



United States Department of Agriculture

**Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service**  
**2019 Impact Report**







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*Protecting the health and value of America's  
agricultural and natural resources*

# Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

## WHO WE ARE

**8,470**  
EMPLOYEES

**\$1.7B**  
BUDGET

**6** OPERATIONAL PROGRAMS

**7** LABS AND RESEARCH HUBS

### 1 MISSION

To protect the health and value of America's agricultural and natural resources

## OUR FOCUS



PLANT HEALTH



ANIMAL HEALTH



WILDLIFE DAMAGE MANAGEMENT



ANIMAL WELFARE

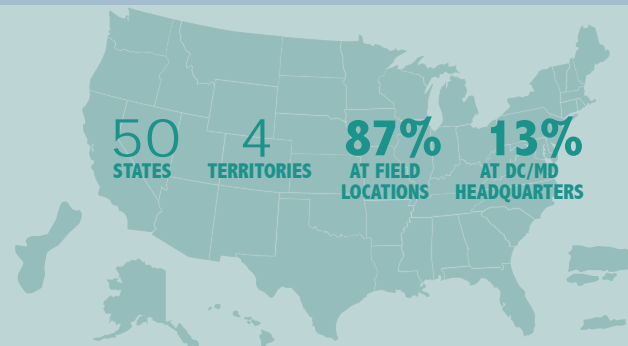


GLOBAL TRADE



BIOTECHNOLOGY

## WHERE WE SERVE



## WHAT DRIVES US



**25+**  
agricultural sectors with diverse needs to serve



**21.6M**  
jobs depending on U.S. agriculture and related industries



**\$137B**  
in U.S. agricultural exports for the global food supply



**900M**  
acres of U.S. farmland to protect



**177M**  
head of livestock to protect from predators and foreign animal diseases



**1M+**  
animals to inspect for humane care and use under the Animal Welfare Act and the Horse Protection Act

## WHY?

Because **HEALTHY** and **PROFITABLE** American agriculture means **FEEDING** and **CLOTHING** the **WORLD**.



# 2019 Impact BY THE NUMBERS

For nearly 50 years, the mission of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has been to protect the health and value of America's agricultural and natural resources. All Americans and many people throughout the world benefit from APHIS' programs and services every day. Here are key results from our work in 2019.

**0**  
incursions of the most dangerous **FOREIGN ANIMAL DISEASES** of livestock (African swine fever, foot-and-mouth disease)

**0**  
establishment of the most dangerous **FOREIGN PLANT PESTS** and diseases

**1,337**  
**EMPLOYEES DISPATCHED** to 38 emergency incidents or events, swiftly responding to pest and disease outbreaks, natural disasters, and other threats to U.S. agriculture nationwide

**100%**



of the United States now **FREE OF PLUM POX VIRUS**, ending a 20-year battle with the most devastating viral disease of stone fruit worldwide

**300+**



participants in 4 Federal-State-industry responses to simulated outbreaks of African swine fever (ASF), **IMPROVING U.S. READINESS** for foreign animal diseases

**\$90M**



value of **EXPORT MARKETS PROTECTED**—in the last 3 months of FY 2019 alone—by APHIS work to remove unjustified trade barriers for U.S. agricultural products

**700M+**



passengers **PROTECTED FROM WILDLIFE STRIKES TO AIRCRAFT** at approximately 870 U.S. airports and military bases around the globe

**99%**



of **ANIMAL WELFARE ACT (AWA)** licensees and registrants in substantial **COMPLIANCE** through the use of inspections, guidance, and outreach

**954,433**



**HEALTH CERTIFICATES** endorsed or issued to facilitate the safe export of U.S. animals, plants, and their products to hundreds of destinations around the world

**5,000+**



new users signed up to our Veterinary Export Health Certification System, expanding use of digitally signed certificates by 30% to **IMPROVE SERVICE AND SPEED COMMERCE**—with 35 countries to date now accepting these certificates

**440,000**



responses to farmers, ranchers, and others requesting direct control or technical assistance to **REDUCE THE IMPACT OF PREDATORS** on their animals, protecting more than 15.8 million head of cattle, sheep, and goats valued at over \$2.5 billion

