

ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE

FY 1999 ANNUAL PROGRAM PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) was established on April 2, 1972, pursuant to the authority of the Reorganization Plan No. 2 of 1953. The mission of the Agency is to lead the way in anticipating and responding to issues involving animal and plant health, conflicts with wildlife, environmental stewardship, and animal well-being. Together with our customers and stakeholders, we promote the health of animal and plant resources to facilitate their movement in the global marketplace and to ensure abundant agricultural products and services for U.S. customers.

APHIS is comprised of five major functional areas: (1) Pest and Disease Exclusion, (2) Plant and Animal Health Monitoring, (3) Pest and Disease Management, (4) Animal Care, and (5) Scientific and Technical Services. For the statutory authority for work performed in the five program areas, and for the goals and objectives for each of the program areas, please see the APHIS Strategic Plan.

Only Federal employees were involved in the preparation of this report.

The following tables represent the performance summary of results by the five strategic goals.

Strategic Goal/ Management Initiatives	FY 1999 Performance Goals	Performance	
		Target	Actual
Goal 1: Safeguard U.S. plant and animal resources against introductions of foreign pests and diseases, while meeting international trade obligations	Minimize the risk of exotic pests and diseases introduced to the U.S. - Obj. 1.1 <i>Compliance Rates at U.S. borders for:</i> - Border vehicles - Cargo - International air travelers	96.1% 96.0% 94.9%	97.6% 98.1% 95.8%
	Satisfy customers and stakeholders (AQI) - Obj. 1.1 - Percentage of international air passengers cleared through the Federal Inspection Service (FIS) primary inspection process within 30 minutes - <i>High Impact Agency Goal</i> - Percentage of international travelers on land borders cleared through the FIS primary inspection within 30 minutes during non peak times - <i>High Impact Agency Goal</i>	85% 85%	Data not available Data not available
	Minimize the number and severity of outbreaks or establishments (Cattle Tick) - Obj. 1.2 - Number of cattle tick infested premises found outside the quarantine zone	4	8
	Minimize outbreaks of Foot-and-Mouth Disease in Colombia - Obj. 1.3 - FMD detections: Colombia: Darien Gap Buffer Zone - FMD detections: Colombia: Other	0 40	0 54
	Minimize Fruit Fly outbreaks in Mexico and Guatemala - Obj. 1.4 - Medfly detections - Chiapas, Mexico - Peten free zone (Guatemala)	100 0	180 0
	Minimize the number of Fruit Fly outbreaks in the U.S. - Obj. 1.4 - Number of Fruit Fly outbreaks in the U.S. - Severity of Fruit Fly outbreaks in the U.S. (square miles)	2 81	4 62
	Increase the number and value of agriculture products exported from the U.S. - Obj. 1.5 - New or modified cumulative export protocols facilitating U.S. access to new overseas markets - Number of Sanitary/Phytosanitary issues resolved	25 NA	32 NA

Strategic Goal/ Management Initiatives	FY 1999 Performance Goals	Performance	
		Target	Actual
	Reduce positive screwworm cases reported in the isthmus of Central America - Obj. 1.6 - Free areas (including the U.S.) - Nicaragua - Costa Rica - Panama	1 0 50 10,000	2 0 19 2,943
	Eradicate Tropical Bont Tick in the Caribbean - Obj. 1.7 - Islands of Caribbean declared free of Tropical Bont Tick - Heartwater detected in U.S. Territories	2 0	0 0
Goal 2: Quickly detect and respond to introductions of foreign agricultural pests and diseases or other emerging agricultural health threats, to minimize production losses and export market disruptions.	Identify, maintain, and enhance the health status of U.S. livestock and poultry - Obj. 2.1 - Percentage of surveyed producers using information from the National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS)	75%	86 - 89%
	Use the best information to make risk based decisions on presence/absence/prevalence of diseases of phytosanitary concern - Obj. 2.2 - Detections of new infestations of plant pests	260	334
	Increase rates of compliance with Agency Regulations - Obj. 2.3 - Technical quality rating of completed case reports (scale of 1 to 3)	2.1	2.2
Goal 3: Effectively manage certain plant and animal pests and diseases and wildlife damage which pose risks to agriculture, natural resources, or public health.	To protect human health and safety from wildlife risks by: - Obj. 3.1 - Increasing passenger safety by reducing the risk of aircraft striking wildlife - Reducing confirmed canine rabies cases in orally vaccinated areas in Texas	10% 87%	75% or more for 63% of projects 95%
	Satisfy customers - Obj. 3.1 - Percent of livestock customers satisfied	87%	89%
	To protect property, natural resources, and crops from damage caused by beavers - Obj. 3.1 - Losses avoided (in millions)	\$8	\$21.97
	Percentage of Wildlife Services' threatened/endangered species projects where the population is increased or maintained - Obj. 3.1 - Percentage of projects	90%	93%
	Facilitate the movement of aquatic animals in international commerce - Obj. 3.2 - Number of export markets receiving aquaculture products	50	50
	Eradicate Boll Weevil - Obj. 3.4 - Cumulative acres eradicated of Boll Weevil (in thousands)	4700	4700
	Eradicate Brucellosis - Obj. 3.5 - States in Class Free Status (Brucellosis) - includes the District of Columbia, the US Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico	50	47
	Increase acres surveyed to prevent spread of Golden Nematode - Obj. 3.6 - Number of acres surveyed for Golden Nematode	3,000	3,761
	Reduce the number of Gypsy Moth infestations - Obj. 3.7 - Isolated infestations exceeding 640 acres	4	3
	Eradicate Asian Longhorned Beetle - Obj. 3.8 - Asian Longhorned Beetle infestation sites in eradication program	5	7
	Minimize the introduction and establishment of foreign weeds in US - Obj. 3.9 - New weed infestations detected/assessed through the National Early Warning System	10	12

Strategic Goal/ Management Initiatives	FY 1999 Performance Goals	Performance	
		Target	Actual
	Minimize infestations of Pink Bollworm outside of regulated area - Obj. 3.10 - New infestations of Pink Bollworm outside regulated area	2	0
	Eradicate Pseudorabies - Obj. 3.11 - Number of Stage V states	37	33
	Eradicate Scrapie - Obj. 3.12 - Flocks advancing in the Voluntary Scrapie Flock Certification Program	275	377
	Eradicate Tuberculosis - Obj. 3.13 - States (includes Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands) in Accredited-Free status	47	46
	Reduce acres infested with witchweed - Obj. 3.14 - Acres infested with witchweed at end of season	5100	5540
Goal 4: Ensure the humane care and treatment of animals covered under the Animal Welfare Act and the Horse Protection Act.	Increase the percentage of facilities in compliance - Obj. 4.1 - Percent of facilities in compliance	62%	59%
	Reduce the percentage of horses inspected that exhibit abnormalities of the front feet - Obj. 4.2 - Percent of horses inspected that exhibit abnormalities of the front feet	44%	44%
Goal 5: Facilitate the development of safe and effective veterinary biologics, biotechnology derived products, and other scientific methods for the benefit of agricultural producers and consumers and to protect the health of American agriculture and the environment.	Develop useful, appropriate methods - Obj. 5.1 - Number of new and improved wildlife control methods tested by the National Wildlife Research Center	13	18
	Facilitate the development of non-threatening biotechnology derived products - Obj. 5.2 - New crop varieties genetically engineered	52	50
	Ensure that veterinary biologics are pure, safe, potent, and effective - Obj. 5.5 - Licenses and permits issued annually after review, testing, and inspection	137	139
	Provide quality laboratory services - Obj. 5.6 - Number of peer reviews conducted to validate National Veterinary Services Laboratories' foreign animal disease diagnostic response capabilities against international standards	2	0
Management Initiative #1: Improve results and service - APHIS will achieve results that our customers and stakeholders need while providing the service that they expect.	All APHIS employees are operating from standard hardware/software platform - Percentage of APHIS employees operating from standard hardware/software platform	85%	90%
	- APHIS mission critical systems are Year 2000 compliant <i>Percentage of mission critical information systems:</i> - Assessed	100%	100%
	- Remediated - Implemented	100%	100%
Civil Rights Training	All APHIS employees are required to participate in civil rights training - Percentage of employees receiving mandatory civil rights training	100%	100%
Management Initiative #2: Improve program efficiency - APHIS will be an Agency that not only achieves results and improves service, but does so efficiently and equitably.	APHIS will be an Agency that not only achieves results and improves service, but does so efficiently and equitably - Increase the ratio of supervisors to employees to direct a higher percentage of Agency resources to service delivery	1:10	1:8
	- Reduce the number of APHIS regional locations to maximize efficiencies and cross-utilization of resources	7	7
Management Initiative #3: Encourage prudent financial stewardship, accountability, and improved business operations.	APHIS identifies eligible delinquent debt to be sent to Treasury - Percentage of eligible delinquent debt sent to Treasury for administrative offset and debt management cross servicing	NA	NA
	APHIS improves financial/business operations - Convert APHIS accounting records to the new USDA Foundation Financial Information System (FFIS) by the end of FY 2001	NA	NA

Goal 1: Safeguard U.S. plant and animal resources against introductions of foreign pests and diseases, while meeting international trade obligations.

Objective 1.1: Agricultural Quarantine Inspection (AQI) - To maintain the risk of introduction of invasive species into the U.S. at acceptable levels to protect American agricultural resources, maintain marketability of agricultural products, and facilitate the movement of people and commodities across the borders.

Key Performance Goal(s):

Minimize the risk of exotic pests and diseases introduced to the U.S. - Obj. 1.1	
<i>Compliance Rates at U.S. borders for:</i>	
Border vehicles	
Target:	96.1%
Actual:	97.6%
Cargo	
Target:	96.0%
Actual:	98.1%
International air travelers	
Target:	94.9%
Actual:	95.8%

Trend Data:

Pathway	FY 1997	FY 1998	FY 1999
Compliance Rate for Border Vehicles	95	95.6	97.6
Compliance Rate for Cargo	96.1	95.5	98.1
Compliance Rate for International Air Travelers	94.3	94.4	95.8

1999 Data: Despite a small percentage of poor data quality (due to port personnel changes, equipment failure and non-support by some local management) the quality and reliability of the majority of the monitoring data remains valid. The majority of the monitoring data serves the purpose of obtaining more accurate estimations of approaching prohibited agricultural items. Data are collected at multiple ports for each pathway listed by applying the same statistical sampling procedures at each of the ports. These data allow a more accurate estimation of "approach rates" for prohibited agricultural items and cargo pests arriving at US ports of entry. A National Monitoring Coordinator position was created and filled in October, 1999 to address data quality issues and oversee data reliability in Plant Protection and Quarantine's (PPQ) monitoring program.

Analysis of Results: The PPQ program exceeded this performance goal. This performance goal was met for 1999 due primarily to better operational risk based decisions by local port management (using various AQI data). Also the advent of several severe weather activities in the eastern U.S. has affected passenger and cargo entry into U.S. ports of entry causing them to decrease. This may affect the compliance rate for each of the monitoring pathways in future years. Specific program accomplishments are discussed below:

Passenger Processing: In FY 1999, APHIS inspected approximately 83 million international air, maritime and land border passengers/pedestrians arriving in the United States, and predeparture and preclearance passengers in Hawaii, Puerto Rico and abroad. This is an increase of 7 million from FY 1998. Passenger arrivals are projected to steadily increase for the foreseeable future.

To enhance passenger processing, APHIS participated with other Federal inspection agencies including Customs, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, and the State Department, in a Border Passenger Processing Initiative. This initiative examines ways to expedite passenger processing while maintaining or

increasing regulatory compliance. In FY 1999, it focused on improving customer service through compliance education and stakeholders meetings to increase awareness. Also, APHIS continued participating in Passenger Analytical Units at airports. These units target high-risk passengers while allowing the vast majority of compliant passengers to proceed quickly through the Federal inspection process. Dedicated commuter lanes were established at land border ports-of-entry on the northern and southern borders to accommodate frequent travelers between the U.S. and Mexico or Canada. In addition, APHIS maintained a selective examination of passengers and baggage using "rovers", "choke points", and detector dogs to control passenger movement. The Agency also continued using the Interagency Border Inspection System to identify previous violators, expedite passenger clearance, and improve inspection effectiveness.

Cargo Clearance: In FY 1999, APHIS inspected 70,968 ships and 837,931 regulated and miscellaneous cargo shipments entering the United States. Also, the Agency participated with Customs, maritime and air cargo lines, and importers in developing the Automated Commercial System that would enable electronic transmission of cargo data and entry documents to expedite processing of required data. APHIS maintained electronic equipment at 33 maritime locations and 26 airports. In addition, the Agency continued to expand and improve an automated hold system for regulated cargo.

Current Fiscal Year Performance: PPQ's AQI monitoring of nine different pathways continues in FY 2000 at approximately 60 U.S. ports of entry. Establishing the use of monitoring data to help make improved risk based operational and resource decisions at PPQ state and port offices still remains a major challenge. In addition, PPQ resource support for the management and maintenance of monitoring at these ports is decreasing. Increased support for AQI monitoring activities and increased use of monitoring needs to occur this fiscal year. PPQ management is continually made aware of these needs.

Program Evaluation(s): Recognizing the need to enhance the effectiveness of current safeguarding procedures, PPQ sought input from stakeholders through a formal review process. Under a cooperative agreement with APHIS-PPQ, the National Plant Board assembled a panel of external stakeholders composed of representatives from academia, government, industry, and non-governmental organizations. One of the major objectives of this review was in the area of pest exclusion -- What are the most effective activities to exclude invasive plant pests? and What is the best way that offshore activities can maximize the efficacy of the safeguarding system? This report can be obtained from the internet at www.aphis.usda.gov:801npb/safgard or by contacting Paula Henstridge at 302 E, 5L, Whitten Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue, S.W. Washington, DC, 20250.

Key Performance Goal(s):

<u>Satisfy customers and stakeholders (AQI) - Obj. 1.1</u>	
Percentage of international air passengers cleared through the Federal Inspection Service (FIS) primary inspection process within 30 minutes	
Target:	85%
Actual:	Data not yet compiled
Percentage of international travelers on land borders cleared through the FIS primary inspection within 30 minutes during non peak times	
Target:	85%
Actual:	Data not yet compiled

1999 Data: This is a joint High Impact Agency goal with U.S. Immigration Service and U.S. Customs Service. Data from the agencies are pending. Data will be reported in FY 2000 Annual Performance Report.

Analysis of Results: Data not yet compiled.

Current Fiscal Year Performance: Data not yet compiled.

Program Evaluation(s): Data not yet compiled.

Objective 1.2: Cattle Ticks - To prevent the establishment of cattle fever ticks, and their associated diseases, in the U.S.

Key Performance Goal(s):

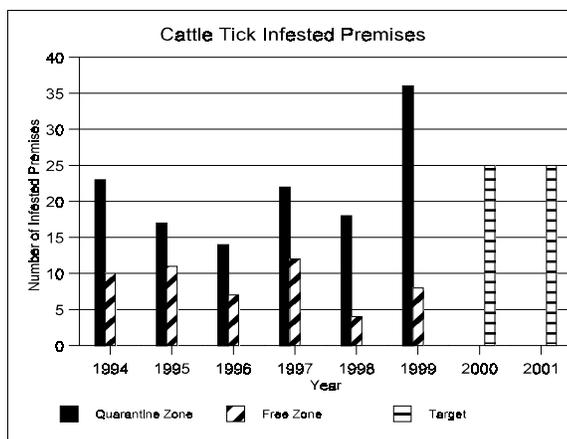
Minimize the number and severity of outbreaks or establishments (Cattle Tick) - Obj. 1.2

Number of cattle tick infested premises found outside the quarantine zone

Target: 4

Actual: 8

Trend Data:



1999 Data: Infestations and locations are determined by on-site investigations. Weekly reports of all investigations are logged by the area program office. The data is highly accurate.

Analysis of Results: The performance goal was not met. There were 8 infestations outside the quarantine zone. Tracebacks show that the source of new infestations is wildlife and livestock from Mexico. The number of new infestations is directly dependent upon the tick populations in Mexico, and the level of the Rio Grande River. New infestations result from high tick populations in Mexico and low water levels in the river which allow tick infested wildlife and livestock to come across the border into Texas. More than two years of drought in northern Mexico and southern Texas has resulted in very low river levels. This situation has put a tremendous pressure on the limited resources available for this program. If the low water levels of the Rio Grande River and the high tick populations in Mexico continue more funding will be needed or targets will need to be adjusted.

Descriptions of Actions and Schedules: The action plan to reduce the number of annual infestations is based on activities that will locate new infestations before there is spread to other premises. Employees will spend as much time as possible on river patrols and tracing animals in known infestations. Outbreaks draw heavily on our limited human resources. We must detail employees from other work areas and expend overtime hours to manage outbreaks.

In an effort to deal with the tick infested wildlife crossing the border into Texas, APHIS asked the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) for help. ARS has developed a systemic pesticide which is delivered by pesticide-medicated baits. The pesticide has undergone a trial period and FDA has approved this technology through its minor use animal drug program. However, so far, APHIS has been unable to locate a manufacturer to produce the pesticide for widespread use.

Current Fiscal Year Performance: There will be even more activity in FY 2000, based on the first seven weeks. Already, there are 20 new infestations this fiscal year; 14 of those are outside of the quarantine area because the river level is still low and the situation in Mexico is unchanged.

Program Evaluation(s): The extensive Veterinary Services Program Review performed in May, 1998 "concluded that overall program management is outstanding and the tick force is highly committed and skilled in carrying out the work and maintains high morale despite difficult and sometimes dangerous conditions." Despite these accolades, the Review made two important recommendations for improvement. One was to provide full support of the program and second was to add a full-time entomologist/epidemiologist position. APHIS is pursuing these recommendations and is requesting more money in future budget requests.

Note: The *goal and indicator* are currently under review for the 2001 budget.

Objective 1.3: Exclude foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) and other foreign animal diseases from the U.S., thereby protecting the biological and commercial health of the \$45 billion livestock industry.

Key Performance Goal(s):

<u>Minimize outbreaks of Foot-and-Mouth Disease in Colombia - Obj. 1.3</u>	
FMD Detections: Colombia: Darien Gap Buffer Zone	
Target:	0
Actual:	0
FMD Detections: Colombia: Other	
Target:	40
Actual:	54

Trend Data:

Year	FMD Outbreaks in Colombia	Target	FMD Detections at Darien Gap	Target
1996	80	80	0	0
1997	90	90	0	0
1998	40	40	0	0
1999	54	40	0	0
2000		50	0	0
2001		70	0	0

1999 Data: Data is collected by program employees in Panama and Colombia. Disease samples are analyzed at the APHIS-supported Vesicular Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (LADIVES) in Panama City, Panama.

Analysis of Results: The performance goal was met. The Darien Gap barrier in Panama continues to hold as a key safeguard to movement of FMD north out of South America. The number of FMD outbreaks in Colombia was expected to increase because new areas were being brought under program surveillance activities, and formerly unidentified outbreaks were recorded for the first time.

Current Fiscal Year Performance: APHIS continues with its current technical assistance activities in Colombia and the Andean region of South America. APHIS also continues to fund disease diagnostic laboratories in Panama and Mexico. No FMD outbreaks have been identified in the Darien Gap area. The number of FMD outbreaks in Colombia is expected to increase because new areas are being brought under program surveillance activities.

Program Evaluation(s): None conducted in FY 1999.

Objective 1.4: Fruit-Fly Exclusion and Detection - To control and eradicate fruit flies, primarily the Mediterranean fruit fly and Mexican fruit fly, in foreign countries where they may pose a serious threat to U.S. agriculture and in the U.S., by conducting detection and prevention activities.

Key Performance Goal(s):

Minimize Fruit Fly outbreaks in Mexico and Guatemala - Obj. 1.4	
Medfly detection sites, Chiapas, Mexico	
Target:	100
Actual:	180
Medfly detection sites, Peten free zone (Guatemala)	
Target:	0
Actual:	0

Trend Data:

Year	Medfly Detection Sites, Mexico	Target	Medfly Detection Sites, Peten, GU	Target
1995	104		25	
1996	16		1	
1997	25		0	
1998	254		9	
1999	180	100	0	0
2000		100		0
2001		0		0

1999 Data: Program employees in Mexico and Guatemala maintain and collect data from over 27,000 Medfly traps to assess the status of current infestations and identify new Medfly detection sites. The traps are checked on a weekly basis and reports are made to the Medfly offices in Tapachula, Mexico and Guatemala City, Guatemala. A science panel reviewed the use of traps in 1998 and made recommendations on increasing trapping density and efficacy. The program has followed these recommendations in 1999 and therefore believes that the data on detection sites is accurate.

Analysis of Results: The performance goal was not met in FY 1999. At the beginning of the reporting period, an international science panel reviewed the program site and reported that an emergency situation existed in Southern Mexico. In 1998, 254 sites were detected and appeared to be spreading outside of Chiapas. By the end of 1999, the situation appears much better. Of the 180 detection sites in 1999, only about 40 remain active.

Description of Actions and Schedules: Emergency program eradication activities, begun in June, 1999, will continue during 2000. Aerial spraying of appropriate pesticides, combined with follow-up release of sterile medflies will considerably reduce the risk of northward spread of Medfly toward the U.S. In addition, construction of four new sterile Medfly production modules is on track and will increase the program capacity to release steriles in 2000.

