Federal level, not a State or local level. However, USDA solicits input from States and affected industries in administering the requirements of the law and regulations which affect the importation and exportation of animals and animal products.

Involvement of Other Agencies

U.S. Customs Service--surveillance work at air and sea ports.

RESOURCE DATA

	-----Obligations-----				
	<u>Direct</u>	<u>User Fees</u>	<u>Trust Funds</u>		<u>Staff-Years</u> <u>(including U.F's)</u>
FY 1997	7,427,149	12,325,193	1,167,993		215
FY 1998	6,632,583	13,935,000	1,200,000		232
FY 1999	6,764,269	14,956,000	1,200,000		216
FY 2000 (est.)	6,809,000	13,423,000	1,200,000		217
FY 2001 (est.)	7,237,000	13,423,000	1,200,000		218

	<u>APHIS</u>	<u>Coop</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>CCC</u>	<u>Contingency</u> <u>Fund</u>
Cum.	\$195,033,511	--	\$195,033,511	--	--

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Regulatory Oversight

This program protects U.S. livestock, poultry, and wildlife populations from restricted diseases including those transmissible from animals to humans. APHIS regulates the importation of animals and animal products and promotes markets abroad by ensuring that U.S. origin animals and animal products meet health and welfare requirements of recipient countries. Fulfilling this mission in FY 1999 required the regulatory oversight for the importation of 4.1 million animals; 7.3 million poultry; 2.2

million doses of semen; and 594 embryos. The program issued point of origin certificates for the export of approximately 1 million head of livestock, 15.1 million head of other animals including cervids, camelids, etc., 97 million live poultry, 75 million hatching eggs, and 10.2 million doses of semen.

Regionalization

In compliance with international trade agreements, APHIS continues to revise regulations to incorporate regionalization and risk assessment into the import/export decision making process. The National Center for Import/Export (NCIE) processed and completed 11 regionalization requests in FY 1999. Six have been published as proposed rules and two as final rules. NCIE has requested three site visits and has completed two of them, to Mexico for exotic Newcastle disease (END) and to Brazil for FMD. The site visit to Argentina for END is pending. In addition, APHIS conducted two quantitative risk assessments and nine qualitative risk assessments in FY 1999.

Presently, APHIS is involved in the review of regionalization requests from Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile, Croatia, Estonia, the European Union, Iceland, Mexico, New Zealand, and Slovakia.

Harry S Truman Animal Import Center (HSTAIC)

In FY 1999, APHIS closed the Harry S Truman Animal Import Center because of declining demand and a perpetual deficit. The facility's purpose was to provide a high security quarantine facility specifically for the importation of animals from countries affected with exotic diseases such as FMD and classical swine fever (CSF). Industry changes, specifically the movement away from live animal imports, rendered the facility obsolete. Before closing, the facility conducted its last importation of 588 alpacas from Peru. The quarantine for this shipment ended in March 1999.

Cattle Importations

During FY 1999, cattle imports from Mexico decreased by 245,000. Cattle imports from Canada decreased by 631,000. Overall, cattle importations were down by 877,000, from 2.1 million in FY 1998 to 1.2 million in FY 1999.

Avian Imports

In FY 1999, 11.6 million poultry including day-old chicks and 15.4 million hatching eggs were imported into the United States. Approximately 152,000 commercial birds were released from quarantine in FY 1999. Only commercial birds exempt from the Wild Bird Conservation Act may enter the country. There were five virus isolations of END from commercial birds in FY 1999. Of these, we made three isolations of velogenic viscerotropic Newcastle disease (VVND) and two isolations of pigeon paramyxovirus. APHIS now denies entry to birds from which pigeon paramyxovirus has been isolated. In addition, as of June 1999, APHIS has refused entry into the United States for all lots of commercial birds from which any strain of Newcastle disease virus is isolated.

During FY 1999, officials confiscated or seized 671 smuggled and/or illegally imported birds at U.S. borders and quarantined them at USDA facilities. We isolated Newcastle disease virus in three of the smuggled birds, as well as VVND from a smuggled yellow nape Amazon parrot in San Ysidro, California. Also, APHIS isolated velogenic Newcastle disease virus from yellow-cheeked Amazon parrots in Mission, Texas, and from half-moon conures in San Ysidro, California. No poultry or other birds were exposed to the infected birds.

Health Protocols for Animal Exports

During FY 1999, APHIS negotiated new or revised health conditions for exporting poultry, livestock, and germplasm to various countries. Specifically, APHIS established simplified protocols for exporting cattle, horses, poultry, sheep, goats, swine, and bovine embryos and semen to Costa Rica, and for exporting horses, cattle, bovine semen, bovine embryos, and ostriches to Brazil. Although the health conditions are somewhat restrictive, Chile has established a protocol which allows import of breeding sheep from the United States. Increasing numbers of swine have been shipped to Korea and Taiwan. APHIS continued to make progress in reopening markets for cattle in both Egypt and Turkey. A new project is in development to ship bovine semen and embryos to Mongolia. We successfully negotiated less restrictive conditions for exporting breeding swine to Mexico and for exporting horses to Mexico. However, Argentina has placed severe restrictions on bovine semen importations from the United States.

APHIS was involved in trade negotiations with Canada and achieved a Record of Understanding (ROU). This agreement amended and clarified requirements for restricted feeder cattle exports and slaughter swine exports to Canada. Currently, five States, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, and Washington, are approved for participation in the restricted feeder cattle program. When the initial regulations for immediate slaughter swine exports to Canada did not overcome restrictions, we negotiated further amendments to streamline the requirements for certification in the United States and slaughterhouse procedures in Canada. Exports of slaughter swine to Canada should now be economically feasible.

Animal Products

APHIS continued to implement alternative methods for importing low risk agricultural materials. These include non-livestock species not susceptible to epizootic livestock and poultry disease pathogens and recombinantly (altered) engineered laboratory microorganisms produced without involvement of animal products or disease agent derivatives.

In FY 1999, NCIE processed 4,429 import applications. Of these applications, NCIE issued permits for 2,621. These permits authorize the importation of organisms, vectors, biological materials, and animal products and by-products. These efforts help to minimize the risk of exotic disease pathogen entry into the United States.

APHIS export certification activities for animal products continued to increase in FY 1999. The European Union implemented many directives on animal products imported from third world countries. APHIS continued efforts to expand export markets by negotiating issues with many countries including conditions for pet food exports to Israel, Poland, Russia, South Africa, Switzerland, and other countries; animal health certification conditions for pork and poultry meat with several countries including Argentina and Australia; the export of milk products to Russia, bovine serum products to France and the Netherlands, avian and rendered products to Mexico, and animal products to Korea.