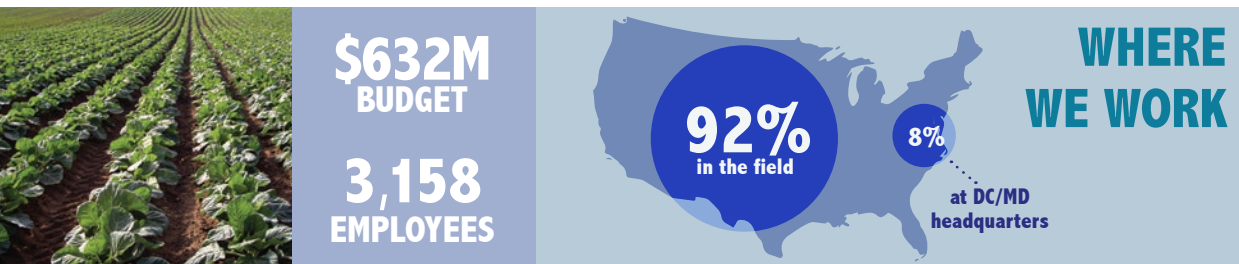
**132**



**INNOVATIONS** in agricultural biotechnology authorized (deregulated) to date for field use

# Plant Health

Plant Protection and Quarantine supports farmers and the environment by preventing destructive pests and diseases from entering the United States, limiting the spread of pests and diseases that are already here, working to eradicate economically and environmentally significant pests of concern, and facilitating the safe trade of plants and other agricultural products.



## 2019 Highlights



Inspected and cleared **2.5 billion** pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables and **1.15 billion** plants from **25** countries before they were shipped to the United States



Cleared **20,917** imported shipments containing nearly **1.7 billion** plant units (cuttings, rooted plants, tissue culture, etc.) and nearly **422 tons** of seeds and prevented entry of **1,119** quarantine-significant pests at U.S. plant inspection stations



Intercepted **79,388** pests found during U.S. Customs and Border Protection inspections of **30,227** ships and more than **1.2 million** cargo, mail, and express carrier shipments and took quick action to prevent those of concern from entering the United States



Issued more than **23,000** import permits for plants and plant products and responded to over **19,400** inquiries about imports and plant health permits



Issued **678,543** Federal phytosanitary (plant health) certificates directly or through authorized State and county cooperators to aid the export of U.S. plants and plant products to **209** international destinations



Provided critical support—such as inspecting and certifying shipments, conducting technical negotiations, and providing online trade tools—for the export of U.S. plants and plant products valued at **\$86 billion**



Completed **305** risk analyses associated with imports, exports, invasive pest threats, and program requirements to support safe trade and protect American agriculture



Conducted **217** surveys with partners in **50** States and **3** territories, detecting **13** new or re-introduced species—all of which were found before they caused significant damage



Eliminated plum pox virus from the United States, protecting **1.3 million** acres of commercial stone fruit orchards, whose crops are worth **\$6.8 billion** with a **\$5 billion** export value



Allocated **\$66 million** in funds from the Plant Pest and Disease Management and Disaster Prevention Program to cooperators across the country for **407** projects that help safeguard U.S. plant health



Negotiated with foreign governments to release hundreds of U.S.-origin shipments of plants and plant products that were held at ports abroad due to paperwork issues or plant health concerns and issued **21,037** re-export phytosanitary certificates to keep U.S. shipments moving



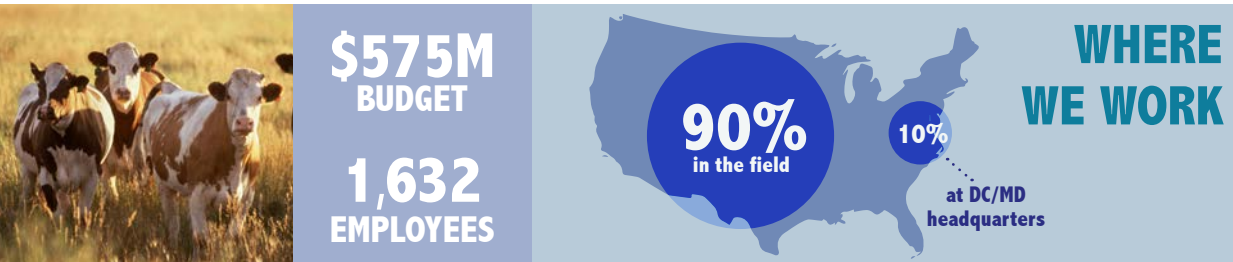
Worked with **182** International Plant Protection Convention members to adopt **8** new international standards that facilitate safe agricultural trade