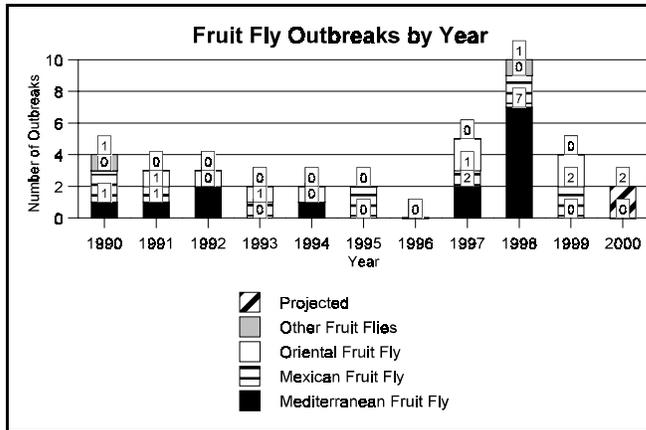
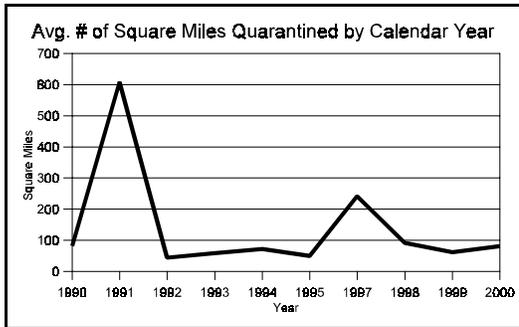
Current Fiscal Year Performance: The emergency operating plan is being fully implemented during the current year. Several eradication activities are going on. For example, during the week of October 18 - 23, sixty sites in Mexico had active control activities. 27,000 Medfly traps were checked. 6,000 host fruits were sampled to detect larvae. 16,250 acres received aerial spray treatments. 582 acres were sprayed from the ground. 24,200 pounds of fruit was destroyed. 400 million sterile flies were released.

Program Evaluation(s): There were no evaluations conducted in FY 1999. However, the recommendations from an evaluation done by an international science review panel in December, 1998, are being closely followed for dealing with this emergency.

Key Performance Goal(s):

Minimize Fruit Fly outbreaks in the U.S. - Obj. 1.4	
Number of Fruit Fly outbreaks in the U.S.	
Target:	2
Actual:	4
Severity of Fruit Fly outbreaks in the U.S. (square miles)	
Target:	81
Actual:	62

Trend Data:



Total Square Miles Quarantined				
Year	Mediterranean Fruit Fly	Mexican Fruit Fly	Oriental Fruit Fly	Other Fruit Fly
1990	96	154	0	75
1991	1576	99	152	0
1992	92	0	42	0
1993	0	63	55	0
1994	86	0	59	0
1995	0	100.2	0	0
1996	0	0	0	0
1997	987	62	161	0
1998	651	171.6	0	0
1999	0	136	113	0

1999 Data: The data are preliminary.

Charts and tables are based on the calendar year. Final data will be complete in January, 2000. The period of time that we typically detect fruit fly outbreaks is between April and November. In the past ten years, most outbreaks (66%) occur between April and September; 26% occur in October; and 8% occur in November.

Each detection of a fruit fly was reported to national staff usually within 48 hours and entered into a database. Daily narratives of the delimiting survey were reported and when triggers (numbers of flies) outlined in national emergency response guidelines were met, regulatory and control activities were initiated. Quarantine boundaries were determined according to guidelines published in the CFR and those written in the Emergency Response Guidelines. The size of the quarantined area was determined using GIS software.

Analysis of Results: The performance goal was not met. The four outbreaks (two oriental and two Mexican) in 1999 exceeded the target by two. Although we did not meet the target, we are encouraged by the absence of a Medfly outbreak. This may be partly weather related. Environmental conditions in Central America were not as favorable for Medfly population outbreak in 1999 compared to 1997 and

1998. DNA analysis indicate that most of the outbreaks in California originate from Central America. The success may also be partially attributable to increased U.S. and Mexico control and regulatory efforts in 1999 in southern Mexico and Guatemala. Also, after two years of large Medfly eradication programs in Florida, a continuous sterile Medfly release program was initiated over about 600 square miles in areas that have a high risk of introduction to prevent any introduction from becoming established.

The outbreak of oriental fruit fly in Tampa, Florida, is discouraging. This is the first outbreak of this species in Florida. Single fly detections throughout the state in the past few years are increasing and we expect to have additional outbreaks in the future.

In 1999, partly due to two outbreaks of Mexican fruit fly in San Diego along the Mexico/U.S. border, APHIS reinitiated a sterile Mexican fruit fly release program in Tijuana and has increased regulatory activities in cooperation with Mexico. This program appears to have been successful in preventing establishment in the Tijuana area and subsequent movement into the U.S. along the border. Both the current outbreaks are removed from the border (northern San Diego and the Los Angeles basin) and likely resulted from the movement of infested host material from areas outside the Tijuana area.

The severity of the four outbreaks averaged 62 square miles, well below the 81 square mile/outbreak target. This indicates that the trapping program is working and the outbreak when discovered is limited to a small area, usually less than a square mile. Protocols call for an 81 square mile quarantine area around most commonly intercepted exotic fruit fly outbreaks. This number is often less as in the case of Tampa this year (34 square miles) because of the proximity of the outbreak to large bodies of water. Please refer to **Appendix A**, "Discontinued Performance Measures" for an explanation concerning two additional discontinued indicators for this objective.

Description of Actions and Schedules: Measuring the number of outbreaks reflects the success of APHIS's overall pest exclusion program. As part of this safeguard system, we are continuing efforts to eradicate Medfly from Mexico and push the Moscamed barrier program further into or through Guatemala. We expect to eradicate Medfly from Mexico and push the barrier 400 km into Guatemala by 2005. We have secured funding to continue the preventive release programs in California and Florida and plan to expand the release area in California in FY 2000.

Current Fiscal Year Performance: Nine of the ten outbreaks detected in 1998 have been eliminated. The olive fly has become established through most of the Los Angeles basin. At the time of discovery, this fly was fairly widespread in Los Angeles county. Eradication would have required several areawide applications of malathion. Except for a few acres in Arizona, olive production in the U.S. occurs only in California. There was no significant trade issue since most commercial olives are processed and exported in brine. Therefore, an eradication program was not conducted for olive fruit fly. The 1999 outbreak of oriental fruit fly in Tampa, Florida, has been eradicated. The other three active fruit fly eradication programs are ongoing and we expect to declare eradication in summer 2000.

Program Evaluation(s): In early FY1999, APHIS requested that an international panel of fruit fly experts review the Medfly detection and eradication program in Florida. The review resulted in implementation of an areawide sterile release program in high risk areas and an enhanced trapping program. Also early in FY1999, an international panel sponsored by the California Department of Food and Agriculture met to review the Medfly preventive release program in the Los Angeles basin and provide recommendations for the three outbreaks outside the release area. Recommendations regarding release rates and the use of a recently developed sterile genetic sexing strain were implemented successfully.

At APHIS's request, the National Plant Board conducted a review of our safeguarding system and made over 300 recommendations. The recommendations are being considered and an implementation team is in place.

Objective 1.5: Import/Export - To further the export of U.S. animals and animal products, ensure that imported animals and animal products present minimal risk of introducing damaging exotic animal

diseases into the U.S. livestock and poultry population, and promote timely and efficient health certification processes for U.S. imports and exports. **Sanitary/Phytosanitary Management (SPS)** - Protect and expand U.S. access to foreign markets that may be threatened or constrained by unjustified barriers related to animal or plant health issues. Increase the capacity and use of global and regional animal and plant health standards.

Key Performance Goal(s):

<u>Increase the number and value of agriculture products exported from the U.S. - Obj. 1.5</u>	
New or modified cumulative export protocols facilitating U.S. access to new overseas markets	
Target:	25
Actual:	32
Number of Sanitary/Phytosanitary (SPS) issues resolved	
Target:	NA
Actual:	NA

Trend Data:

Year	New Cumulative Export Protocols	Target for Protocols	SPS Issues Resolved
1997	15		77
1998	20		44
1999	32		NA
2000		37	
2001		42	

1999 Data: The data measurements for export protocols reflect the cumulative number of new export protocols that were negotiated with the foreign government officials and posted publicly by APHIS on the Internet.

The data set for the SPS issue resolution indicator will not be completed and analyzed until March, 2000, when the APHIS Trade Support Team distributes an annual SPS Accomplishments Report. Issues are tracked by APHIS Foreign Service officers and by the Plant Protection and Quarantine Phytosanitary Issues Management staff and the Veterinary Services' National Center for Import and Export. Issues are grouped into three categories: market retention (in which APHIS helped gain first time access into a previously closed markets), market expansion, and market access. The number and value of issues resolved to enable agricultural imports into the U.S. is also compiled. The trade value of the issues resolved is estimated by agricultural economists within the Trade Support Team. The issues reported in the SPS Accomplishments Report are usually complex. The nature of the SPS issue resolution activity makes it very difficult to set results targets for future years. Therefore, although APHIS intends to report on the number of issues resolved in each year, it will not be projecting targets for the SPS indicator. In APHIS' annual report on SPS accomplishments, the agency will continue to discuss current issues it is working to resolve. This report is used inside and outside the Agency to plan activities and better understand intended outcomes of SPS activities. Two other measures were discontinued - see **Appendix A**, "Discontinued Performance Measures."

Analysis of Results: The performance goal is expected to be met since FY 1999 was extremely active and productive for the U.S. export market of animals and animal products. APHIS renegotiated protocols to maintain U.S. export commodity markets in 125 instances. Twelve new commodity markets were developed. The new export markets included 10 for animals and 2 for animal products. The Americas accounted for 90% (9 of 10) of the new export markets for animals and 100% (2 of 2) of the new markets for animal products. The Asia-Pacific region grew by one new export market, i.e., ratites to Korea.

A sample of some of the SPS accomplishments for 1999 is listed below.

Japan opens market for North American tomatoes: On September 6, 1999, Japan announced that it would accept all varieties of tomatoes grown in North America. For years, Japan had banned imports of tomatoes because of concerns about tobacco blue mold. In fiscal 1997, the market was opened for certain varieties of tomatoes. The recent action expands market access

for U.S. tomatoes, worth nearly \$700,000 in fiscal 1998, to cover all varieties.

California stonefruit exports to Paraguay resumed: For the past two seasons, Paraguay had prohibited the import of stonefruit from California, following reports of fruit flies in the state. APHIS arranged a site visit for Paraguayan officials to the growing areas in California, who were satisfied with the effectiveness of existing export protocols. Shipments of peaches and nectarines were resumed in August, 1999.

California and Northwest stonefruit to Canada: APHIS and Canadian authorities reached agreement on a pilot systems approach to permit the export of peaches, nectarines, and apricots from California and the Northwest to British Columbia, without fumigation. Canada is the largest market for U.S. stonefruit, accounting for about half the volume of U.S. peach and nectarine exports annually.

Japan approves two additional cherry varieties and 5 additional apple varieties: On July 30, 1999, Japan approved 2 varieties of cherries and 5 varieties of apples (including Granny Smith, Fuji, and Gala) for import from the U.S. U.S. cherry producers have already begun shipping the new varieties to Japan, and U.S. apple producers are working with Japanese inspectors to ensure that 1999 crop apples will be shipped next year.

Philippines opens market for Florida citrus: On June 25, 1999, after two years of work by APHIS, Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS), and the Florida citrus industry to break into the market, the Philippines approved a protocol to allow entry of citrus from the state of Florida. Industry sources have estimated that sales of Florida grapefruit to the Philippines could reach \$3 million in the near future.

Thailand opens market for Arizona citrus: On April 23, 1999, after three years of work by APHIS, FAS, and the Arizona citrus industry to break into the market, Thailand approved the import of Arizona citrus. Imported citrus fruit is price-competitive with domestically produced fruit, and benefits from a quality advantage. Industry sources have estimated that sales of Arizona citrus could eventually reach \$10 million a year.

Brazil opens market for U.S. hard red winter wheat: In November 1998, Brazil opened its market for U.S. hard red winter wheat. Since then, more than 25,000 tons of wheat have been exported to Brazil. U.S. wheat had been shut out of the market because of Brazilian concerns about wheat disease.

Trade facilitation: APHIS attaches abroad actively ensure that shipments of U.S. agricultural products are promptly released when difficulties are encountered upon import. For example, during the month of April 1999, the APHIS Tokyo office facilitated the release of 12 shipments, including over 90,000 cartons of Florida citrus worth \$2.3 million. In August 1999, the APHIS office in Brussels secured the release of a 12-container load shipment of oak wood, and a 20,000 kilo shipment of onion seed. APHIS officials, in cooperation with FAS, obtained the release of a \$60,000 shipment of cowhide lobster bait in South Africa.

Current Fiscal Year Performance: Animal and animal product export protocol negotiations continue to be active for the beginning of FY 2000. Recent detection of an exotic animal disease in the U.S., i.e. West Nile Virus, is hampering the quick development of new animal export markets. The European region is expected in the near future to be difficult for developing new agreements due to broader ongoing trade issues, e.g. banana market parity, genetically engineered food safety, etc. The Asia-Pacific and Americas will continue to be growth areas for American animal and animal product commodities. Proportionately more APHIS resources will be required to retain existing markets in the future. This increased activity is due to at least three significant factors, namely: 1) The large number of export markets that are currently open to American animal and animal products are dynamic trade markets that require monitoring and intervention; 2) The trend of developing nations and economies that demonstrates an increased level of trade requirements as the sophistication of the country's own industry and scientific infrastructure develops and matures. These may simply involve greater specificity of existing requirements, but more frequently it means new and additional requirements that must be met; and, 3) The increasing risk of export market disruption due to animal disease incidents linked to imports. This risk is a consequence of the increasing volume and diversity of imported animals and animal products into the U.S., as well as, the consequence of secondary repercussions arising from disease or other problems that occur with our trading partners, e.g. dioxin in Belgian poultry feed.

Over 50 SPS trade barrier issues are currently in various stages of negotiation, and it is expected that many other issues will arise as the year goes by. APHIS will continue to collaborate with other offices in USDA and the office of the U.S. Trade Representative to ensure availability of the scientific expertise needed to resolve many of these SPS issues. In FY 2000, APHIS scientists have already helped resolve SPS issues valued in the hundreds of thousands of dollars.

For example, on November 15, 1999, USDA announced that Argentina has lifted a 2-year quarantine on

U.S. blueberry plants and will resume the importation of such plants effective immediately. Argentina removed twig blight from its list of quarantine pathogens after U.S. representatives detected the fungus at blueberry plantations near Buenos Aires and further testing by Argentine officials confirmed its presence.

Another example of the work that is ongoing in the current year: On Oct. 29, 1999 Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman announced that Taiwan has agreed for the first time to allow importation of U.S. fresh asparagus and Alaska carrots. Following several years of negotiations, USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service was able to assure Taiwan that the burrowing nematode, a serious root parasite that weakens plants and vegetables by attacking their roots, will not enter the country with U.S. asparagus and Alaska carrots. Asparagus is not a host plant of the burrowing nematode, and the tropical parasite can't survive in Alaska.

APHIS also continues to make considerable progress in having international standards adopted that are in keeping with U.S. policies and positions. For example, the second meeting of the Interim Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (ICPM) took place at the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization's headquarters in Rome on October 4-8, 1999. The ICPM adopted two new phytosanitary standards; adopted a new, more transparent standard setting procedure; and established its work program for the coming year. Overall, the meeting was successful in terms of advancing several key U.S. standard setting objectives. These included obtaining ICPM agreement to prioritize and begin immediate standard-setting work in three specific areas including: a) development of a global standard on wood packing material; b) guidelines to harmonize members' interpretation and application of the term "official control"; and, c) formation of a working group to examine the phytosanitary aspects of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and identify potential standards which may be needed.

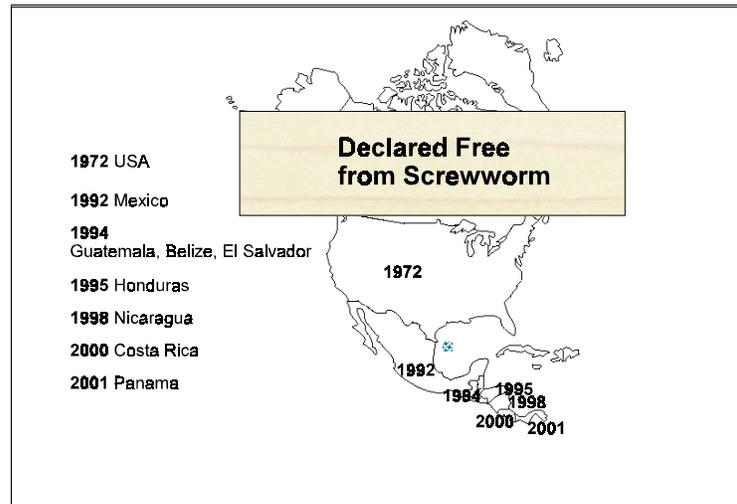
Program Evaluation(s): No evaluations were done in fiscal year 1999.

Note: The *goal and indicator* are currently under review for the fiscal year 2001 budget.

Objective 1.6: Screwworm - To prevent economic losses to the U.S. livestock industry from the re-introduction of screwworms by eradicating the screwworm through the Central American Isthmus to the Darien Gap area of Panama.

Key Performance Goal(s):

Reduce positive screwworm cases reported in the isthmus of Central America - Obj. 1.6	
Free areas (U.S., Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, El Salvador, Honduras)	
Target:	1
Actual:	2
Nicaragua	
Target:	0
Actual:	0
Costa Rica	
Target:	50
Actual:	19
Panama	
Target:	10,000
Actual:	2,943

Trend Data:

1999 Data: Screwworm program employees collect and analyze samples to monitor the presence of screwworm in each country participating in the program. Identification of the screwworm is confirmed at the LADIVES laboratory in Panama. As eradication takes place in each country, a solid veterinary surveillance infrastructure is left in place to enable quick identification of possible screwworm cases. Geographic information systems are used to study movement of the pest and to ensure that adjustments are made to ensure efficient release of the sterile screwworm flies.

Analysis of Results: The performance goal was not met. The program continued to prevent the re-introduction of screwworm into the United States, although there were two isolated cases identified in animals that had been brought into the U.S. in 1999. The Sterile Insect Technique has been a very effective eradication tool for the screwworm in Central America. An average of 143 million sterile screwworms have been produced and released each week during the past year to ensure adequate coverage of areas in the program eradication plan. No screwworm cases have been detected in Costa Rica since June, 1999. If this trend holds, Costa Rica will be declared free of screwworm in 2000.

Description of Actions and Schedules: The actual number of screwworm cases in the U.S. was one greater than the target, probably due to greater than expected numbers of people traveling by air with pets from screwworm infested countries. The program focus is now shifting to Panama, where most of the sterile releases are now being done. Eradication is expected there in 2001. To meet the long term goal of maintaining the capacity to eradicate any new outbreaks in the U.S. and Central America and to maintain the screwworm free barrier at the Isthmus of Panama, the program is planning construction of a new sterile insect production plant in Panama, to be completed by 2003.

Current Fiscal Year Performance: Program activities are focused in Panama. The production plant in Tuxtla Gutierrez, Mexico continues to produce an average of 143 million sterile screwworm flies per week. Most of these steriles are flown to Panama for the eradication program there. Some steriles not needed in Panama are sold for use in a new eradication program in Jamaica.

Program Evaluation(s): None conducted in FY 1999.

Objective 1.7: Tropical Bont Tick - Eradicate the tropical bont tick from Caribbean islands by 2002, and thus prevent the introduction of heartwater and increased levels of dermatophilosis disease into the livestock industry and wildlife populations of the U.S.

Key Performance Goal(s):**Eradicate Tropical Bont Tick (TBT) in Caribbean Islands - Obj. 1.7**

Islands eradicated

Target: 2**Actual:** 0

Heartwater detected in U.S. Territories

Target: 0**Actual:** 0

1999 Data: In November, 1999, an international team, including a scientist from USDA, completed a thorough survey in the islands. Herd sampling techniques enabled the team to determine, with a high degree of statistical confidence, that only one "hot spot" exists still on St. Kitt's and that Nevis still has several areas infested.

Analysis of Results: The performance goal was not met. St. Kitt's and Nevis have both completed the initial stage of the program, in which animal owners regularly applied an acaricide (chemical to kill ticks) to animals.

Description of Actions and Schedules: A recent survey on these islands indicated that St. Kitt's has a few ticks remaining, but is on track to be declared free of the tick in 2000. Nevis had more amblyomma ticks than expected, but is still on track to eradicate the tick by 2002. On St. Kitt's, program officers will be applying acaricide regularly and closely monitoring the herds in the one remaining infested area of the island. On Nevis, continued application and monitoring will be ongoing throughout the year. The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the lead organization for the program, continues activities on all infested islands. It is expected that all the infested Caribbean islands will be free of the tick by 2002.

Current Fiscal Year Performance: International funding, combined with USDA/APHIS funding, has enabled increased program participation by animal owners in all infested islands. Program officials are optimistic that the tick will be eradicated throughout the region by 2002.

Program Evaluation(s): An annual planning and evaluation meeting of program coordinators from all islands and the U.S. took place in April, 1999. Evaluation results were used to revise operational plans and performance targets. Copies of the evaluation are available by contacting Angel Ceilo at 202-720-7593.

Goal 2: Quickly detect and respond to introductions of foreign agricultural pests and diseases or other emerging agricultural health threats, to minimize production losses and export market disruptions.

Objective 2.1: Animal Health Monitoring and Surveillance - To identify, maintain, and enhance the health status of U.S. livestock and poultry, to protect American food sources, and to strengthen their domestic and international marketability.