[www.aphis.usda.gov/plant-health](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant-health)



# 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



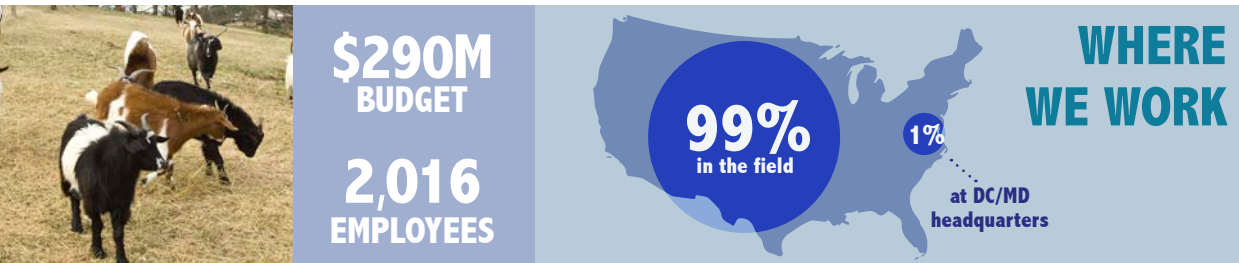
Enhanced our ability to electronically collect data for the national animal disease tracing system, using mobile technology to speed the import of approximately **194,841** cattle from Canada

[www.aphis.usda.gov/animal-health](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal-health)



# Wildlife Damage Management

Wildlife Services supports ranchers, farmers, wildlife, and others by exercising Federal leadership and expertise to resolve conflicts between people and wildlife and allow them to coexist by protecting agriculture; natural resources, including threatened and endangered species; property and infrastructure; and public health and safety.



## 2019 Highlights



Responded to **440,000** requests from farmers, ranchers, and others for direct control or technical assistance to reduce the impact of predators on their animals, protecting more than **15.8 million** head of cattle, sheep, and goats valued at over **\$2.5 billion**



Protected **378** threatened and endangered species in **39** States and **2** territories using **\$11.7 million** of funding from cooperating agencies and others to support the Endangered Species Act



Managed beaver damage on **7,030** sites in **43** States through cooperatively funded efforts, with each **\$1** invested in management protecting an estimated **\$45** in natural resources on average



With USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service, selected **20** projects in **10** States for funding to target problem feral swine populations, while continuing work to reduce feral swine damage across **37** States and **3** territories



Donated **138 tons** of goose, deer/elk, and other meat—more than **1 million** servings of protein—for people in need, making full use of this resource from wildlife damage management work



Collected more than **6,200** samples from **42** different wildlife species for testing **8** diseases in **42** States, including **3,500** samples from invasive feral swine



Initiated **86** new research studies to find innovative solutions to wildlife damage issues, with broad public impact—**133** articles published in **76** different venues and **216** presentations by researchers given at scientific, stakeholder, and public forums in 2019 alone



Distributed approximately **9.4 million** oral rabies vaccination baits over **64,000 square miles** and collected samples from more than **12,000** wild animals in **18** States to reduce rabies in wildlife and prevent disease spread to people, livestock, and pets



Deployed WS employees for a total of **1,878 days** to **8** emergency responses nationwide ranging from wildfires and flooding to agricultural or wildlife disease outbreaks



Managed cormorant populations at **185** facilities in **3** States to protect farmed fish stock worth millions of dollars from avian depredation



Reduced aviation hazards at more than **150** military airbases and joint civilian-military airports around the globe and marked **10 years** of voluntary deployments by **60+** wildlife biologists to numerous U.S. or coalition airbases in southwest Asia