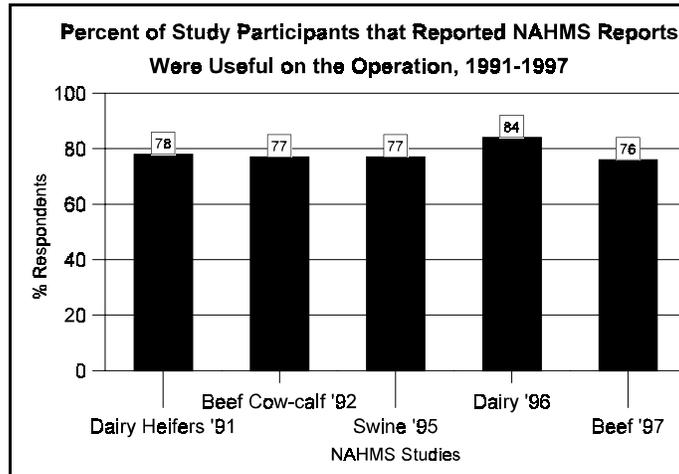
Key Performance Goal(s):**Identify, maintain, and enhance the health status of U.S. livestock and poultry - Obj. 2.1**

Percentage of surveyed producers using information from the National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS)

Target: 75%**Actual:** 86-89%

Trend Data: Participant evaluations for several NAHMS studies included a question regarding the usefulness of NAHMS reports (individual producer reports or national results, depending on the study) on the operation. Evaluations for Swine '89-'90 and Cattle on Feed '94 did not include a question of this nature. Between 76 and 84% of participants of these studies responded that the reports provided

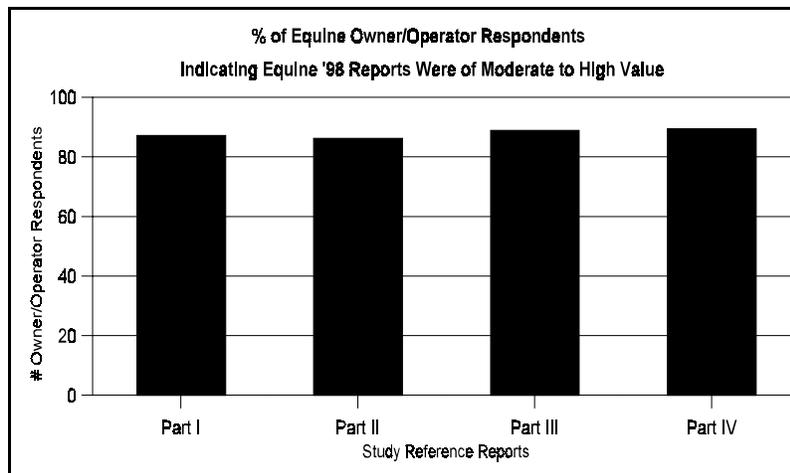
information that was helpful to them in managing their operation.



1999 Data: Recipients of NAHMS Equine '98 study reference reports released during FY 1999 were asked to rate the value of these reports. Between 86 and 89% of respondents who were equine owners/managers reported moderate to high values for the study reference reports. For all report recipients (which included categories such as university staff and veterinarians), 88 - 91% indicated moderate to high values. In this case we are considering value of the outputs to be a surrogate for use of the information as this is a difficult parameter to measure when much of what producers do is based on information that comes from many sources. Frequently producers will not know why certain recommendations have been made to them and that the reason for these recommendations is related to a particular study.

Analysis of Results: The National Animal Health Monitoring System met the established program goals for FY 1999. The 1999 data are specifically oriented to equine. NAHMS studies are geared to gather data on the operations to quantify and increase understanding of industry health issues and to enable individual producers to take actions which promote animal health. The use of information over time is influenced by the current herd health and industry emphases.

Current Fiscal Year Performance: Two national studies during FY 1999 and continuing into FY 2000, may enable us to track the less direct indicators for this measure. Program adjustments in response to the program review (see below) may further impact FY 2000 performance.



Program Evaluation(s): The NAHMS Program Review was conducted in FY 1999. Review panel members included internal VS personnel as well as representatives of other federal government agencies, state government, and industry. Overall, the group found the program to be very valuable, and they offered several suggestions for changes to enhance the program. These suggestions are currently under review and program adjustments will be made during FY 2000. The NAHMS program review is available through the Center for Animal Health Monitoring (CAHM) at the Center for Epidemiology and Animal Health (CEAH), Fort Collins, CO or call 970-490-8000.

Objective 2.2: Pest Surveillance & Detection - To use the best pest survey information available to make risk based decisions on the presence, absence and/or prevalence of plant pests and diseases of phytosanitary concern to the U.S.

Key Performance Goal(s):

Use the best information to make risk based decisions on presence/absence/prevalence of diseases of phytosanitary concern - Obj. 2.2	
New pest records (detections of new infestations of plant pests)	
Target:	260
Actual:	334

Trend Data: The nearly 30% over the target can be attributed to an increased awareness of invasive species, heightened awareness to environmental threats to natural ecosystems, and increased interest in survey results from state cooperators.

1999 Data: The information reflected in this report is from data retrieved from the Agency's National Agricultural Pest Information System (NAPIS). The information was developed from cooperative detection surveys and information validated through agreements with cooperators.

Analysis of Results: The performance goal was met. The information collected during 1999 exceeded the projected target. Although the actual number of new pest records exceeded the target, the performance goal was met because the program was able to detect the pests in a timely manner. Many of the introductions were subjected to control or eradication treatments eliminating potential impacts on U.S. producers and exports. Another indicator under this performance goal was discontinued. Please refer to **Appendix A**, "Discontinued Performance Measures."

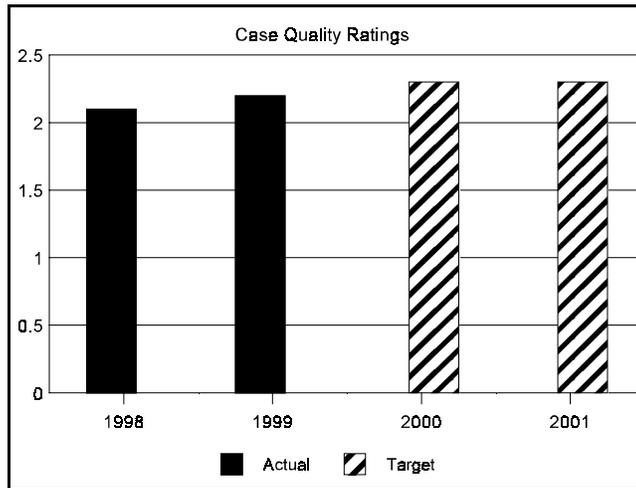
Current Fiscal Year Performance: The Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) program has been funded for FY-2000 and agreements with state cooperators are in place. We can expect that additional new pests will be detected in FY 2000 because of expected increased trade in agricultural products, commercial smuggling of exotic fruits and vegetables, global movement of solid wood packing material, and greater public awareness for invasive plant pests. The invasive species initiative, a renewed interest in detection programs, regulatory survey programs, and field activities to enhance U.S. exports have increased the number of new plant pests found.

Program Evaluation(s): Portions of the program were reviewed in the Agency sponsored report entitled Safeguarding American Plant Health Resources. The report was submitted to the Agency in June 1999 and is currently under review. We expect modifications will be made to the Agency's survey program as a result of subcommittee recommendations expected by the summer 2000.

Objective 2.3: Animal and Plant Health Regulatory Enforcement - To encourage and support compliance of APHIS programs, laws and regulations by providing effective investigations and technical enforcement services.

Key Performance Goal(s):

Increase rates of compliance with Agency Regulations - Obj. 2.3	
Technical quality rating of completed case reports (scale of 1 to 3)	
Target:	2.1
Actual:	2.2

Trend Data:

1999 Data: The 1999 results of 2.2 represents the average score on a scale of 1 to 3 where 2.0 is an acceptable case. This result was obtained from the review of over 290 investigative case files. The files are reviewed by senior level investigative specialists trained in analyzing evidence and investigative techniques. The review process has been standardized to produce consistent results between the different reviewers. The 290 cases reviewed represents 25 percent of the over 1170 cases investigated during 1999.

Analysis of Results: The program did meet its goal for FY 1999, and the results show we are on target to meet our case quality improvement goals for FY 2000. We targeted a higher proportion of the reviews to cases which had been reviewed by newer employees and those with lower performance to provide constructive feedback where it would have the most benefit in enhancing case quality. Please reference **Appendix A**, "Discontinued Performance Measures" for citations regarding two indicators under this performance goal which were discontinued.

Current Fiscal Year Performance: Higher quality cases increase both customer satisfaction and the likelihood of successful case resolution. The 1999 result of 2.2 is 5 percent above our target of 2.1 for the year although well within the expected range of 2.1 to 2.3. The increase in case quality above our 1999 target is a result of the intensive effort to review as many cases as possible and provide thorough feedback to investigators. The results also reflect our focus on new and lower performing investigators to obtain improvement where it was needed most. Achieving our 2000 target of 2.3 is obtainable, but will take a concerted effort to ensure resources are available to conduct at least the same level of review as last year.

Program Evaluation(s): None were conducted in FY 1999.

Objective 2.4: National Animal Health Monitoring and Surveillance - To prevent, detect, and respond to animal health events that may have a sudden, negative economic impact on the livestock and poultry population of the United States.

This objective was inadvertently left in the Annual Plan. This objective was not funded so there were no

performance goals or measures.

Goal 3: To effectively manage certain plant and animal pests and diseases and wildlife damage which pose risks to agriculture, natural resources, or public health.

Objective 3.1: Wildlife Services - To provide Federal leadership in managing problems caused by wildlife. To reduce damage caused by wildlife to lowest possible levels while, at the same time, reducing wildlife mortality.

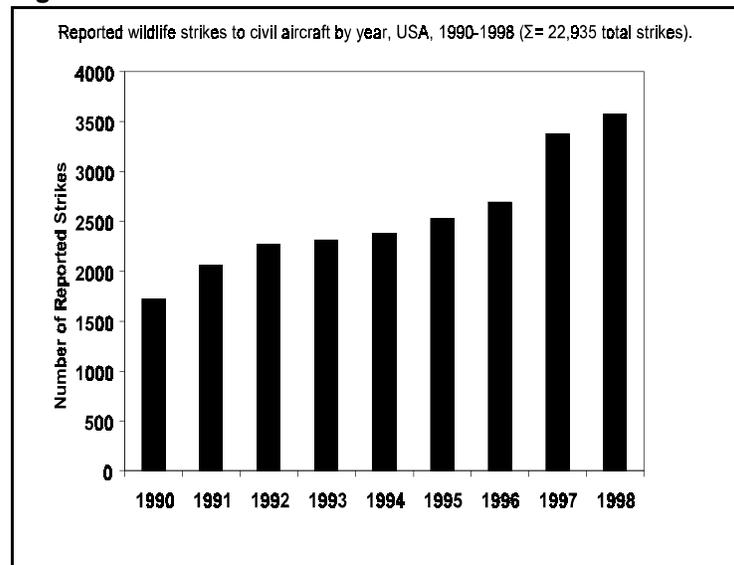
Key Performance Goal(s):

To protect human health and safety from wildlife risks by - Obj. 3.1	
Increasing passenger safety by reducing the risk of aircraft striking wildlife	
Target:	10%
Actual:	75% or more for 63% of projects where WS conducted operational control work and could calculate results

Trend Data: Airport Work - Bird and other wildlife strikes are a serious problem at U.S. airports. In fact, birds have the potential to cause the loss of a major jetliner at many airports in the U.S.

- In September 1995, the U.S. Air Force lost a \$190 million AWACS aircraft and 24 airmen to a bird strike (Canada geese).
- Birds have caused several recent near-disasters to commercial jetliners in the U.S. (e.g., the loss of 2 engines on an Air France Concorde landing at JFK in June 1995, and damage to both engines on a B-757 departing Cincinnati in February 1998).

Figure 1

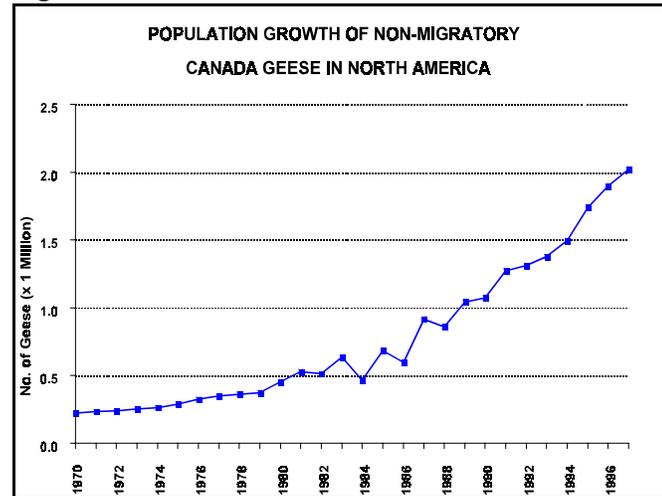


Wildlife strikes cost U.S. civil aviation over \$300 million per year, based on data from 1990-98, and the number of reported bird strikes to civil aircraft have increased over 104% over the same time period. (See Figure 1) Estimates of aircraft downtime due to wildlife strikes are conservatively given at 92,000 hours annually as well (E. Cleary, S. Wright, & R. Dolbeer: "Wildlife Strikes to Civil Aircraft in the U.S. 1990-98", FAA Office of Safety, in press).

This is due in part to the significant increase of various wildlife populations during the past 30 years, as a result of numerous factors including environmental programs (e.g. banning of DDT), legal protection of many species, and changing land uses. Populations of federally protected birds have increased

dramatically in the U.S. and become adapted to urban environments, making the risk of bird strikes at airports much greater. Since 1985 the North American non-migratory Canada goose population has more than tripled to 2 million birds, and about 90% of all reported bird strikes in the U.S. from 1991 to 1997 were caused by species federally protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Canada geese, because of their large size and flocking behavior, are particularly dangerous to aircraft. There have been over 700 goose-aircraft collisions at U.S. airports between 1990 and 1999.

Figure 2



Birds are not the only wildlife causing hazards at airports, however. The U.S. deer population is at an all time high of almost 30 million, and over 400 civil aircraft collisions with deer were reported in the U.S. from 1990-1998.

With these trends, it is clear that professional wildlife hazard management programs are needed on airports to minimize the strike threat.

During FY 1999, the Wildlife Services (WS) program (formerly known as Animal Damage Control) provided assistance to 363 airports (292 civil, 49 military, and 22 with both civil and military) in 47 states and Guam. This work includes both technical assistance to airports and operational control work (direct control). Technical assistance includes training airport personnel about wildlife hazards, producing wildlife hazard assessments, developing wildlife hazard management plans, conducting environmental assessments, or providing consultations to airport authorities about wildlife issues. For FY 1999 direct control work was performed at 110 airports while technical assistance was provided to 316 airports.

Direct control work involves WS personnel actually working on airport properties to solve wildlife issues or concerns for the airport. WS personnel take an integrated approach to solving wildlife issues including hazing or harassment, habitat management, and removal of wildlife from airport property. For approximately 90% of the direct control projects, WS conducted either non lethal wildlife management activities, or lethal methods that were part of an overall integrated wildlife hazard management program being conducted at the airport.

1999 Data: Reducing risk to humans caused by wildlife in or around airports, by reducing the number of wildlife strikes, is a complex issue and difficult to measure. Thus, the wildlife strikes rates alone are not adequate, in many cases, to demonstrate the effectiveness of WS efforts. In part, this is because wildlife strike rates are voluntarily reported to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) by airports, while some experts estimate that only about 20% are reported. Given this fact, many of the airports where WS conducts direct control work have incomplete or nonexistent wildlife strike data when they request WS assistance. Thus, it is very difficult, in many cases, for WS to measure its impact on strikes with wildlife before and after conducting direct control work because there is little or no reliable baseline data from

which to measure. In fact, it is not uncommon for airports to show an *increase* in the number of wildlife strikes reported once WS conducts work. This is not because actual wildlife strikes have increased, but because the airport is now recording wildlife strikes more carefully.

Because of this, the 1999 data represents a mixture of indicators that illustrate WS impacts at airports where it conducts direct control work. In cases where wildlife strike data has been collected for many years and most of the actual strikes get reported, strike rates are reported as an indicator of WS results (for about 16% of projects). In most cases, WS biologists are using changes in wildlife presence at the airports to indicate whether WS has been effective in reducing the risk of wildlife strikes (for about 58% of projects). Regardless of the indicator used to measure reduced risk (strikes or wildlife presence), the WS program has taken steps to ensure standardization in calculating and reporting these numbers. Standard forms were developed to collect the information that included prescribed formulas to complete the calculations. Overall, there is consistency in the way results were calculated and reported.

Also, although the initial thinking was to describe the AGGREGATE results of WS' airport work into a single percentage figure, this is not possible. This is because WS often conducts multiple projects for different wildlife species (e.g., birds or mammals) at a single airport. So while a WS manager may have a project for controlling deer at an airport, the manager may also have a project for handling bird populations for that airport as well. These are very distinct projects, and it is not possible or appropriate to "take the average" of the results for each of these projects and represent the results as a single number for that airport. That is why the actual program results are described as a percentage change in risk for a proportion of the total projects WS worked, which is slightly different than the format in the original 1999 performance plan.

Analysis of Results: The WS program met its performance goal for FY 1999. Percent risk reduction is the indicator used to measure the effectiveness of WS's airport/human safety protection programs. It is based on comparing wildlife strikes, wildlife presence, or other factors before and after the WS-conducted direct control project is completed. During FY 1999 WS biologists calculated percent risk reduction based primarily on wildlife presence at the airport (58% of projects) and wildlife strikes (16% of the projects). Percent risk reduction could not be calculated for 39 of the 152 direct control projects. In these cases, sample sizes were too low (involving only a few animals or strikes) or baseline information (strikes, wildlife presence data from previous years) was incomplete or nonexistent.

Result Highlights: Risk reduction could be calculated for 113 direct control projects. Risk was reduced by 75% or more for 71 projects (63%). Risk was reduced by less than 75% for 42 projects (37%), and there was only one project (less than 1%) where the target goal of 10% was not met.

WS greatly exceeded their goal of 10% for most of their direct operational control projects. Although the 1999 target was set rather conservatively for the first year, it seemed to be an appropriate target in the early phases of the reporting process. While this type of baseline data had been collected for a few airports prior to FY 1999, with significantly higher results than 10%, most other airports had not been collecting this information. The WS program had no idea what the results would be for the program as a whole, and given the tremendous increase in wildlife around many airports, especially bird populations, and because many airports report greater numbers of wildlife strikes in the initial phases of direct control projects, the 10% target seemed to be reasonable at the time it was set. Adjustments will be made in subsequent years, however. (see "Current Fiscal Year Performance" section)

While the results for reducing risk where WS currently works are impressive, there is still a great deal of work to be done to protect humans and aircraft with limited funds. The significance of wildlife hazards is also inadequately recognized at most airports across the country. Federal Aviation Administration regulations require certificated airports to conduct ecological studies when air carriers experience multiple bird strikes, have damaging collisions with wildlife, or observe wildlife in size or numbers that could cause collisions. Only after such events occur, are the airports required to implement wildlife hazard abatement programs. Thus, there is little focus or financial incentive for airports to invest in preventative hazard management work.

In many cases the FAA refers airports to the WS biologists, who have the expertise, but are not always funded to provide these services. There are 652 certificated airports in the U.S., but the WS program was only able to do direct control work for 82 of these airports (12.6%). Inadequate funding also prevents, in many cases, more in-depth technical assistance and follow-up work from WS with airports about their wildlife hazards. With greater resources, wildlife risks at airports can become even more significantly reduced for the flying public. But until there is greater recognition of the risks, and more funding available, there will continue to be many lost opportunities to reduce wildlife hazards at many airports throughout the country.

Current Fiscal Year Performance: The FY 1999 performance for direct control work at airports has greatly exceeded program expectations for this first reporting year. Target performance goals will be adjusted for subsequent years based on budgetary priorities and external factors; however, it is expected that the target for direct control work will be set at a higher level than 10%, based on the 1999 data. It is likely the program will set for itself a goal of achieving at least 70% risk reduction for 60% of direct control projects where it is possible to calculate risk reduction.

Program Evaluation(s): There were no outside evaluations conducted around WS work at airports for neither its technical assistance or direct control work. However, the WS program did conduct several environmental assessments (EAs) before beginning direct control work in or around airports in FY 1999. These EAs were completed for projects in AL, AZ, CT, ID, HI, NY, NM, and VA. Some of these EAs were directly related to airport work, while others were programmatic EAs covering multiple resources.

The National Wildlife Research Center (NWRC) also conducted six experiments in FY 1999 to evaluate various wildlife damage management methods at airports. These focused on developing more effective non-lethal means of keeping birds and deer off airports. One experiment evaluated a new grazing repellent for geese. Another evaluated a mowed grass regime to reduce rodents and birds of prey at JFK International Airport. The four other experiments involved products or techniques to keep birds out of hangers, repel deer from airfields, and disperse turkey vultures from roosts.

Copies of the EAs are available through the Operational Support Staff, Riverdale, MD, 301-734-7921. Copies of the Research reports are available through the Office of the Director, NWRC in Ft. Collins, CO, 970-266-6000.

Key Performance Goal(s):

To protect human health and safety from wildlife risks by - Obj. 3.1	
Reducing the number of canine rabies cases in orally vaccinated areas in TX	
Target:	Reduce canine rabies cases by 87%—to near 0 cases
Actual:	95%

Trend Data: Rabies Work - Rabies is almost always fatal in wildlife. Left untreated, it is invariably fatal in humans, as well. Human exposure to rabies has been greatly reduced through effective education efforts. Vaccination of pets further reduces risk of exposure. Fortunately, if an exposure does occur, timely post-exposure prophylaxis is effective in preventing rabies. Nevertheless, rabies remains a significant public health and wildlife management problem that results in tremendous social trauma and high annual costs to coexist with new variants of rabies.

Canine variant of rabies began to increase in South Texas in the early 1990's as a result of canine variant adapted to domestic dogs "spilling over" into wild, free-ranging coyotes. Canine variant of rabies in coyotes in south Texas has been greatly reduced through the field application of a relatively new oral rabies vaccine. Oral rabies baiting campaigns that began in 1995 have successfully vaccinated between 75 to 90% of coyotes based on samples provided through cooperative sampling efforts involving Wildlife Services, yet a few cases (3 to 8) have persisted over the past three years. These cases represent localized disease foci that were not controlled through initial oral vaccination efforts and require re-baiting, or could be related to re-invasion of canine variant from Mexico. Bi-national meetings have been held with Mexico to explore this and other rabies issues, underscoring the need to develop cooperative international

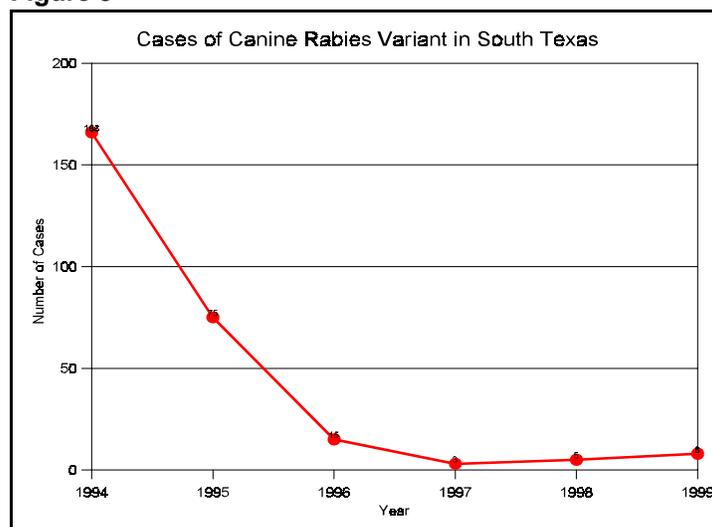
efforts to obtain sound surveillance data along the border to be prepared to implement contingency plans to address rabies foci in south Texas in the future.

In addition to the rabies work with which Wildlife Services is involved in Texas, the program also cooperates with state agencies, universities, and other federal agencies to help control raccoon variant of rabies in Ohio, New York, and Vermont. A relatively new oral baiting program is underway in the Northeast to establish an immune barrier for raccoon rabies. For both the Texas program and the Northeast programs, WS cooperates with other agencies and institutions by assisting in the aerial and hand distribution of over 4 million oral baits (2.7 million in Texas and the remainder in Ohio, New York, and Vermont), and by providing blood serum and tooth/bone samples to evaluate the effectiveness of the oral vaccine in containing and eliminating the rabies variants.

Due to the success of rabies control efforts in Texas and the northeastern U.S., Wildlife Services will continue to be an active participant in annual "border states" meetings with Mexico and Canada, where the goal is to develop and implement cooperative rabies control and monitoring programs aimed at minimizing the spread and impacts of wildlife rabies at the southern and northern U.S. borders where terrestrial wildlife rabies remains active. At the Southwest meetings, State representatives from California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas have participated; in the Eastern U.S. meetings, the States of New York, New Hampshire, Maine, Massachusetts, and Ohio and the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec have attended. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has also been a key Federal participant along with other APHIS personnel.

1999 Data: The Texas Department of Health reported that there were eight cases of confirmed canine rabies in southern Texas in 1999. This represents a reduction in confirmed canine rabies cases of more than 95% since 1994, when 166 cases were reported (the year before oral vaccination began in south Texas). Of the eight cases, only one was from a rabid coyote. The remainder were from 3 dogs, 1 cat, 1 cow, 1 fox, and 1 raccoon. These are all canine variants of rabies and would have had to have been contracted from either a coyote or a dog.

Figure 3



Data around reported cases of canine rabies are generally collected by state and/or county health departments. The state departments of health are required to report all confirmed cases to the Center for Disease Control (CDC).

Analysis of Results: The WS program did meet its performance goal by exceeding its target of 87% as reported in the 1999\2000 Annual Performance Plan. However, the slight increase in confirmed canine

rabies cases from 1998 to 1999 underscores the need to continue to review rabies surveillance data and adjust oral vaccination and surveillance efforts accordingly, particularly around the areas where rabies was confirmed. FY 2000 oral baiting and evaluation include an action plan to bait in these rabies confirmed areas observed in FY 1999. The effectiveness of these efforts will be evaluated through samples from coyotes, as well as dogs that have been humanely euthanized at animal shelters in the areas. In addition, surveillance data will reveal if rabies has been eliminated within the larger oral vaccination zone in south Texas.

While the goal of the oral rabies vaccination program in south Texas remains to suppress canine rabies cases to near zero, the broader goal is to control all wildlife rabies strains in the United States. Northeastern, Midwestern, and gulf coast States, as well as Texas, have become increasingly concerned about raccoon rabies and the threat it poses to humans, livestock, and companion animals. In cooperation with other State and Federal agencies and based on what has been learned in Texas, APHIS has begun applying control strategies and protocols through field trials in other parts of the country such as the Northeast to manage the threat posed by raccoon rabies. Greater coordination and commitment of resources on the part of participants will be necessary if eradication of the threats posed by raccoon rabies and other variants is to become a reality.

Current Fiscal Year Performance: The target for canine rabies work in FY 2000 will increase to 95%. Work will continue by all cooperators to develop and implement better rabies surveillance programs along the U.S.-Mexico border. As for the raccoon rabies work being conducted in the eastern U.S., targets will be set once baseline information has been established. Continued cooperative and federal funding will impact future program results.

Program Evaluation(s): No evaluations were conducted in FY 1999 for the Texas rabies program.

Key Performance Goal(s):

<u>Satisfy customers - Obj. 3.1</u>	
Percent of livestock customers satisfied	
Target:	87%
Actual:	89%

Livestock Customer Satisfaction: The Wildlife Services program is a very customer driven organization. Much of the program work is cooperative in nature (i.e., clients pay for services), and so it has always been part of the Wildlife Services (WS) culture to focus on the satisfaction of its customers. In the past WS has conducted several customer satisfaction surveys, including one in 1993 of direct control customers (those receiving direct services from the program) and one in 1994 of technical assistance customers (those receiving advice, information, or borrowing equipment). These customers included a broad array of individuals, agencies, and other organizations that work with the program.

For both sets of customers the results were high. Satisfaction ratings for WS personnel conducting work ranged between 87% and 97%, and for the DC survey, 80% of the respondents said they were "satisfied" that "ADC solved or is controlling my wildlife problem." For the 1994 TA survey, 77% of the respondents were "satisfied" that "Overall the services offered helped solve my wildlife problem."

The WS program has not conducted another comprehensive survey of WS customers since 1994, in part because of costs associated with conducting surveys, and in part, because of more complex survey approval processes associated with the Paperwork Reduction Act and the Administrative Procedures Act. The WS program does collect customer feedback in a variety of less formal ways, such as professional meetings, individual telephone conversations, letters, etc. The program also has an established federal advisory committee (the National Wildlife Services Advisory Committee—NWSAC) through which it receives input from a variety of program customers and stakeholders.

1999 Data: In 1999 Wildlife Services commissioned the National Agricultural Statistical Service (NASS) to conduct a survey of those U.S. livestock producers who have received direct assistance from WS to

control livestock depredation on their farms or ranches. Survey respondents were individuals that, as of 1998, had active agreements with WS. This survey information represents an almost complete census of WS livestock customer since NASS used a comprehensive WS customer list as the basis for sending surveys. The total number of records sent was 11,777 in 24 states, and the total number of completed responses was 8,734. Thus, the information collected in this survey gives a very complete picture of the satisfaction levels of livestock producers receiving direct assistance from the program.

Analysis of Results: The performance goal was met in FY 1999 for livestock customers. These WS customers were asked to grade WS on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being "Not Satisfied" and 5 being "Very Satisfied." The results show that for all states, about 76% of those receiving direct assistance from WS gave a satisfaction rating of either 4 or 5. An additional 13% gave WS a satisfaction rating of 3, for a total of 89% of customers that were satisfied with the direct assistance provided by the program. Breaking out the information by region showed very little variability in the responses. For the mountain and western states approximately 77% of the customers gave a satisfaction ranking of 4 or 5, while another almost 13% gave the program a ranking of 3, for a total of 89%. For the southern, midwestern, and eastern region 72% of customers gave WS a 4 or 5 ranking, while 19% gave WS a 3, for a total of 91% satisfied.

These customers were also given an opportunity to rank the effectiveness of the direct assistance they received from the program, using the same 1 to 5 scale, with 5 being "Very Effective" and 1 being "Not Effective." Once again the rankings were very high with over 85% of all states giving WS a ranking of 3, 4, or 5. For the mountain and western states the same held true, and for the southern, midwestern, and eastern states 83% gave WS a ranking of 3, 4, or 5.

Additionally, the survey questioned WS customers about their access to information about non-lethal methods to reduce or prevent depredation in the first place. The survey showed that over 2,711 livestock operations received non-lethal control suggestions from WS in 1998 (latest available data), and 2,540 of these operations (93.7%) were located in the program's western region.

Finally, to assist WS in getting a sense of the effectiveness of their direct control work, NASS asked WS customers their opinion about what their livestock losses might have been if WS had not been available to them. While the results vary according to the type of livestock (sheep, goats, or cattle), the numbers are considerably high. Cattle producers who received direct assistance from Wildlife Services estimated that, on average (for all states), 28.5% of cattle were saved from predation. Sheep producers estimated that, on average, (for all states), 38.5% of sheep were saved by Wildlife Services' direct assistance. Goat producers estimated that the average percentage of goats saved by Wildlife Services, for all states, was 44.7%. Previous studies indicate that producers that suffer higher predation losses generally seek WS' assistance. These livestock producer estimates are indicators to the program that WS is making a significant contribution to these producers and that the work being done by WS is valued highly by its customers. Please refer to **Appendix A**, "Discontinued Performance Measures" for an explanation concerning the decision to drop the indicator which provided the number (in millions) of livestock protected.

Current Fiscal Year Performance: A survey of livestock customers is not likely to be repeated for several years; however, it is the hope of the program that when resources become available, it will be able to conduct surveys of additional customer segments. It is expected that results for these different customer segments will vary and will be influenced by several factors, including budgetary cuts. State ballot initiatives that severely limit or prohibit the use of many wildlife damage management tools used by the program to protect important resources will also have an impact on customer service results. The success of these initiatives hampers Wildlife Service's ability to perform work in a cost-effective manner and makes it difficult for the program to continue to maintain high customer satisfaction levels.

Program Evaluation(s): The NASS survey of WS livestock customers served as an evaluation of this measure for FY 1999. More importantly, WS regularly conducts environmental assessments (EAs) (as required by NEPA) of its livestock predator management programs. Three EAs were completed in FY 1999 that specifically addressed livestock predator damage management projects in VA, NV and AZ.

Other programmatic EAs covering multiple resources, including livestock, were completed for UT, ID, and NM. All EAs are available through the Operational Support Staff, Riverdale, MD, 301-734-7921.

Key Performance Goal(s):

One key performance goal that was set for APHIS' Wildlife Services' program in its FY 1999/2000 plan was a general goal covering the variety of resources that this program protects from wildlife damage. It read, "To protect livestock, aquatic animals, crops, property, natural resources and endangered or threatened species from wildlife damage (Wildlife Services - Operations)". There were four indicators under this performance goal.

APHIS has since determined that it can presently provide reliable and verifiable data for two of the four original indicators (beaver damage to multiple resources in selected States; percentage of threatened/endangered species projects where population is increased or maintained). These two indicators have been elevated to performance goal status. The other two indicators (number of livestock protected; direct savings per rice planting season from blackbird damage in selected LA parishes) have been discontinued, and are discussed in **Appendix A**, "Discontinued Performance Measures."

So, under the Discontinued Measures section you will see the old performance goal language referred to (i.e., from the 1999/2000 Annual Performance Plan); however, in this section of the report, you will see for beaver and T&E species, the newer performance goal language used (i.e., language from the 2000/01 Annual Performance Plan).

To protect property, natural resources, and crops from damage caused by beavers - Obj. 3.1	
Target:	\$8 million in losses avoided from beaver damage
Actual:	\$21.97 million in losses avoided

The original intention was to try to show the reduction in beaver damage to "property", but the data that is being collected will also be able to show reductions in the damage caused to crops and to some natural resources.

Trend Data: Beaver Damage Management: Beaver throughout North America are responsible for tens of millions of dollars in damage annually to public roads and highways, agricultural and forest resources, soil and water conservation districts, municipal water treatment and sewer systems, and other property. At times, habitat modifications from beaver (dam building and tree cutting) can be beneficial to certain species of wildlife; at other times, these beaver dammed waterways have adversely affected certain wildlife resources, such as trout in Wisconsin and federally threatened mussels in Louisiana. Many believe the value of beaver damage is perhaps greater than that of any other single wildlife species in the United States. In the southeastern U.S. alone, the economic damage was estimated to have exceeded \$4 billion over a 40-year period (Arner and Dubose, 1979).

In the early part of the 20th century, beaver populations were extremely low due to the exploitation of the animals for their fur. In the late 1920s and 1930s several states began to protect the beaver and reintroduce it to areas where it had been all but extirpated, including Texas and North Carolina, for example. These reintroduction efforts, along with the reduced demand for animal pelts and increased animal-rights activities, have helped beaver populations thrive again in many parts of the country. But, along with their increasing numbers have come increased complaints from farmers, ranchers, municipal governments, and others about the beaver's impact on so many valuable resources.

In Oklahoma, for example, beaver damage, and requests to Wildlife Services for assistance, have increased significantly over the last 15 years. (**Figure 1 and Table 1**)

Figure 1

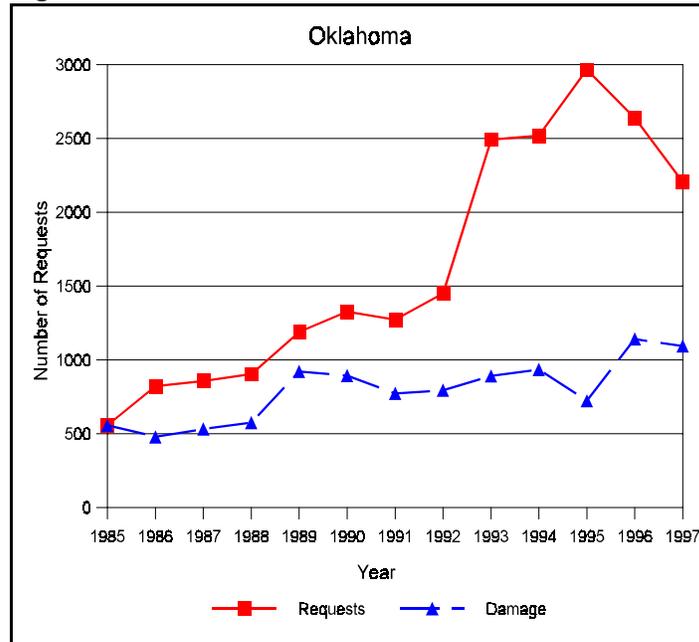


Figure 1: This graph represents the number of beaver requests received by WS Specialists throughout OK and the damage associated with these requests (MIS 1997).

Table 1: WS Reported Beaver Damage and Requests - Oklahoma

Year	Number of Requests	Damage Costs (in thousands)
1985	559	557
1986	823	479
1987	858	532
1988	905	576
1989	1189	923
1990	1327	895
1991	1273	774
1992	1450	795
1993	2493	892
1994	2520	936
1995	2967	723
1996	2641	1142
1997	2206	1096

Concerns about increased damage problems prompted the Oklahoma State Legislature to provide additional funding for WS in July 1997 and 1998 to increase its level of assistance in resolving beaver damage, particularly in eastern Oklahoma where damage has been substantial.

A very similar situation exists in North Carolina as well. In 1992 the North Carolina State Legislature created the Beaver Management Assistance Program (BMAP) for the express purpose of assisting landlords, the NC Department of Transportation, county and local governments, and others in addressing ever-increasing problems caused by beaver activity. It is a cooperatively funded program from state, county, federal, and private resources, and provides an excellent example of how various governmental agencies and private groups have combined resources to address a common problem.

Since 1993, the number of projects the NC WS program has completed has risen from less than 200 annually for beaver, to almost 1,000 in 1999 (**Figure 3**); the amount of funding for the BMAP has also increased dramatically over the same time period from just over \$100,000 in 1993, to about \$800,000 in 1999 (**Figure 2**). Funding sources include participating counties, county Department of Transportation, land holders, and the NC Wildlife Resources Commission. Estimates of the resources saved by this program have climbed to over \$4 million for 1999, with a benefit-cost ratio of 5.5 to 1. Wildlife Services provides overall program supervision to the BMAP.

Figure 2

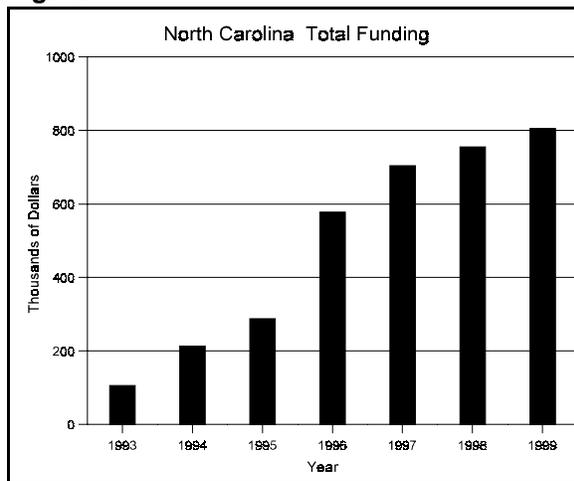
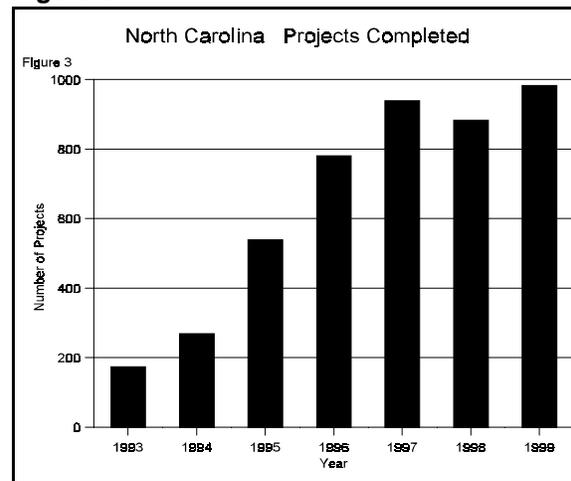


Figure 3



1999 Data: For years, WS employees have been collecting data on the actual damage beavers cause to various resources in their states, although it is known that even the WS database is only a fraction of the total damage, because much damage is never reported to WS (Loven 1985). While the total value of reported resources lost to beavers has been staggering (e.g., over \$6.7 million in Texas from Oct. 1, 1994 to Sept. 30, 1998, TWDMP), these values do not adequately portray the true value of WS work in preventing *further* beaver damage from occurring. In other words, much more damage would have occurred if WS had not intervened and taken care of the problem. Thus, for purposes of this first GPRA Annual Report, WS has cooperated with other agencies and used past experience to develop estimates of the resources SAVED from further damage by beaver (i.e., “resources protected from harm” by WS).

The beaver data represents various states’ (13 overall) estimates around the losses prevented by WS intervention on public and private lands. Several states calculated prevented losses for timber, roads, and bridges, while other states protected other wildlife species, like trout. Still others estimated their impact on further damage to crops or other agricultural resources because of beaver. Since the type of work varies from state to state, it was not possible to prescribe a single method of calculating prevented losses for beaver work. There were several states that based their timber and road damage estimates on a model developed by North Carolina, but for other states, this model could not be adapted to a particular resource or set of resources protected.

Also, many states’ estimates are based, at least in part, on data developed by other state agencies and private industry groups. These include, but are not limited to, state Departments of Transportation, private timber companies, and state departments of Agriculture and Forestry. Therefore, the reliability and validity of these estimates are dependent on these data sources, as well. In general, program managers tend to characterize their results as rather conservative.

Analysis of Results: The performance goal was easily met, and actual program estimates of almost \$22 million for 13 states¹ exceed the 1999 target figure of \$8 million by almost \$14 million. Based on the current WS expenditures for beaver work in these states, the benefit cost ratio is approximately 5.6 to 1. That is, for every \$1 spent to reduce further beaver damage, \$5.60 is saved.

Current Fiscal Year Performance: It is too early to determine current fiscal year (2000) performance for the WS beaver programs in various states. It is expected, however, that the target goal of \$8 million will

¹ States include Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Mississippi, N. Carolina, Oklahoma, S. Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Wisconsin.

be adjusted in subsequent years, and will likely increase, given that many program managers believed their estimates were quite conservative. One caution must be made: since many of these beaver programs heavily involve cooperator funding, the continued success of various WS state beaver programs will depend on cooperative funding. Therefore, the targets set for future years will be linked to expected cooperative funding.

Program Evaluation(s): One EA for beaver damage management was completed in FY 1999 for Oklahoma. It is available through the Operational Support Staff, Riverdale, MD, 301-734-7921.