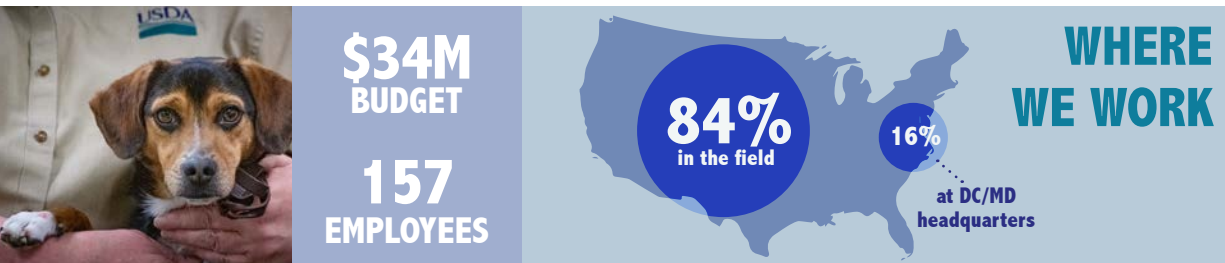
[www.aphis.usda.gov/wildlife-damage](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wildlife-damage)





# Animal Welfare

Animal Care protects the welfare of animals by administering two important laws: the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) and the Horse Protection Act (HPA). Over 8,000 licensees, registrants, and horse show participants engage in activities governed by these laws—breeders, dealers, and exhibitors; research facilities; transporters; dog importers; and managers of horse shows, exhibitions, and sales. Animal Care also provides national leadership on the safety and well-being of pets and other animals during disasters.



## 2019 Highlights



Conducted **9,326** AWA site inspections, assessing the health, care, and treatment of more than **1 million** animals



Found **99%** of AWA licensees and registrants in substantial compliance through the use of inspections, guidance, and outreach



Debuted the Licensing and Registration Assistant, an online self-service tool—used over **4,000** times already—to help individuals and businesses quickly see if they need to be licensed or registered under the AWA



Issued **20** new “Animal Care Aids,” a series of one-page, easy-to-use resources designed to support AWA licensees with the care of their animals



Issued **2,002** permits covering **6,263** dogs entering the United States (compared to 586 permits for 2,021 dogs in FY 2018) through a new online permitting system launched last year



Worked with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to complete the final report to Congress on the 21st Century Cures Act, a report that gives an interagency road map to reduce administrative burden for more than **1,000** AWA-registered biomedical facilities while maintaining scientific integrity and humane animal care



Delivered **5** Interagency Collaborative Animal Research Education (ICARE) Academies—a training program with HHS' National Institutes of Health that reaches approximately **150** research institutions—to improve animal welfare at laboratories and increase compliance with Federal standards while minimizing regulatory burdens on research



Initiated **17** investigative cases for alleged AWA violations and assessed **\$147,300** in penalties



Inspected **1,210** horses at shows and exhibitions for HPA compliance



Assessed more than **\$70,000** in penalties for HPA violations and disqualified **66** individuals from participating in HPA-regulated activities



Invested more than **\$400,000** in cooperative agreements with key emergency management partners to strengthen U.S. preparedness for ensuring the safety of pets and other animals in disasters

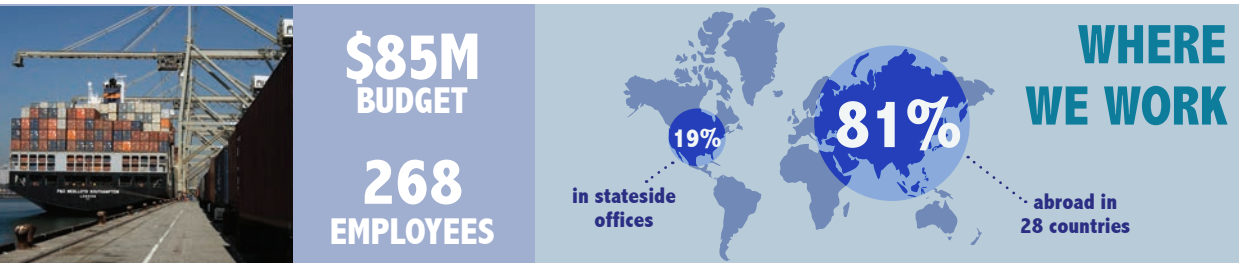


Provided **\$15,000** to help Native American communities with free spay and neuter services for their pets

[www.aphis.usda.gov/animal-welfare](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal-welfare)

# Global Trade

International Services' team of domestic policy staff, Foreign Service officers, and foreign nationals support APHIS' mission on the global stage. They work closely with other governments to control pests and diseases before they can enter the United States, build technical and regulatory skills to prevent the spread of pests and diseases, and facilitate safe agricultural trade. Daily, face-to-face dialogues with foreign regulatory counterparts help overcome increased challenges for U.S. exporters from global trade conflicts.