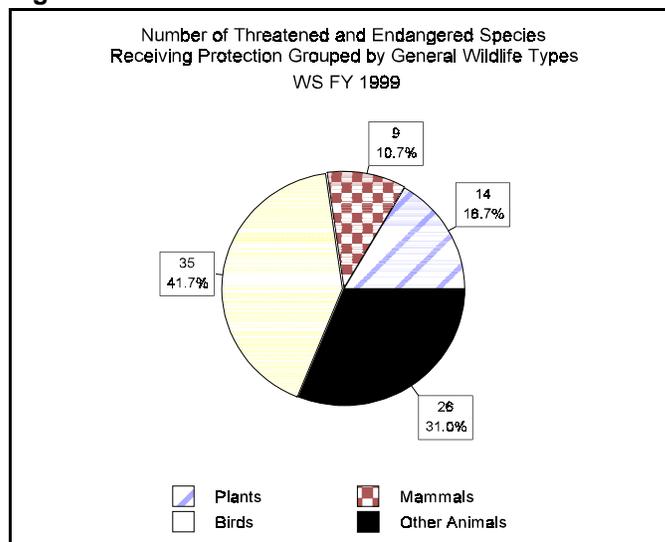
Key Performance Goal(s):

To protect threatened and endangered species from harm caused by wildlife - Obj. 3.1	
Percentage of Wildlife Services' threatened/endangered species projects where the population is increased or maintained	
Target:	90% of projects
Actual:	93% of projects

This performance goal was an "indicator" in the FY 1999 APHIS Performance Plan. The program has decided to elevate this indicator to its own performance goal in order to be able to properly give it the attention it deserves with respect to highlighting the excellent contribution that Wildlife Services is making toward ensuring the success of efforts to protect valuable endangered species in our country.

Trend Data: Threatened and Endangered Species Work (T & E) - The Wildlife Services (WS) program has played a significant role in the protection of various threatened or endangered species around the country. Program expertise has resulted in many groups, including other federal agencies, state and local governments, and even private conservation groups, turning to WS to minimize the impacts of predation in those instances when predation plays a significant role in the decline of endangered species populations.

Figure 1

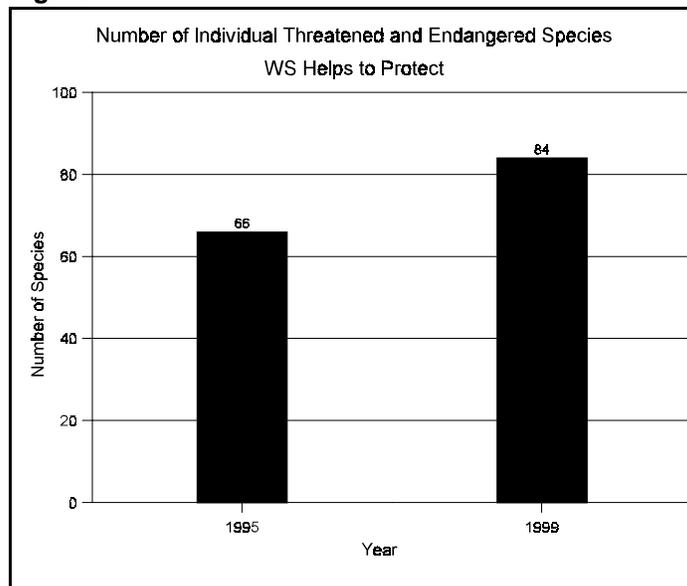


In FY 1999, 84 listed species were assisted by WS efforts. Though **Figure 1** shows these species grouped into generalized wildlife types, the number of species actually represent a wide range of taxa in 26 states, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. WS activities can be grouped in 2 large categories: 1) direct protection and 2) recovery enhancement. An example of a significant WS direct protection program is currently being implemented in Hawaii where WS is assisting the Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Navy and Army, the State of Hawaii, and the Nature Conservancy by controlling feral ungulates that prey on several listed plants, tree snails, and forest birds. A second example of the direct protection approach involves the removal of Arctic fox from Aleutian Canada goose nesting areas. WS has achieved significant results in protecting these geese on their breeding ground and ensuring nesting success. The

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has therefore, been able to designate the Aleutian goose as a recovered species and begin the process of removing it from the endangered and threatened species list. By contrast, recovery enhancement efforts implemented by the WS program are aimed at those listed species that cause damage to crops, livestock, and private property. For example, WS assists in the live capture of depredating Louisiana black bears in Louisiana for relocation. WS also assists in capturing depredating wolves in Idaho, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Montana, Wyoming, New Mexico, and Arizona. Removing species such as these from certain areas resolves conflict between the species and the public, resource owners and/or producers. This makes the public more tolerant of the presence of listed species and encourages their support of recovery programs such as species reintroduction. The successful wolf reintroduction program in Yellowstone National Park can be directly attributable to cooperation from local and regional land owners.

1999 Data: The information shown in **Figure 2** demonstrates the growth, in the last five years, in the number of threatened and endangered species that WS is helping to protect. WS currently tracks, by State, the number of projects implemented to protect threatened and endangered species. "Projects," for the purposes of this report are defined as all activities in a State assisting a single listed species. WS then measures the impact of its project activities on localized populations of these species (see Analysis of Results). For FY 1999 the WS program set a target that 90% of the Threatened & Endangered Species projects it participated in would result in the localized population of the targeted species increasing or, at a minimum, staying the same. WS exceeded this goal for FY 1999, and had an actual result of 93% (97 of 104 projects where the population was reported increased or maintained). These projects were conducted across 26 states, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands for FY 1999.

Figure 2



Analysis of Results: The WS performance goal was met by the program. The target of 90% of projects was exceeded by 3%. The protection and recovery of listed species requires input from a wide range of contributors and cooperative action from a number of different agencies, organizations, and individuals. Thus, measuring the impacts of one specific component of an endangered species project is difficult since it is rare that any single factor or set of activities is "responsible" for the demise or recovery of a threatened or endangered species. For example, there are some situations where predation is only one of the factors contributing to the decline of a species, and even though WS activities have effectively reduced losses caused by predation, the species population may continue to decline for a variety of other factors.

It is also difficult to make claims about the growth or decline of an *entire* population when the program is working on a very discrete project in a particular geographic area. While WS efforts may be very effective

in stabilizing or increasing a particular population on a specific beach or forest, for example, this does not mean that the species may be thriving overall. Because of these factors, the Wildlife Services program is focusing on the impact it makes for each listed species in the local population, rather than the population of the entire State or some other larger geographic area.

To illustrate this point, consider the case of a wide-ranging listed species such as the loggerhead or green sea turtles. Protecting turtles on nesting beaches is undoubtedly having a positive impact on the turtles' nesting success on that one beach, but it is difficult to say that WS actions are having a positive impact on the entire population. WS activities definitely impact *local* populations by providing protection from predation and are contributing to the overall success of a listed species, but considering the number of other factors that could be impacting sea turtle populations, it is impossible for WS to determine that their activities are "maintaining or increasing" a world wide population.

There are times when WS can determine the impact it has on an entire species population; however, this is generally an exception to the rule. If a species is somewhat isolated, and/or its range has a very limited geographic area, WS is more clearly able to determine the impact its work may be having on that whole population. This is particularly true when populations have dwindled down to very small numbers and are impacted by predation. For example, WS mongoose control in Puerto Rico has had a significant impact on protection and conservation of the entire population of Puerto Rican parrots. This population numbers less than 50 and so it can be accurately stated that the WS predator control program was significant in maintaining and/or increasing the entire population. The same can be said for species such as the San Clemente Island loggerhead shrike and Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep where the existence of very small isolated populations are susceptible to significant impacts from predation. Without WS intervention, entire remaining populations such as these face extinction.

Current Fiscal Year Performance: It is too early to determine current fiscal year (2000) performance for the WS T&E projects in various states. It is expected that the target will not change for FY 2000 based on the current fiscal year data. Once again, it is important to stress that the success of these threatened and endangered species populations is dependent on many factors, including cooperative funding. If cooperative funding is not available, or if it is inadequate, it may be more difficult for WS to continue to provide the added protection currently needed by these species. The wolf reintroduction program is a prime example of how vital funding is to a successful outcome. Without the resources to assist farmers and ranchers in coping with the ever-growing wolf depredation problems on livestock, it is likely these farmers and ranchers would be much less tolerant of wolf reintroduction efforts, which could have a significant impact on the program's success.

Program Evaluation(s): WS threatened and endangered species programs are reviewed and approved under the Section 7 consultation process by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) that has statutory authority for the management of federally listed species. WS participated in the completion of two EAs for T&E species in FY 1999. One was prepared by WS for the Department of Navy (San Clemente Loggerhead Shrike) and the other, for California Redwood Shores Peninsula, addresses multiple endangered bird species. UT, ID, and NM also conducted programmatic EAs covering multiple resources, including T&E resources in FY 1999. Copies of the EAs are available through the Operational Support Staff, Riverdale, MD, 301-734-7921.

Objective 3.2: Aquaculture Export - To assist the aquaculture industry in improving the health of aquatic livestock, to facilitate the movement of aquatic animals in international commerce. To reduce bird damage to aquaculture while ensuring the continued viability of migratory bird species.

Key Performance Goal(s):

Facilitate the movement of aquatic animals in international commerce - Obj. 3.2

Number of export markets receiving aquaculture products

Target: 50

Actual: 50

1999 Data: As certifications of the health of the live fish or germplasm are issued, they are entered into a national database that is used to record all health certifications for export animals and animal products. The data reported is derived from that National Export Health Certificate database.

Analysis of Results: The performance goal for this objective was met. Over the past three years, the number of export markets has remained the same. No new markets were opened because of pending regulatory authority to include aquatic animals as livestock. Efforts to expand aquaculture exports are limited until regulatory authority for animal health in the aquaculture industry has been obtained. Currently, efforts primarily include providing certification of the health of the live exotic fish and germplasm exported. In 1999, there was an increase in the number of shipments but not in the number of markets. The measure "Number of voluntary certification programs established for aquaculture" has been discontinued. See **Appendix A**, "Discontinued Performance Measures."

Current Fiscal Year Performance: The estimated level of performance in the current fiscal year is designed to increase activity in this area since we anticipate favorable comments on an advance notice of proposed rulemaking that will strengthen and better define APHIS' role in aquaculture. New program responsibilities will provide the basis for APHIS to further expand associated export markets.

Program Evaluation(s): No evaluation of the program will be performed until after comments have been reviewed on the advance notice of rulemaking. An understanding of the industry's concerns and needs is necessary before the program can be expanded.

Objective 3.4 Boll Weevil - To eradicate boll weevil from all cotton growing areas in the U.S. and Northern Mexico by the year 2003, in cooperation with States, the cotton industry, and Mexico.

Key Performance Goal(s):

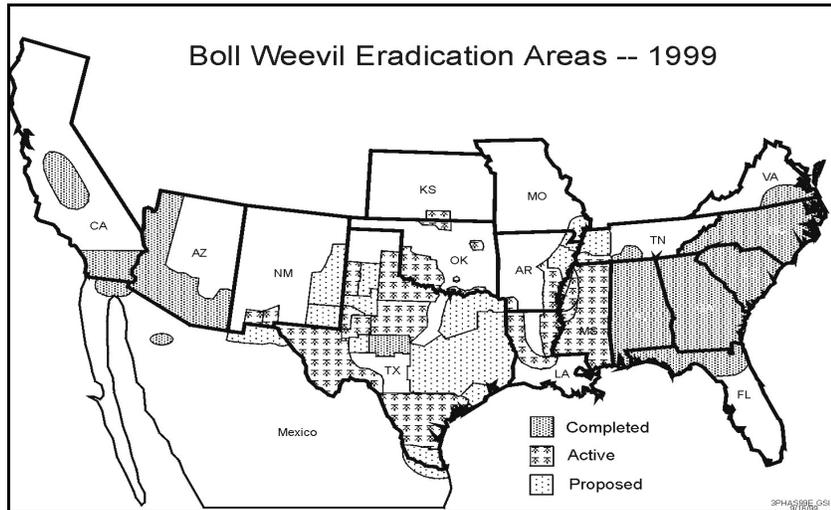
Eradicate Boll Weevil - Obj. 3.4

Cumulative acres eradicated of Boll Weevil (thousands)

Target: 4700

Actual: 4700

The following map indicates the progress the program has made through FY 1999 in eradicating the boll weevil. The percentage shown for each phase of the program represents the acreage in that phase compared to the total amount of cotton typically planted in the U.S. each year. Although the number of cumulative acres eradicated did not increase dramatically over the previous year, the number of acres involved in active eradication jumped from 2.4 million to 6.6 million in FY 1999. This means that within the next few years, significant acreage should move from the "active" phase to the "completed" phase of the program.



1999 Data: The data presented for FY 1999 is based on production figures provided by the National Cotton Council and the respective program areas. State laws require growers to certify their cotton acreage each year of an eradication program. The data collected during the certification process has been used to determine the acreage involved in each program area.

Analysis of Results: The performance goal was met. The process of boll weevil eradication requires from 3-5 years in each program area. Although only 300,000 acres moved from the active phase into the completed phase during FY 1999, over 4.2 million new acres moved into the active phase. This huge expansion of the program in FY 1999 sets the stage for significant progress within the next 2-3 years, as most of this new acreage moves through the eradication process.

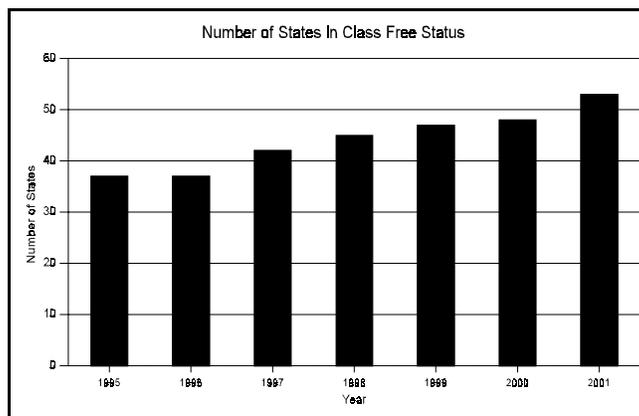
Current Fiscal Year Performance: The huge expansion in program acreage toward the end of FY 1999 presented a tremendous burden, but also a great opportunity, for program resources and personnel across the country. Although not flawless in their start-up activities, program personnel were very successful in their initial efforts to reduce weevil populations in new program areas in Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Texas. All areas saw significant reduction in weevil numbers during the first quarter of FY 2000. Field operations have, for the most part, concluded with the arrival of a killing frost across the various program areas. As the 2000 cotton crop is planted this coming spring, several thousand seasonal employees will be hired, trained, and put to the task of weevil eradication. Their commitment and attention to detail will result in significant progress toward weevil eradication in the next 2-3 years.

Program Evaluation(s): No program evaluations were conducted in FY 1999, but all of the program areas did participate in a program review in December 1998. Problems were identified and solutions developed. For a copy of the meeting summary contact the Director of APHIS Plant Health Programs at 301-734-8261. The programs ran more efficiently in 1999 than in the previous year, partly because of the information which was exchanged during the year-end review. As a result, program managers and other personnel will meet again in December 1999 to review the national effort in weevil eradication. All 8 active program areas will participate in the 2-day review. The lessons learned in other areas again will be carried home to each of the programs, resulting in more efficient operations in 2000.

Objective 3.5: Brucellosis - To continue brucellosis eradication procedures in domestic cattle, swine, and bison for at least 5 to 10 years after eradication of the disease from all states to eliminate any disease sources found and prove to the international community that the disease has been eradicated.

Key Performance Goal(s):**Eradicate Brucellosis - Obj. 3.5**

States in Class Free Status (includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and the District of Columbia)

Target: 50**Actual:** 47**Trend Data:**

Year	Number of Free Status States
1995	37
1996	37
1997	42
1998	45
1999	47
2000	48
2001	53

1999 Data: The 1999 data was collected from lists maintained by the National Animal Health Programs (NAHP) staff. Each State must submit an annual report that verifies it complies with program standards. There are program standards for States achieving class-free status. States that maintain class-free status are added to the list.

Analysis of Results: Performance goal was not met. A state cannot be free if infection is present within the State. Detailed program reviews were conducted in the remaining Class A states in order to identify any weaknesses in state programs that may cause a delay in the completion of eradication in those states. As a result of those reviews, and due to the Emergency Action Plan that is in effect, enhanced surveillance and increased activity resulted in identifying more affected herds than expected.

Description of Actions and Schedules: The weaknesses identified in the state program reviews have been addressed and increased activity as a result continues. This will be necessary in order to identify any remaining affected herds. In addition, national slaughter surveillance is being enhanced, since this is becoming the primary mechanism for conducting national surveillance. A previously conducted review of the slaughter surveillance system identified weaknesses in this system as well. A national surveillance coordinator was appointed in 1999 which should help strengthen surveillance activities in FY 2000.

Current Fiscal Year Performance: Efforts, including surveillance, will continue to focus on the goal of having all states brucellosis free. Correction of the deficiencies identified will help the program to progress. Program improvements are put into place to better verify the absence of brucellosis and to find any new or isolated cases. At the end of FY 2000, it is projected that there will be no affected herds remaining under quarantine, with the possible exception of one captive bison herd, that has a goal of quarantine release by November, 2000. All states are projected to be classified as brucellosis Class Free by the end of FY 2001.

Program Evaluation(s): Program evaluations conducted in Missouri, Louisiana, Florida, Oklahoma and Texas identified the deficiencies mentioned previously. Program reviews in these states will be conducted as necessary in FY 2000 to ensure continued progress in brucellosis eradication.

Objective 3.6: Golden Nematode - To maintain a risk based management system to prevent the spread of golden nematode and new infestations in potatoes, and to facilitate international and interstate agricultural shipments.

Key Performance Goal(s):

<u>Increase acres surveyed to prevent spread of golden nematode - Obj. 3.6</u>	
Number of acres surveyed for Golden Nematode	
Target:	3,000
Actual:	3,761

Trend Data: Two important trends exist.

1. Increasing number of treatments to prevent Golden Nematode (GN) spread:

Development of agricultural land on Long Island resulted in the increased risk of GN spreading due to used farm equipment moving from farms on Long Island which are going out of business or relocating to other states. PPQ personnel perform all tasks involved in cleaning and fumigation of used farm equipment. A new heat treatment to replace methyl bromide fumigation has been developed by an ARS Nematologist, Cornell University, and will be implemented by PPQ. Attached chart shows number of GN treatments increasing.

2. Detection of another GN race (RO2) on Long Island:

A second race of GN known as R02 has been detected on two fields in Suffolk County, Long Island. R02 can overcome the resistance built into most potato varieties resistant to GN race RO1. There is a need for increased nematode surveys which have been below protocol level since 1992.

1999 Data: GN program data is collected directly from PPQ field personnel by the program manager. Program personnel have 20+ years experience in conducting survey, regulatory and treatment functions. Live GN cysts extracted from soil samples are submitted to an ARS Nematologist for GN race determination.

GN Survey Statistics for New York State			
	Upstate	Long Island	Total
FY 1995	3576	1370	4946
FY 1996	1999	4	2040
FY 1997	2848	8	2856
FY 1998	2885	467	3352
FY 1999	3096	665	3761
FY 2000 *	5000	1200	6200
FY 2001*	5000	1200	6200

Analysis of Results: The performance goal was exceeded. The FY 1999 performance goal of 3,000 acres was surpassed by 761 acres. The following performance indicators which are incorporated in the performance measure "Slow progress of pest or disease" have been discontinued:

- New States infested with Golden Nematode
- New counties in NY infested with Golden Nematode
- Percent fields in regulated area with Golden Nematode populations below spread level (where the only Golden Nematode cysts found were non-viable)

Please refer to **Appendix A**, "Discontinued Performance Measures" for an explanation.

Current Fiscal Year Performance: Accomplishment of current fiscal year performance goals are being

hampered by lack of personnel on Long Island.

Program Evaluation(s): No program evaluations completed in FY 1999.

Objective 3.7: Gypsy Moth - To manage the risk of artificial spread of the European gypsy moth into uninfested areas of the U.S.

Key Performance Goal(s):

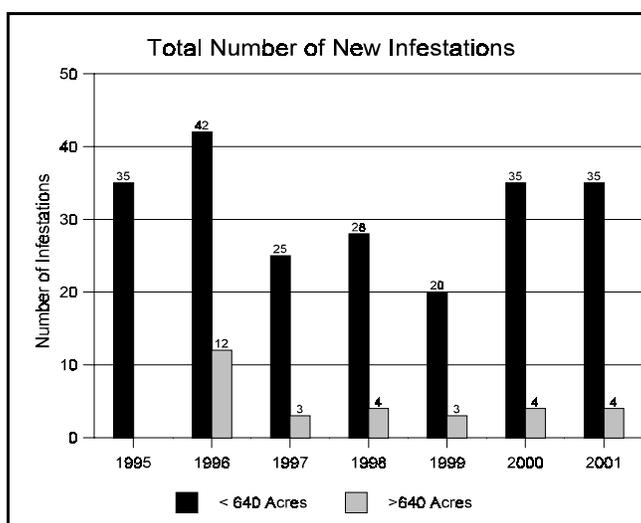
Reduce the Number of Gypsy Moth infestations - Obj. 3.7

Number of isolated infestations exceeding 640 acres

Target: 4

Actual: 3

Trend Data:



1999 Data: The data are based on the calendar year and are derived from several sources. A system to better capture data is being developed therefore, the 1995-1999 data is compiled for this report from various state records, the NAPIS database, and Forest Service records. Trapping and survey results are not normally available until January following the year of survey.

APHIS treated 20 small, isolated infestations on a total of approximately 14,000 acres in FY 1999, compared to 31 infestations of approximately 16,600 acres in FY 1998. Of the 20 infestations in 1999, 3 were detected after exceeding 640 acres. That number is down from 4 infestations over 640 acres in 1998.

Analysis of Results: The performance goal was exceeded. APHIS works to prevent the artificial, long distance movement of the European gypsy moth (EGM) to uninfested areas of the United States. Currently this program includes survey, control and regulatory activities. The performance goal of reducing the number of GM infestations exceeding 640 acres was achieved. In addition, the total number of new infestations of 640 acres or less treated by APHIS in 1999 was reduced from 23 in 1998 to 20 in 1999. The National "Slow-the-Spread" (STS) program, a cooperative effort between the Forest Service (FS), APHIS and participating states, may be credited for the reduction in the number of new infestations. In 1998, STS caused a 65% reduction in new territory invaded by GM. Also, because the program was taken to national status in FY 1999, the control activities APHIS previously performed in these areas would now fall under the STS program and be conducted by the Forest Service in 1999. The following performance indicator which is incorporated in the performance measure "Slow progress of pest or

disease” has been discontinued: Number of isolated infestations of Gypsy Moth on 640 acres. Please refer to **Appendix A**, “Discontinued Performance Measures” for an explanation.

Current Fiscal Year Performance: In FY 1999, the APHIS EGM program received approximately the same level of funding as in FY1998. With this funding, APHIS conducted regulatory, survey, and treatment activities. Regulatory activities within the generally infested area and enhanced regulatory activities within the STS area include activities regulating the movement of logs, pulpwood, mobile homes, nursery stock, Christmas trees and outdoor household articles and are designed to prevent the establishment of isolated GM populations outside the generally infested areas. Survey activities decreased within the STS program area as FS took over those activities. Detection surveys are done at program protocols and new protocols for survey just outside the STS action area are being developed.

In FY 1999, infested nursery stock was shipped from several infested states to uninfested states in the central U.S. Surveys will be done in FY 2000 at many of the sites where the infested nursery stock was found. Also, tracebacks to the originating states is still undergoing investigation involving the Investigative and Enforcement Services (IES) staff. This may cause the total number of isolated infestations under 640 acres to rise in FY 2000 however, because the violations were found soon after they occurred, the number of new infestations over 640 acres should not rise. It has been determined that reporting the number of “new” infestations is a better way of demonstrating this programs effectiveness beginning in FY 2000.

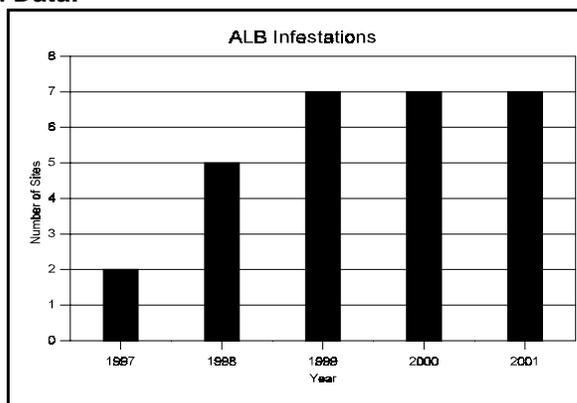
In FY 2000, APHIS continues to fund the STS regulatory program at the reduced funding level while FS was successful in securing funding for their part of the program for FY 2000. APHIS’ budget request for FY2001 includes the total amount of funding (\$500,000) to do the STS program however, it is unclear at this time whether full funding will be achieved.

Program Evaluation(s): In FY 1999, the Gypsy Moth Management Team (GMMT) sent out a questionnaire to all states requesting input on eradication programs, survey and detection methods and data, regulatory duties and communication between cooperating agencies. The purpose was to use the collected information to improve the overall EGM program. A 94% success rate was achieved in having the questionnaire returned and the GMMT is working to compile the data into a report that is due to be published in January 2000. The information obtained will be shared with the states, the National Plant Board members and other stakeholders.

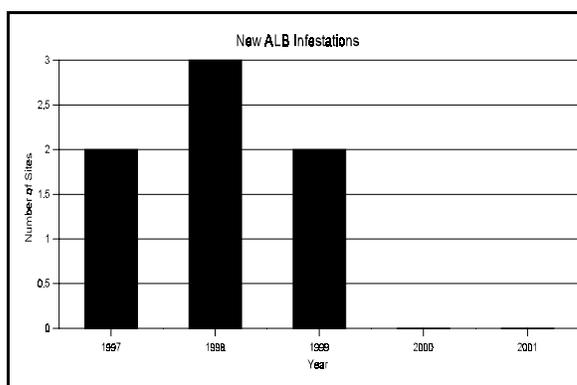
Objective 3.8: Emerging Plant Pests - Asian Longhorn Beetle (ALB)

Key Performance Goal(s):

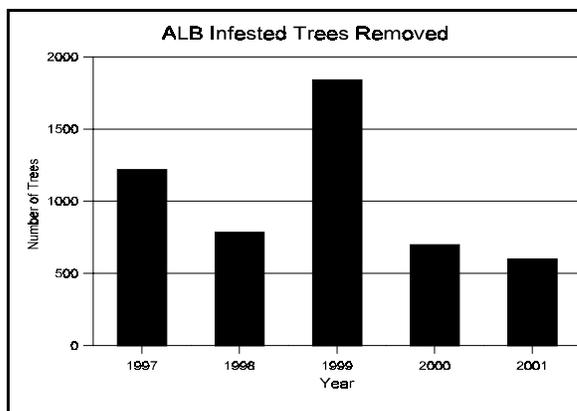
<u>Eradicate Asian Longhorn Beetle (ALB) - Obj. 3.8</u>	
ALB infestation sites	
Target:	5
Actual:	7

Trend Data:

Year	ALB Infestation Sites	Target
1997	2	
1998	5	
1999	7	5
2000		7
2001		7



Year	New ALB Infestations	Target
1997	2	
1998	3	
1999	2	
2000		0
2001		0



Year	ALB Infested Trees Removed	Target
1997	1220	
1998	784	
1999	1841	
2000		700
2001		600

ALB infestations and new ALB infestations are defined as those areas currently infested, which are listed in the Federal Register with distinct boundaries. Tree removal figures are actual numbers of trees removed by year.

1999 Data: The experience gained in conducting the cooperative ALB eradication program in previous years led to changes in 1999. These changes include the following: All survey methods were improved by utilizing both bucket trucks and tree climbers to conduct surveys in the upper canopy of host trees. Ground visual surveys are estimated to be approximately 30% percent effective in determining ALB infestations. The addition of bucket trucks to the survey procedures raises the efficiency of survey to 50%. When tree climbers are used in conjunction with ground and bucket trucks survey efficiency increases to approximately 75%. In Chicago, this improved survey technique resulted in 400 trees being identified as infested with ALB that would have escaped detection in previous years. The ability to identify

low level ALB infestations in the upper canopy of host trees is critical to the eradication effort and is reflected in the number of infested host trees removed during 1999.

This survey technique was also utilized in response to public reports of ALB outside of existing quarantine areas. The improved ability to detect low level infestations of ALB resulted in two additional areas being placed under quarantine in 1999. This early detection is essential to the eradication effort, as the scope of the infestation must be clearly defined before successful eradication can begin.

In addition, a cooperative ALB survey was conducted in the states of New Jersey, North Carolina, Oregon, Texas and Washington. This program involved both survey and public outreach activities for ALB. To date all of these surveys have been negative. This data strongly suggests that ALB is indeed limited to the New York and Chicago metropolitan areas.

As a result of the survey improvements and the cooperative ALB survey on the national level the program produced higher quality and more reliable data than in previous years.

Analysis of Results: This performance goal was not met. The increase of infested sites in Chicago and New York to seven (7) exceeds the target of five (5) set for the program. The ability of the cooperative eradication program to detect low level ALB infestations is directly responsible for the discovery of these two new sites.

These new infestations required the cooperative programs to redirect their work loads to meet the increased demand for intensive core and delimiting surveys. As a result existing program personnel were required to focus on establishing quarantine boundaries, compliance agreements, and other regulatory activities to prevent the further spread of ALB in these areas.

As research into the biology of ALB progresses, methods of survey and control will continue to evolve. The improved survey techniques will result in increased detection of ALB until the scope of the infestation is completely delimited. Once delimitation is complete, regulatory and control techniques will begin to have a positive effect on ALB eradication efforts.

The following performance indicators which are incorporated in the performance measure "Slow progress of pest or disease" have been discontinued:

- New Counties infested with Pine Shoot Beetle (Emerging Plant Pests)
- Japanese Beetle infestations that occur within the protected States as a result of aircraft movement (Emerging Plant Pests)
- Percent flights arriving in protected States that are in compliance with APHIS Japanese Beetle regulations (Emerging Plant Pests)

Please refer to **Appendix A**, "Discontinued Performance Measures" for an explanation.

Description of Actions and Schedules: The cooperative program is taking the following actions to address ALB in FY 2000.

1. Surveys will utilize approximately double the number tree climbers and bucket trucks to survey the upper canopy of host trees to detect low level ALB infestations. This will allow the program to expedite the eradication process by detecting ALB infestations early in their developmental cycle.
2. Research on an effective pheromone attractant and acoustic detection continues, and is expected to be completed during Federal fiscal year 2000. These detection techniques will allow the program to detect ALB infestations which are not visible to the current visual surveys. These survey tools are expected to provide a 95% confidence level in the detection of ALB.
3. Field trials of soil injected imidacloprid (Merit 75WP) will be conducted in New York and Chicago this spring to determine the efficacy of this product for ALB control. If successful, this injection process may protect trees from being infested by ALB. This has the potential to significantly reduce the number of host trees which are required to be removed for ALB facilitating the eradication

process.

4. An eradication plan will be developed this Federal fiscal year using the expertise acquired in the NY and IL cooperative programs. This plan will provide a standardized set of guidelines for dealing with ALB infestations regardless of where they occur and ensure that all eradication programs are biologically sound.

5. The national ALB coordinator position will be filled in January of 2000. This position will be responsible for the coordination of eradication, public outreach, research, and regulatory aspects of ALB on a national level.

6. An early detection system to identify infestations of ALB and other exotic wood boring pests will be developed, using the survey methods developed on the current eradication program as well as the techniques developed during the National Pilot Survey of ALB. This detection tool will enhance the ability of PPQ and our cooperators to detect ALB as it arrives in the country prior to establishment in the environment.

Current Fiscal Year Performance: Before an ALB infestation site can be officially terminated from the eradication program, it must undergo five years of negative detection and delimiting surveys within the regulated area and two years of negative biometric surveys outside of the regulated area.

Based on this year's results the program will continue for at least five additional years. The improved survey techniques developed in FY 1999 led to an increase in the detection of low level ALB infestations. By detecting ALB infestations at low levels the eradication process becomes more cost effective and biologically sound. This trend is expected to continue in FY 2000.

Program Evaluation(s): A program review was conducted in NY during FY 1999. This review identified the need for a consistent eradication plan and recommended that surveys utilize tree climbers and bucket trucks. The implementation of the survey related recommendations, resulted in the identification of additional low level ALB infestations.

Objective 3.9: Noxious Weeds - To detect and delimit incipient infestations of exotic weed species, and to support weed management initiatives for those species which may damage agriculture and native habitats.

Key Performance Goal(s):

Minimize the introduction and establishment of foreign weeds in U.S. - Obj. 3.9

New weed infestations detected/assessed through the National Early Warning System

Target: 10

Actual: 12

1999 Data: APHIS detected new weed infestations through current program interdiction activities in ports, field inspections and survey. The National Early Warning System currently being implemented, will improve APHIS capacity for early detection and delimiting of weed infestation.

Analysis of Results: The performance goal was met. The detection of 12 infestations exceeds the established goal of 10 new detections. The following performance indicator along with its performance measure "Technology Transfers" has been discontinued: "New instances of technology transfer per year (Noxious Weeds)". Please refer to **Appendix A**, "Discontinued Performance Measures" for an explanation.

Current Fiscal Year Performance: Establishment of a Staff position for a Noxious Weed Program Coordinator was pursued in FY 1999, with the position being filled early in FY 2000. This will improve National coordination of detection activities, and development of eradication/control programs for Invasive noxious weeds. Plans are underway to undertake an APHIS "Weeds Program Goals and Roles" workshop to evaluate the currently APHIS Noxious Weeds Policy and propose modifications, and to assess the ability of the current program infrastructure to respond adequately to detections. A workshop on establishment of additional early warning network components is also planned in cooperation with other

FICMNEW members.

Program Evaluation(s): No program evaluations were conducted for FY 1999, however, activities related to establishment of new State and Regional Invasive Species councils have continued in FY 1999, which will aid in detection and survey for new noxious weed infestations and for development of APHIS portions of the Invasive Species Management Plan. Lack of FY 2000 funding for the Invasive Species Initiative will limit development of new program activities related to the initiative.

Objective 3.10: Pink Bollworm - To prevent infestations in the San Joaquin Valley of California, and provide risk-based, area-wide management of Pink Bollworm cooperatively with industry.

Key Performance Goal(s):

Minimize infestations of Pink Bollworm outside of regulated areas - Obj. 3.10

New infestations of Pink Bollworm outside regulated area

Target: 2

Actual: 0

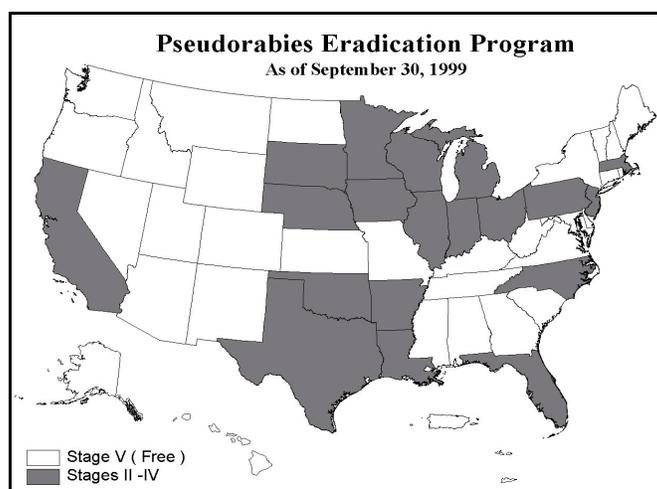
The following map indicates the extent of the trapping survey which was done during FY 1999. The objective of this trapping portion of the Pink Bollworm Program is to detect any new infestations outside the regulated areas. For FY 1999, the target was to detect no more than 2 new infestations. Based on the trapping data indicated, no new infestations were detected. Late-season weather events can artificially move moths from southern California up into the San Joaquin Valley, threatening this large area of pink bollworm-free cotton.



1999 Data: The data presented on the map for FY 1999 were provided by APHIS State Plant Health Directors and their corresponding State plant health regulatory officials. During FY 1999, 2,397 pheromone traps were placed and monitored across the Southeast. No pink bollworm moths, and therefore no infestations, were detected. Regarding the production and release of sterile pink bollworm moths in the San Joaquin Valley, a total of 1,482 million sterile moths were produced at the rearing facility in Phoenix, Arizona. Of this amount, 875 million were released by aircraft across the San Joaquin Valley, with most of the remainder being released in southern California. In addition, over 13,200 traps were monitored in the valley to detect any new introductions of pink bollworm.

Analysis of Results: The performance goal was exceeded. The annual release of sterile moths prevent native moths, which move into the San Joaquin Valley, from mating successfully, thereby preventing the pest from getting established in nearly 1 million acres of high-yielding cotton. During FY 1999, a late-season tropical depression carried several hundred native moths up from southern California into the San Joaquin Valley. Many of these moths were caught in traps, but the situation will have to be monitored closely early next season to guard against reproduction and establishment of the pest. Negative trapping in the Southeast confirmed the absence of pink bollworm in that part of the country. The following performance indicator which is incorporated in the performance measure "Slow progress of pest or disease" has been discontinued: "Area-wide trapping programs initiated in the Trans Pecos / El Paso area of Texas (Pink Bollworm)". See **Appendix A**, "Discontinued Performance Measures" for explanation under this objective.

Current Fiscal Year Performance: The late-season migration of hundreds of native moths into the San Joaquin Valley is cause for concern as we go into FY 2000. Unusually mild temperatures toward the end of 1999 have increased the likelihood of some pink bollworm pupae making it through the winter. Effective trapping will be essential in the valley, combined with an accurate and consistent release of high-quality sterile moths.



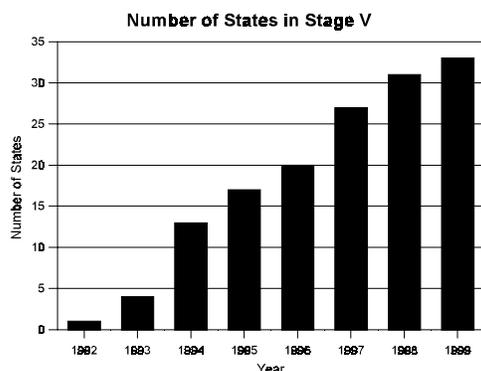
Program Evaluation(s): The National Cotton Council's Pink Bollworm Action Committee held its annual meeting in Phoenix, Arizona, on October 11-12, 1999. The group reviewed the status of the program and current plans for implementing an area-wide eradication program. The group discussed the status of current research on this pest, and considered the impacts of any adjustments in refugia requirements for Bt cotton by the Environmental Protection Agency. Larger refugia, for the purpose of reducing the risk of the pink bollworm developing resistance, would make an area-wide eradication program unfeasible. For a copy of the meeting summary contact the Director of APHIS Plant Health Programs at 301-734-8261.

Objective 3.11: Pseudorabies - To eradicate pseudorabies from the swine population of the U.S.

Key Performance Goal(s):

<u>Eradicate Pseudorabies - Obj. 3.11</u>	
Number of States in Stage V	
Target:	37
Actual:	33

Trend Data:



Number of Stage V States	
1992	1
1993	4
1994	13
1995	17
1996	20
1997	27
1998	31
1999	33
2000	41
2001	50

1999 Data: With the increased surveillance in 1999, the data can be considered very accurate and reliable. Also, all 33 State programs are under continual review by staff and also by an independent seven member National Pseudorabies Control Board.

Analysis of Results: The program did not meet its performance goal as it was four states short of its target. At the beginning of fiscal year 1999, there were 31 states that were in stage V (free) and 1305 premises that were quarantined because of the disease. As a result of additional surveillance, 841 other premises were quarantined for a total of 2146 premises. By the end of the fiscal year, the total number of premises under quarantine had been reduced to 430. A total of 1056 premises were released from quarantine through the Pseudorabies program and 660 premises were released through the Accelerated Pseudorabies Eradication Program (APEP). The APEP contributed by depopulating the herds from those 660 premises.

As a result of the efforts of the two programs, 3 states advanced to Stage V while one state dropped back to Stage III because of a new infection that had not been eliminated by the end of the fiscal year. Eight states were in Stage IV at the end of fiscal year 1999 and will advance to stage V (free) status one year after attaining their Class IV status. Some States (Iowa, Minnesota, and Indiana in particular) are still experiencing very active disease. Because of this disease activity, other States have been delayed in their progress because of disease spread across State borders.

Description of Actions and Schedules: Iowa, Minnesota, and Indiana are scheduled to eliminate all of their infected herds in FY 2000. All States will advance rapidly in status when this happens. As a result of the National Work Conference and state program reviews, plans developed to deal with the remaining infected premises will be carried out.

Current Fiscal Year Performance: If no additional disease is found, eight additional states will be added to stage V by the end of fiscal year 2000. Every other state has the opportunity to move to Stage IV this fiscal year. So far, the number of infected herds has dropped from 430 on September 30, 1999 to 312 on October 31.

Program Evaluation(s): No external reviews were conducted in FY 1999.

Objective 3.12 Scrapie - To control and ultimately eradicate scrapie from the U.S.

Key Performance Goal(s):

Eradicate Scrapie - Obj. 3.12

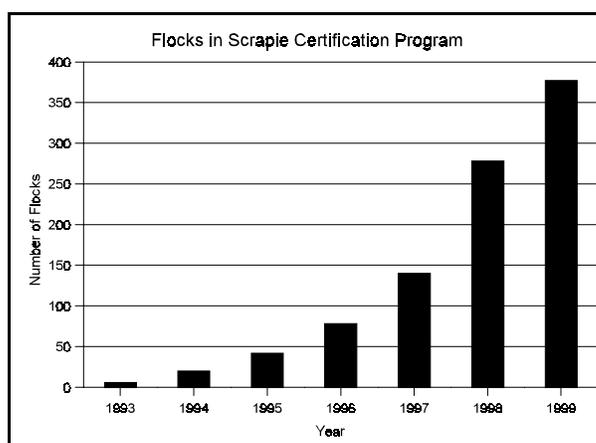
Flocks advancing in the Voluntary Scrapie Flock Certification Program

Target: 275

Actual: 377

*Note: Data was compiled on September 24, 1999.

Trend Data: A somewhat different method was used to compute the data prior to 1999. Because of changes in program definitions in 1998 and database limitations, it is not possible to recompute the figures. In general, the figures for those years may be slightly underreported. However, the trend shown has not changed.



Year	# of Flocks
1993	6
1994	20
1995	42
1996	78
1997	140
1998	278
1999	377
2000	400
2001	600

1999 Data: The data was generated by counting all flocks enrolled in the complete monitored category of the Voluntary Scrapie Flock Certification Program whose status date was not changed during FY 1999 or that had certified status. Status date changes are reported by the area offices based on flock owner reporting or inspection reports completed by Veterinary Services (VS) personnel. The data is provided by the VS area offices either through direct database entry or by fax or e-mail to the national program staff. A small degree of error may be present due to late reporting or data entry errors.

Analysis of Results: The scrapie program exceeded the goal by 102 flocks. The increase was primarily due to increased program enrollment in FY 1999. The increased enrollment can be attributed to changes in the VSFCP standards that were effective January 1, 1998 and to changes in Mexico's import requirements for sheep requiring that imports from the U.S. come from certified flocks.