## 2019 Highlights



Coordinated with other APHIS programs to help open new markets for a wide range of U.S.-origin products, such as U.S. beef and meat products to Morocco (worth up to **\$80 million** per year); U.S. beef and bone meal to Peru (valued at **\$10 million** annually); cattle, goats, and sheep to Turkmenistan (valued at **\$20 million** per year); and blueberries to Vietnam (valued at **\$1 million** per year)



Supported APHIS negotiations to resolve delays with hundreds of U.S. shipments at foreign ports, including a shipment of rice to Japan worth **\$11.5 million** and a shipment of walnut plants to Chile worth more than **\$1.5 million**



Produced **1.1 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 **1 billion** sterile Mexican fruit flies at the San Miguel Petapa facility in Guatemala to support eradication programs in California and Texas and population suppression efforts in northern Mexico



Released aerially **15 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



Eased future market access by building awareness of the U.S. regulatory process, hosting **350** foreign officials during **60** individual visits and working with Tuskegee University to train two groups of **43** veterinarians and government officials from **11** African countries in Sanitary/Phytosanitary (SPS) Risk Assessment



Coordinated speakers from APHIS' Plant Protection and Quarantine program to deliver the agency's 8th annual Plant Health Systems Analysis Course to officials representing **20** developing countries, emphasizing the best practices in plant health



Provided **4** trainings in animal health, with a focus on surveillance and emergency response for highly pathogenic avian influenza and African swine fever (ASF), to **140** government officials representing **45** countries




Supported two training courses in Vietnam for **60** veterinarians and government officials to help with ASF response efforts in that country and share best practices to prevent further disease spread in commercial and feral swine

[www.aphis.usda.gov/international-services](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/international-services)



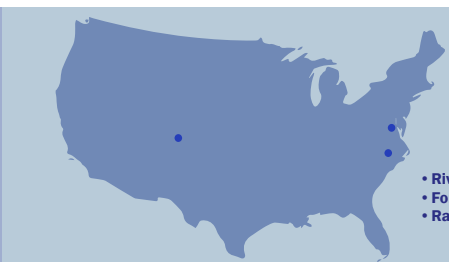
# Biotechnology

Through the Biotechnology Regulatory Services (BRS) program, APHIS protects against risks to U.S. plant health by overseeing the safe import, interstate movement, and environmental release/field testing of certain genetically engineered (GE) organisms. APHIS coordinates these responsibilities along with the other designated Federal agencies as part of the Federal Coordinated Framework for the Regulation of Biotechnology.



**\$19M**  
BUDGET

**82**  
EMPLOYEES



**WHERE WE WORK**

- Riverdale, MD (APHIS Headquarters)
- Fort Collins, CO
- Raleigh, NC

## 2019 Highlights



Published a proposed rule for the **first-ever** major revision of USDA's biotechnology regulations, generating broad public interest with over **6,100** comments on the rule and projecting an estimated **\$9 million** in annual cost savings with the rule's implementation



Launched a pilot version of eFile, APHIS' new online permitting system, to BRS customers—with **25** stakeholders participating and giving valuable feedback on the system's development



Provided **\$870,000** in cooperative funding to universities and other partners for critical biotechnology work, including State inspections, risk assessments, and protecting natural plant heritage



Held **3** meetings or workshops for our stakeholders and regulated community to share information and guidance helping them understand how to follow our regulatory processes



With PPQ and States, conducted more than **600** safety inspections of authorized GE field trials to protect other crops



Completed **53** virtual inspections of GE field trials



Completed **3** petitions for deregulation within time targets, bringing the total number of deregulated products to **132**



Delivered presentations to over **100** visitors representing **12** countries to offer technical information and build capacity abroad for regulating biotechnology



Processed **1,486** permits and notifications for the import, interstate movement, or environmental release of regulated GE products



Authorized **10,027** locations and **3,283** sites in **51** U.S. States and territories for the movement or field testing of GE products



Converted **670,000** pages of notification and permit records from paper to electronic versions, allowing faster response to requests for FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) and administrative records

[www.aphis.usda.gov/biotechnology](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/biotechnology)





We proudly protect the health and value  
of America's agricultural and natural resources.



# Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service



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