Current Fiscal Year Performance: The scrapie program should exceed the estimated levels of performance (275 flocks progressing) for fiscal year 2000. FY 2000 levels should exceed the FY 1999 performance level (377 flocks progressing) due to additional flocks enrolling in the program.

Program Evaluation(s): No external reviews were conducted in FY 1999.

Note: The *performance measure* is under review for the FY 2001 budget.

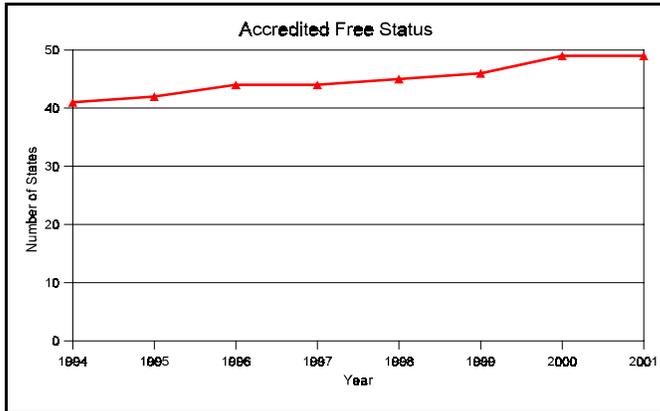
Objective 3.13: Tuberculosis - To eradicate tuberculosis from the bovine population of the U.S. by the year 2003.

Key Performance Goal(s):

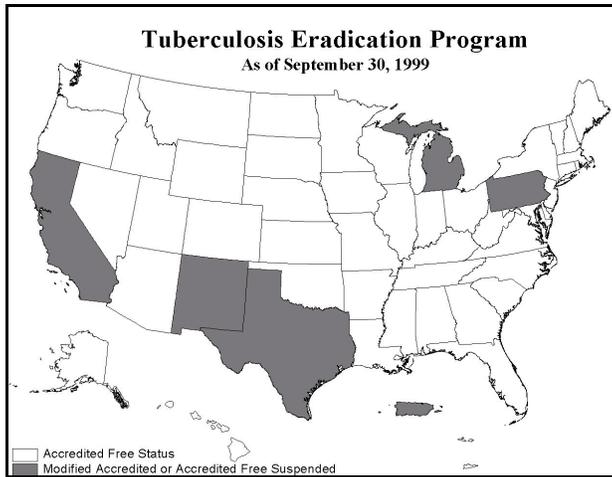
Eradicate Tuberculosis - Obj. 3.13	
States (includes Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands) in Accredited Free Status	
Target:	47
Actual:	*46

*Note: 45 States and the U.S. Virgin Islands were in Accredited Free Status by the end of fiscal year 1999 (September 30, 1999). On October 20, 1999, California, Pennsylvania, and Puerto Rico advanced to Accredited Free Status, bringing the total up to 49.

Trend Data: Since 1990, there has been a net movement of 5 States increasing in Status toward freedom, with the all of the increase happening since 1994.



Year	Number of Accredited Free States	Target
1994	41	
1995	42	
1996	44	
1997	44	
1998	45	
1999	46	47
2000		49
2001		49



1999 Data: Forty-five States plus the U.S. Virgin Islands are Accredited-free for bovine tuberculosis in cattle and bison. Four States, California, Pennsylvania, New Mexico, Texas, and Puerto Rico are Modified Accredited for bovine tuberculosis. Michigan is currently classified as Accredited-free Suspended. Data is based upon field reporting and reviews conducted by Veterinary Services staff. This data shows the general movement of the U.S. toward tuberculosis freedom in cattle and bison. It doesn't, however, show the impact of bovine tuberculosis on other livestock entities, nor does it show the degree of our surveillance to assure freedom.

Analysis of Results: The program did not meet its performance goal for FY 1999. 1999 showed the Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication Program moving closer to the final eradication scheduled for 2003, but also failing to achieve the surveillance goals that would assure that eradication is achieved. By the end of

the 1999 calendar year, every State, except zones within Texas and Michigan, could be eligible for Accredited-Free Status for cattle, bison, and goats. State status for captive cervids will also be considered during the upcoming year to further advance program goals. However, the main avenue of surveillance for cattle and bison, slaughter surveillance, is woefully inadequate to detect tuberculosis in the United States cattle and bison populations.

Description of Actions and Schedules: Data collected during this fiscal year has shown that our surveillance for tuberculosis in all livestock needs to be enhanced to assure that the country is ready to declare freedom. If current trends remain, then the eradication date of December 31, 2003 is not going to be met.

To assure that our surveillance does not miss any domestically infected herds, slaughter surveillance needs to be enhanced to assure the collection of identification from all samples submitted. Meat inspection personnel also need to be encouraged to submit more samples for tuberculosis evaluation, especially all animals condemned for any granulomatous like lesion. Enhanced surveillance will assure the validity of State status and assure an upward trend in States obtaining free status for cattle and bison.

Current Fiscal Year Performance: On October 20, 1999, California, Pennsylvania, and Puerto Rico obtained Accredited-free status. Michigan and Texas are working toward a split status zone designation for the areas within each State containing cases of bovine tuberculosis. This classification would allow the majority of each of these States to have Accredited-free status for cattle and bison.

New Mexico has conducted extensive surveillance of their cattle industries to assure that there has been no spread of disease from the previous infection four years ago. Given this high degree of testing, New Mexico could qualify for Accredited-free status in four years, rather than five. Program managers are currently assessing if such an exemption is scientifically sound. These activities should be finished by the end of FY 2000.

Program Evaluation(s): There were no program evaluations done in 1999 and none are currently planned.

Objective 3.14: Witchweed - To eradicate witchweed from the U.S. and to maintain survey activities to substantiate that eradication has been accomplished.

Key Performance Goal(s):

Reduce acres infested with Witchweed - Obj. 3.14

Acres infested with witchweed at end of season

Target: 5,100

Actual: 5,540

Trend Data: The following table reflects Witchweed survey and eradication activity for two years previous to 1999 and projects similar activity for two years hence.

	Witchweed Activity	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01
	Acres of appraisal survey ¹	67,193	44,696	43,600	27,000	19,600
	Acres of released survey ²	89,747	93,869	78,400	66,700	96,000
	Acres of delimiting/detection survey ³	11,283	7,833	12,500	14,000	8,000
	Acres under eradication treatment	16,140	10,577	5,000	4,500	4,500
	Certificates/permits issued ⁴	1,170	830	900	900	800
	Acres infested at end of season	10,794	7,710	5,540	4,512	4,064
	Acres released from quarantine at end of season ⁵	4,028	3,984	1,591	2,828	1,248
	Acres terminated from project at end of season	17,700	12,910	13,200	21,300	16,800
	Percent reduction in infested acres (from previous year)	19	29	28	16	10
	Released acres in the project ⁶	127,400	115,900	122,000	114,900	12,000
Outcome	Acres terminated from the project (cumulative) ⁷	269,441	283,742	296,942	318,242	33,504

1999 Data: The acreage reported in the above data table are preliminary. Data collection, entry, and final analysis is complete in late Fall. Final number will be available in mid December, 1999, with final analysis in January, 2000.

Analysis of Results: The performance goal was not met. Detection (on acres without Witchweed detected) and delimiting (on acres adjacent to Witchweed infested acres) surveys found 2% of new acres to be infested. Follow up survey on acres in the "Release Category" detected an additional 1.1% of the released acres to be reinfested with Witchweed. Assuming that infested acres at the beginning of the season - (acres released at the end of the season) + (new infested acres) + (reinfested acres) = currently infested acres, hence, a slight increase in infested acreage was reported.

Since some of the "Release Category" acres were infested, the typical release sequence on an infested field, i.e., (Detection + 3-5 years treatment ---> release = 10 years follow up survey ---> termination), is interrupted. Consequently, only 55% of the acres projected for release at the end of 1999 were actually released. The following performance indicators which are incorporated in the performance measure "Eradicate pest or disease" have been discontinued: "Witchweed acres released from quarantine at end of season" and "Cumulative acres terminated from the project (Witchweed)". See **Appendix A**, "Discontinued Performance Measures" for explanation of these two indicators being dropped.

Description of Actions and Schedules: While acres infested at the end of the 1999 season had a slight increase over 1998, the overall acres terminated from the project continue to increase. Changes in scheduling of survey and control activity are not anticipated.

1 Appraisal surveys are conducted approximately four times per growing season on infested acres.

2 Released acres have received eradication treatment and are in the "Release Category" for 10 years.

3 Delimiting surveys are conducted in areas bordering infestations, detection surveys in areas never infested with Witchweed.

4 Certificates/permits allow movement of commodities outside quarantine area.

5 Witchweed has been eradicated, and acres have been released from quarantine.

6 Acres remain in "Release Category" for 10 years pending eradication verification.

7 Acres terminated from project after verification of Witchweed eradication.

Current Fiscal Year Performance: Conditions during 1999 that impacted the release of acres included: 1) Adverse weather conditions, e.g., drought followed by a pair of hurricanes caused lodging of crops and delayed scheduled treatment. 2) Ethylene applications to deplete seed populations are not effective when applied during drought conditions. 3) Similarly, herbicide effectiveness is reduced when field conditions are too dry or wet. 4) Some of the infested acres currently in the program are the most difficult to eradicate due to cropping situations, changes in land use, and lack of owner cooperation. Finally, a reduction of approximately \$145,000 in Agency level funding forced Witchweed eradication activity from control to survey.

Program Evaluation(s): No program evaluations were conducted in FY 1999. In December, 1999, State Cooperators, State Plant Health Directors, and the Witchweed Technical Advisory Group will complete the annual review of the Witchweed Project. Review of acreage status, project success and setbacks, and recommended changes will be discussed. Informational meetings with Agriculture Extension Agents was carried out at the end of the current survey/control season. Additionally, newsletters on the status of Witchweed in the county was distributed to growers. Discussions with Farm Service Agencies in North Carolina have started to address Witchweed eradication obstacles, particularly, non cooperation by growers.

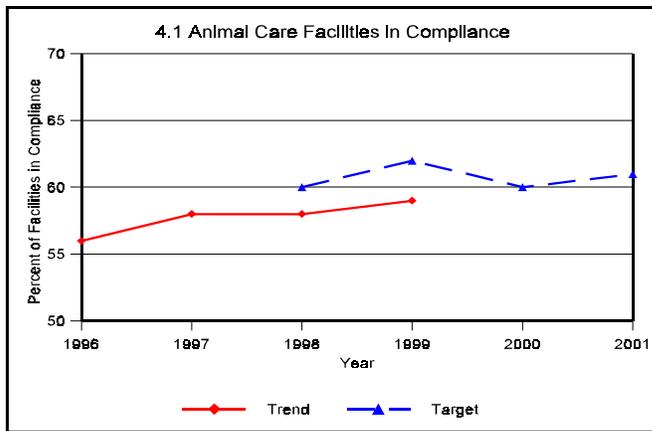
Goal 4: Animal Care – Ensure the humane care and treatment of animals covered under the Animal Welfare Act and the Horse Protection Act.

Objective 4.1: To ensure high levels of compliance with the humane care and treatment standards for all warm-blooded animals covered by the Animal Welfare Act and used for research and exhibition purposes, sold as pets, or transported in commerce.

Key Performance Goal(s):

Increase the percentage of facilities in compliance - Obj. 4.1	
Percent of facilities in compliance	
Target:	62%
Actual:	59%

Trend Data:



Year	Percent facilities in compliance	Target
1996	56%	
1997	58%	
1998	58%	60%
1999	59%	62%
2000		60%
2001		61%

1999 Data: The Animal Care compliance data come from Animal Care inspection reports completed by inspectors at the conclusion of each inspection. With a copy of the inspector's report provided to the facility, there is ample opportunity for inspectors and regulated entities to catch errors and correct them. At the end of the fiscal year data are extracted automatically from Animal Care's database. The resulting database output is combined and summarized for GPRA purposes by an independent analyst in Policy and Program Development (PPD) using microcomputer database and spreadsheet software. Animal Care GPRA compliance data are 99% complete. For FY 1999, data were unavailable for only 75 out of

7,924 active facilities, or 1% of the total.

The validity of Animal Care performance measures was ensured at the beginning of the development process using a team of front line inspectors and input from stakeholder organizations. The percent of facilities in full compliance with all Animal Care regulations is an excellent overall measure because it is comprehensive. Even those facilities with minor problems that do not directly effect the welfare of the animals are counted as not in full compliance. Many of Animal Care's stakeholder organizations have been accustomed to seeing workload measures such as the number of various kinds of inspections performed. These are not being reported as GPRA results because they are not outcome oriented, but will continue to be monitored by the Animal Care Management Team and reported in other program publications, along with other measures of interest.

Analysis of Results: Animal Care raised the overall level of compliance from 58% in FY 1998 to 59% in FY 1999, but did not meet the target of 62% set in Fall, 1998. For three years it maintained the previous year's level or improved it slightly. This has happened despite increased operational costs with no increase in appropriation.

Animal Care has no historical basis for estimates of compliance. However, it has been observed a facility maintains a higher level of compliance with more frequent Animal Care inspections. The Animal Care Management Team can only say that more inspections at each facility will exact more compliance. As data on actual performance become available, Animal Care will be able to predict compliance more accurately.

The target of 62% facility compliance may have been overly ambitious. Many factors can influence the rate of facility compliance, including: the number of available inspectors; the consistency of inspectors' overall application of the regulations; the strictness of the regulations being enforced; the deterrent effect of follow-up enforcement; prevailing social and cultural attitudes about the ethical nature of humane care; and the size of the mandated workload in terms of numbers and types of animals covered. Please refer to **Appendix A**, "Discontinued Performance Measures" for an explanation concerning a deleted performance goal under this objective.

Description of Actions and Schedules: In Fiscal Year 2000, Animal Care will attempt to improve facility compliance with the Animal Welfare Act and control the factors listed above in several ways:

- (1) By hiring additional inspectors so more inspections can be conducted.
- (2) By ensuring consistency among inspectors through increased communication with their peers, oversight by supervisors, and regional and national work conferences.
- (3) By producing regulatory improvements at a constant rate, soliciting public comments to proposed rules and estimating the impact, and, when new requirements have considerable impact, allowing facilities lead time to come into compliance.
- (4) By maintaining the deterrent effect through diligent completion of inspections and work with APHIS' Investigative and Enforcement Services and USDA's Office of the General Counsel to bring high profile cases to resolution. (See Goal 2.3 for IES's performance report.)
- (5) By increasing voluntary compliance through public information, distribution of educational materials, consultation with facilities, attendance at association meetings, and presentation of papers.
- (6) By phasing in newly mandated workload and adequately informing new licensees and registrants.
- (7) By continually providing better support for inspectors through the Risk Based Inspection System (RBIS), team based inspections, laptop computers, enhancements to the online database (LARIS), improved automated reports, fax machines, and digital cameras.

With the help of a team of front line employees, Animal Care has revised its strategic plan (Strategic Direction for the Animal Care Program, December, 1999 Draft) and will make the revision available on the Animal Care Homepage at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ac>. In order to improve the rate of facility compliance with the Animal Welfare Act, the Animal Care program needs full authority and funding for ongoing and new initiatives described in this document, including the goals to:

- Enhance statutory, regulatory, and procedural authorities by
 - Continued field input on policy development
 - More quality case building
- Encourage excellence in Animal Care by
 - More industry education
 - A manual for inspecting research facilities
- Maximize resources for enhanced program delivery and efficiency with
 - A risk assessment study
 - User fee authority
 - More teaming and partnerships
 - Enhanced enforcement
- Respond to external concerns and expectations through objective action with
 - Public meetings
 - More public outreach and information dissemination
- Empower, support, and develop employees with
 - More training for employees and supervisors
 - New equipment and vehicles
 - More Information Technology (IT) support

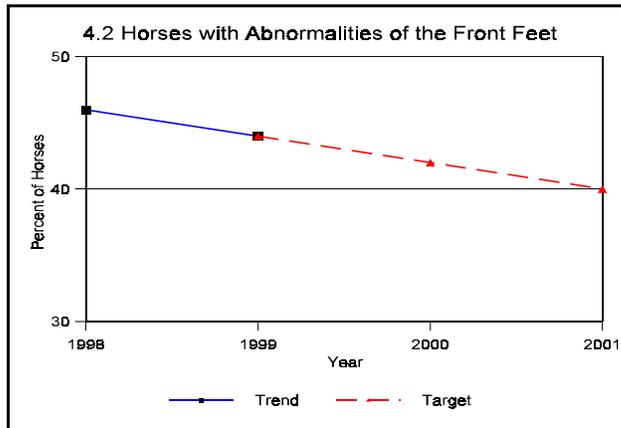
Current Fiscal Year Performance: Animal Care's achievement of a 1% increase in facility compliance represents approximately 80 more facilities in compliance than in the previous year. While this seems a small number alone, it will be significant if Animal Care can maintain this increase in each year. In ten years, this improvement would amount to 800 more facilities in full compliance. If this improvement occurs without detracting change in the other factors mentioned above, the welfare of thousands of animals will be significantly improved.

Program Evaluation(s): Animal Care completed no formal program evaluations during FY 1999, but devoted considerable staff work to program improvements stemming from evaluations done in previous years. The revised Strategic Direction identifies more than 20 issues facing the program and recommends developing a system for internal review.

Objective 4.2: To continue to strengthen association with the horse industry and Designated Qualified Person (DQP) programs through a cooperative working relationship and a comprehensive plan to achieve the elimination of the soring of horses.

Key Performance Goal(s):

<u>Reduce the percentage of horses inspected that exhibit abnormalities of the front feet - Obj. 4.2</u>	
Percent of horses inspected that exhibit abnormalities of the front feet	
Target:	44%
Actual:	44%

Trend Data:

Year	Percent of horses with abnormalities of the front feet	Target
1998	46%	
1999	44%	44%
2000		42%
2001		40%

1999 Data: The Horse Protection data are collected by APHIS Veterinary Medical Officers (VMOs) who inspect horses at horse shows. The data are recorded on forms and submitted to the program managers for entry into a microcomputer database. The field VMOs devoted to this task were involved in developing the reporting system. They are reporting their own professional judgments and have a great incentive to see the data are accurately recorded. The data are not complex. Summary data are shared with them so that they can see if there are errors. These data are 99% complete and accurate.

The data presented are an indirect measure of the level of scarring of horses shown at horse shows around the country. A more direct measure of whether or not a horse is sore involves a physical exam of the horse by an APHIS VMO. While an exam will indicate if the horse is sore at the time, a negative result gives no assurance that the horse has not been sored in the past, especially in training. The appearance of scarring on the pasterns of horses is a good and reliable indicator of past abuse.

The data was collected only at shows attended by APHIS VMOs. The number of shows attended is approximately 10% of the number of known shows in the country.

Analysis of Results: The program achieved its target. The data show a slight decrease in the incidence of scarring in FY 1999 over that seen in FY 1998. This is, in part, due to increased enforcement of the Scar Rule in FY 1998. In addition, a change in agency policy during the 1999 horse show season allowed for increased enforcement of the Horse Protection Act through industry Designated Qualified Person programs. This resulted in increased enforcement at shows that were not attended by agency VMOs. This increased enforcement resulted in fewer scarred and sore horses being brought to horse shows.

During FY 1999, Animal Care entered into a formal agreement with the seven certified Horse Industry Organizations (HIOs) that operate DQP inspection programs. This agreement, known as the 1999 Operating Plan (OP99), allowed for increased enforcement authority being given to the HIOs in exchange for their imposing stricter penalties and more uniform penalty levels on violators found at horse shows.

One aspect of the OP99 called for increased penalties for Scar Rule violations. As a result, fewer horse exhibitors were willing to bring scarred horses to shows. This is indicated by the decreased incidence of scarring seen at shows attended by agency VMOs. The decrease represents approximately 1500-2000 horses with scarred pasterns that were not entered into horse shows.

Current Fiscal Year Performance: Continuing the trend shown between FY 1998 and FY 1999 should result in a similar, or even greater, decrease in FY 2000.

Animal Care is currently in the process of renewing the agreement with the HIOs for the 2000 show

season. The new agreement, OP2000, will be modified slightly in order to enhance the efforts to identify sore and scarred horses. Penalties for Scar Rule violations will be slightly increased. This, along with the enforcement efforts of the previous two years, should result in another decrease in the number of scarred horses entered in horse shows. Because of the direct relationship between scarring and the practice of soring, the use of the latter as a training technique should also be reduced.

Program Evaluation(s): While no formal program evaluation was conducted during FY 1999, comparable activities were conducted. A team of front line employees (VMOs who conduct inspections at horse shows) was involved in program planning and conducted several meetings and/or conference calls during the year. In addition, public meetings with representatives of Horse Industry Organizations were held in which regulated parties expressed their opinions. Information from these meetings was evaluated by Horse Protection program managers and used for program planning purposes.

Goal 5: Facilitate the development of safe and effective veterinary biologics, biotechnology derived products, and other scientific methods for the benefit of agricultural producers and consumers and to protect the health of American agriculture and the environment.

Objective 5.1: Wildlife Services Methods Development - To develop and transfer new, alternative methods and systems for wildlife damage management which are effective, biologically sound, and socially acceptable while improving current wildlife damage management methods and their availability.

Key Performance Goal(s):

Develop useful, appropriate methods - Obj. 5.1	
Number of new and improved wildlife control methods tested by the National Wildlife Research Center	
Target:	13
Actual:	18

1999 Data: The National Wildlife Research Center (NWRC) carries out research which is organized by multi-year, multi-disciplinary projects which are of 3-5 years in duration. Each project leader submits an annual progress report which contains a list of studies undertaken and the progress the projects are making in achieving their goals. Projects also are reviewed at mid-term and completion by panelists from NWRC, Wildlife Services Operations, stakeholders, and other research/development organizations. These reports are reviewed for methods which demonstrate both innovativeness and potential impact in resolving human/wildlife conflicts. The most notable achievement from each project is annually reported. Thus, the number of new and improved methods reported annually will equal the number of existing projects.

Analysis of Results: The performance goal was met by Wildlife Services since the target of 13 new or improved methods was exceeded by 5 in FY 1999. Two events occurred which resulted in the higher number. First, at the time this target was established, the Methods Development budget had been proposed to be cut. So the target for number of methods tested was set conservatively. Ultimately, since there were no cuts, NWRC was able to fully fund 18 projects and test methods developed through these projects. Secondly, NWRC management developed a better, more consistent way to report the Center's attainment of new and improved methods; i.e., report the most notable achievement per project. The new and improved methods reported are determined according to their focus on relevant problems, their capacity to control the wildlife damage problem, and their impacts. Using this method, Center management in 1999 determined 18 methods as being new, effective ways to control wildlife damage.

Their associated projects are listed below.

- Development of Management Strategies to Reduce Piscivorous Bird Predation at Aquaculture Facilities
- Development of Nonlethal Chemical Repellents for Birds
- Management of Wildlife that Pose Hazards to Aviation
- Management Strategies to Control Blackbird Damage in the United States
- Management Strategies to Reduce Bird Problems in the Western United States
- Analysis of Taste and Olfaction in Selected Wildlife Species
- Control of Rodent Damage to Hawaiian Agricultural Crops
- Development and Evaluation of New Techniques for Resolving Predator Depredation Problems
- Ecology of Coyote Depredation
- Reducing Beaver Damage to Agricultural Resources
- Reducing Wildlife Damage to Forest Resources
- Reproductive Intervention Strategies for Managing Coyote Predation
- Selective Targeting of Adult Territorial Coyotes to Manage Sheep Depredation: *Efficacy and Methods*
- Sensory and Behavioral Methods for Managing Coyote Predation on Livestock
- Development of Analytical Chemistry Methodology for Wildlife Research
- Integrated Pest Management Strategies for Rodent Damage to Agriculture
- New Solutions for Wildlife Problems Through Biotechnology: Immunocontraception of Wildlife Pest Species
- The Evaluation of Rodent Control Chemicals

Current Fiscal Year Performance: Given stable funding, and continued support for the projects underway, the National Wildlife Research Center projects that it will again achieve a target of 18 new and improved methods.

Program Evaluation(s): For FY 1999 NWRC completed 11 mid-term or final project reviews that involved a panel of stakeholders and other research/development organizations as well as NWRC and WS personnel.

Objective 5.2: Biotechnology/Environmental Protection - To facilitate the development of significant biotechnology-derived products for the benefit of agricultural producers and consumers. To achieve cost-effective compliance with environmental analysts and reporting requirements and to institutionalize a solid environmental ethic within agency programs.

Key Performance Goal(s):

Facilitate the development of non-threatening biotechnology derived products - Obj. 5.2

New crop varieties genetically engineered

Target: 52

Actual: 50

1999 Data: The process that APHIS uses to compile the data for this performance measure is collected and maintained in the PPQ Biotech Permits Database. Under the authority of the Federal Plant Pest Act of 1957 and the Plant Quarantine Act of 1912, APHIS, PPQ regulations provide procedures for obtaining a permit or for providing notification prior to the introduction of a regulated article into the United States. Regulated articles are considered to be organisms (primarily plants and microorganisms) and products altered or produced through genetic engineering that are plant pests or that there is reason to believe are plant pests. The regulations also provide for a petition process for the determination of nonregulated status. Once a determination of nonregulated status has been made, the product (and its offspring) no longer require APHIS review for movement or release in the U.S. Genetically engineered crops for corn, soybean and cotton fall under this regulation. APHIS PPQ maintains comprehensive field testing and petition databases for these genetically engineered crops.

Any individual/entity that wishes to field test or petition for altered products or products produced through genetic engineering must obtain a permit or notification from APHIS. This data and information is maintained in these databases and are used for this performance measure. The application process is outlined in the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 7, Part 340.

APHIS has in place internal controls to ensure accurate, complete and consistent data and information for

this measure. The data used is the permit/notification information that the individual/entity provides at the time they submit their request. The database is updated daily.

Analysis of Results: The performance goal was met. The Biotechnology program regulates the field release, interstate movement, and importation of genetically modified organisms. In addition, the program fosters technology transfer by allowing for the safe field testing of potentially beneficial plants and micro-organisms and licensing of recombinant derived veterinary biologics for sale and distribution in the United States. The program also enhances technology transfer by reducing domestic and international barriers to biotechnology development and trade.

The outcome measures the extent to which APHIS is able to certify and ensure that the introduction and field testing of new products do not threaten America's plant and animal resources and/or industries, the general public, or the environment. Although we missed the target by 2 new crop varieties genetically engineered, we believe the Agency has been successful in facilitating the development of non-threatening biotechnology derived products. The Agency will maintain registrations/approvals of chemicals used in APHIS programs, while helping identify emerging, less environmentally intrusive alternatives to current practices and tracking pesticide usage where needed for registration reporting. The reason the target was missed by 2 is due to the fact that requests for permits can be combined and also more time is being spent in analyzing the impacts of the genetically engineered products on special groups, i.e., children. The following performance indicators which are incorporated in the performance measure "Facilitate development of biotechnology-derived products" have been discontinued:

- Percent of corn crops genetically engineered
- Percent of soybean crops genetically engineered
- Percent of cotton crops genetically engineered
- Compliance with good laboratory practices at NMRAL - Gulfport

See **Appendix A**, "Discontinued Measures" under this objective for an explanation.

Program Evaluation(s): There were no program evaluations conducted in FY 1999.

Please refer to **Appendix A**, "Discontinued Performance Measures" for an explanation regarding two indicators under the performance goal and supporting Objective 5.4, that were dropped.

Objective 5.5: Veterinary Biologics - To protect animal health by ensuring the purity, potency, safety and efficacy of veterinary biological products.

Key Performance Goal(s):

Ensure that veterinary biologics are pure, safe, potent and effective - Obj. 5.5

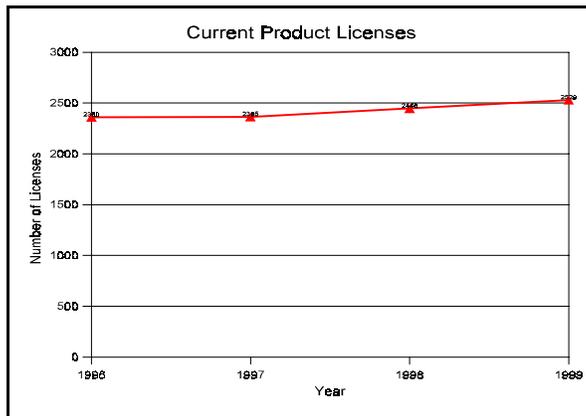
Licenses and permits issued annually after review, testing, and inspection

Target: 137

Actual: 139

Trend Data: This is a cumulative amount of licenses and permits that have been issued and maintained for the last four years. Maintenance includes review of changes to the outlines of production, check testing, serial release and on-site inspections. The increase in number of licenses from FY 1998 to FY 1999 includes the issuance of 139 new licenses and the termination of 56. Total licenses and permits is 2529 held by 109 licensed establishments.

1999 Data: 1999 data is a true count of all licenses and permits issued for the 12 month period.



Year	Number of licenses and permits issued per year	Target
1998	149	
1999	139	
2000		140
2001		145

Analysis of Results: The Center for Veterinary Biologics (CVB) met the target for fiscal year 1999 despite the continued transfer of licensing activities from Riverdale, MD to Ames, IA. Licenses and permits issued in FY 99 were supported by the following program activities to ensure the products licensed were pure, safe, potent, and effective:

- Review of 861 data submissions by CVB-Licensing and Policy Development (CVB-LPD);
- Testing of 25 master cell stock, 46 bacterial master seeds, 34 viral master seeds, and 206 serials by CVB-Laboratories (CVB-L);
- 26 special inspections conducted by CVB-Inspection and Compliance (CVB-IC).

The measure “serials released” has been discontinued - please refer to **Appendix A**, “Discontinued Measures” for an explanation.

Current Fiscal Year Performance: Maintaining the level of license and permit issuance will position the CVB to meet the FY 2000 target goal. Although the backlog of license and permit submissions by biologics manufacturers remains substantial, staff experience and expected filling of selected vacancies will allow CVB to achieve the target for FY 2000. Twenty-two licenses have been issued since October 1, 1999.

Program Evaluation(s): A Community Networking Session with program stakeholders and customers was held during our September 1998 public meeting. Comments concerning safety and efficacy of veterinary biologics have been used to direct program efforts. We also held a Public Meeting in April 1999 concerning veterinary antibody product regulations. We are in the process of writing a proposed rule change to address the comments that resulted from this public meeting. The proposed rule addresses the needs of the end user without compromising the purity, safety or efficacy of the antibody products for veterinary use. We maintain a dialog with the two major stakeholder groups, consumer groups, and international counterparts concerning veterinary biologics issues. This information is used for program planning purposes. Copies of the meeting summaries/proceedings can be obtained by calling the Center for Veterinary Biologics at 515-232-5785.

Note: The *goal and indicator* are currently under review for the fiscal year 2001 budget.

Objective 5.6: Veterinary Diagnostics - To provide laboratory diagnostic services, products, and training to support animal health and animal disease surveillance, prevention, control and eradication programs.

Key Performance Goal(s):**Provide quality laboratory services - Obj. 5.6**

Number of peer reviews conducted to validate the National Veterinary Services Laboratories foreign animal disease diagnostic response capabilities against international standards

Target: 2

Actual: 0

Trend Data: During FY 1998, four peer reviews were conducted at the National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) by an international review team. The original intent was to measure the number of peer reviews conducted to verify that NVSL's foreign animal disease diagnostic response capabilities met the Office of International des Epizooties (OIE) standards. However, there are only OIE standards for test procedures, and the review process looked at additional areas such as facilities and personnel. Despite not having a criterion on which to determine a passing level, each program area was given a numerical score; and the NVSL changed how this performance goal would be measured. Rather than looking at the number of peer reviews that were conducted and that passed OIE standards, a decision was made to focus on five areas to review and to measure the improvement each area had over time. Also, it was determined these areas for review would not be limited to foreign animal diseases. By FY 2001, the goal is to conduct one new and three repeat program reviews with one showing improvement from its first review. The number of test procedures that meet or exceed OIE standards is now being measured as a separate goal.

1999 Data: As a result of the four peer reviews conducted in FY 1998, needed improvements were identified. To allow for time to adjust to a more reliable and meaningful measurement tool and to make necessary improvements before reevaluating programs, it was essential to delay repeat reviews until FY 2000. During most of FY 1999, the NVSL Quality Assurance Manager position was vacant. Therefore, NVSL felt it important to postpone the selection of a fifth, new program area for review.

Analysis of Results: The NVSL did not reach the original performance goal for FY 1999. That is because the performance indicator was flawed and unachievable (could not pass a standard in which there was no passing criterion). It is anticipated that the change in the indicator and the way it is measured resolved the problem so improvements in our programs can be accurately determined.

Description of Actions and Schedules: The GPRA Team, with the NVSL Quality Assurance Manager as the Team Leader, has been reestablished, and their charge is to determine the fifth, new program area for review. The current plan is to continually conduct peer reviews in the five areas, repeating over a 3-year period one or two per year. In FY 2000, the goal is to conduct a review in the fifth (new) area and repeat one review of the previous four areas. During FY 2001, the plan will be to conduct repeat reviews in two of the original four areas reviewed with at least one showing improvement. In FY 2002, the goals will be to conduct a repeat review of the one remaining of the original four areas reviewed as well as conduct a repeat review of the new area reviewed for the first time in FY 2000. The goal for FY 2002 will be that at least three of the five repeat reviews show improvement over the previous reviews. From that time on, each of the five areas would be reviewed every 3 years (one to two per year). NVSL's goal will be to show improvement over the last review in at least three of the five areas.

Current Fiscal Year Performance: As stated earlier, review of two program areas will be conducted in FY 2000--one new program area and a repeat review of one of the original four programs.

Program Evaluation(s): In April of 1999, a group of representatives from NVSL's customer base conducted a program review of NVSL. It was recommended that this method of validating capabilities should be continued. A copy of this review can be obtained by calling the office of the Director for National Veterinary Services Laboratories at 515-239-8238.

Note: The *goal and indicator* are currently under review for the fiscal year 2001 budget.

Introduction: The Management Initiative Section of this report represents those cross cutting initiatives

and strategies for making APHIS a more effective organization. This section of the annual performance report measures success within three areas. These areas include (1) improving results and service: (2) improving program efficiency; and (3) encouraging prudent financial management.

Management Initiative 1: Improve results and service - APHIS will achieve results that our customers and stakeholders need while providing the service that they expect.

Key Performance Goal(s):

All APHIS employees are operating from standard hardware/software platform

Percentage of APHIS employees operating from standard hardware/software platform

Target: 85%

Actual: 90%

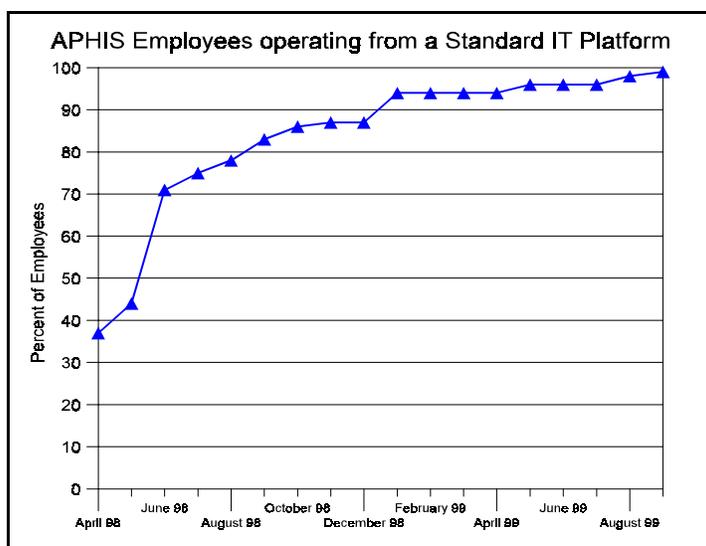
APHIS mission critical systems are Year 2000 compliant

Percentage of mission critical information systems that are Year 2000 compliant

Target: 100%

Actual: 100%

Trend Data: Please see Performance Summary chart above describing the percentage of APHIS computer users operating from a standard hardware/software platform.



Month/Year	% of total Employees
April 98	37
May 98	44
June 98	71
July 98	75
August 98	78
September 98	83
October 98	86
November 98	87
December 98	87
January 99	94
February 99	94
March 99	94
April 99	94
May 99	96
June 99	96
July 99	96
August 99	98
September 99	99

1999 Data: The 1999 data is final. The data is based on the number of licensed users per server.

Analysis of Results: We have achieved the performance goal of all APHIS employees operating from a standard hardware and software platform in APHIS. This connectivity has allowed the 6000 geographically dispersed employees of APHIS to send and receive information and accomplish work across geographic boundaries. Our standardized platform has also resulted in better management of APHIS IT infrastructure and more alignment with USDA architecture.

As reported to the Secretary of Agriculture in September 1999, all our mission-critical systems have been remediated and implemented.

Current Fiscal Year Performance: See analysis of results.

Program Evaluation(s): APHIS' Policy and Program Development group conducted a survey of the

effectiveness of the Integrated Systems Acquisition Project. The Integrated Systems Acquisition Project (ISAP) began in 1995 as a vehicle to provide APHIS with the best possible technology for computer hardware, software and services. The contract has enabled APHIS to deploy a standardized and integrated hardware, software and telecommunications infrastructure by providing us with high quality products and services as well as a mechanism for establishing and adhering to standards.

In May of 1997, a review of this contract and services was performed by the Policy and Program Development staff as to the effectiveness of the contract. At that time, all sites in APHIS were not fully implemented using this solution and it was recommended that ongoing monitoring of the contract would be necessary to ensure customer satisfaction.

In August of 1999, a second review was completed and concluded that the contract should be renewed for at least the next year with efforts to continue to address issues and concerns surfaced in the study. Overall perception indicates that the contract has enabled APHIS to implement a standardized technology architecture.

Copies of these reviews can be obtained from the office of Planning, Evaluation and Monitoring of Policy and Program Development at 301-734-8511.

Key Performance Goal(s):

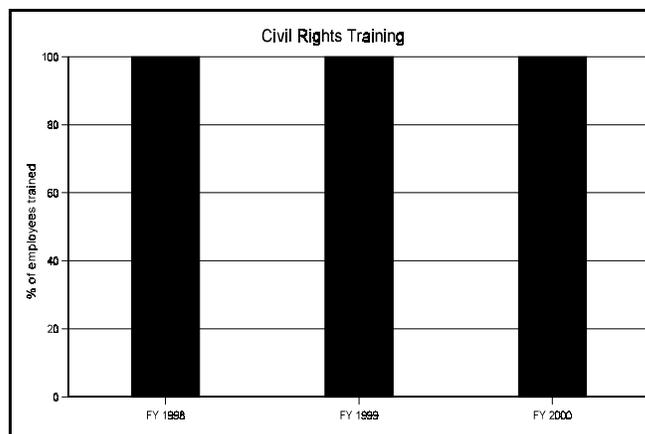
Civil Rights Training

Percentage of employees receiving mandatory civil rights training

Target: 100%

Actual: 100%

Trend Chart:



1999 Data: 5870 APHIS employees completed the required annual mandatory civil rights training for two components for FY 1999.

Analysis of Results: For the past two years, the mandatory civil rights training has achieved its target of 100% of employee participation. The achievement of this goal is primarily attributed to holding the managers and supervisors accountable, rather than support units, for the completion of staff training. We expect to achieve the 100% target for employee participation in FY 2000.

Current Fiscal Year Performance: APHIS achieved 100% participation of all employees in the required annual mandatory civil rights training. The two training components completed by APHIS employees were

1) Sexual Harassment and 2) Employment Compliant Processing Procedures. Also, APHIS developed a "Fundamentals of Civil Rights" self study program, which was required as part of the ongoing agency supervisory training program for 68 new supervisors.

Program Evaluation(s): All training was evaluated by USDA Office of Civil Rights. The mandatory civil rights training is only approved through FY 2000.

Management Initiative 2: Improve program efficiency - APHIS will be an Agency that not only achieves results and improves service, but does so efficiently and equitably.

Key Performance Goal(s):

APHIS will be an Agency that not only achieves results and improves service, but does so efficiently and equitably

Increase the ratio of supervisors to employees to direct a higher percentage of Agency resources to service delivery

Target: 1:10

Actual: 1:8

Reduce the number of APHIS regional locations to maximize efficiencies and cross-utilization of resources

Target: 7

Actual: 7

Trend Data:

1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999 Actual	1999 Target
1:5	1:6	1:7	1:7	1:8	1:8	1:8	1:10

1999 Data: The ratio of supervisors to employees is derived from data on the number of permanent employees as contained in the National Finance Center database. The NFC database is the most reliable source of current employment data available to the Human Resources program.

Analysis of Results: The Agency did not meet the goal of achieving a 1:10 ratio of supervisors to employees. The goals were originally established in FY1993 and projected through FY2000. At that time, Agency management was not able to factor in extenuating Agency employment needs, including, among other things, unanticipated staffing to carry out enhanced AQI and emergency program operations. These extenuating needs form the basis for the increase in overall FTE employment and the number of supervisors needed to manage the work and the Agency's inability to meet the streamlined supervisor-to-employee ratio goal.

Description of Actions and Schedules: To achieve the streamlined supervisor-to-employee ratio goal this and future fiscal years (the goal remains at 1:10 through 2002) operating personnel specialists will work with program managers in establishing supervisory positions to assure that a sufficiently broad span-of-control is assigned to supervisory positions. This will assist the Agency in achieving a higher supervisor-to-employee ratio.

Current Fiscal Year Performance: If the extenuating circumstances contributing to the lower supervisor-to-employee ratio continue this fiscal year the Agency should consider revising the streamlining goal to reflect the now built-in demands of these special program operations.

Program Evaluation(s): No evaluations were conducted for FY 1999. However, a new OPM classification standard for the GS-436, Plant Protection and Quarantine Series, which is expected to be released sometime this fiscal year, a review of PPQ Port Director positions (as required in the Department's Personnel Management Evaluation Report of APHIS which was issued in June 1999) this fiscal year, and other related human resources management evaluations should result in recommendations to management on, among other things, streamlining the supervisor-to-employee ratio.

Management Initiative 3: Encourage prudent financial stewardship, accountability, and improved business operations.

Key Performance Goal(s):

<u>APHIS identifies eligible delinquent debt to be sent to Treasury</u>	
Percentage of eligible delinquent debt sent to Treasury for administrative offset and debt management cross servicing	
Target:	NA
Actual:	NA

Trend Data: This is a new initiative; we do not have any historical data with which to show trends.

1999 Data: The National Finance Center currently sends delinquent debts to Treasury for administrative offset for APHIS. See below for more discussion.

Analysis of Results: The National Finance Center currently sends delinquent debts to Treasury for administrative offset for APHIS.

APHIS is working with its Minneapolis Business Site and the USDA National Finance Center to develop procedures for measuring the percentage of eligible debt that is referred for offset. We expect to have procedures in place by February of 2000.

APHIS debt management functions are split between our Minneapolis Business Site and the USDA National Finance Center. APHIS performs the debt collection function for debts up to 180 days delinquent. Debts over 180 days delinquent are managed by the Claims Section at the National Finance Center. Our Minneapolis Business Site cannot refer debts directly to Treasury for offset until APHIS has updated its system of records; APHIS is continuing to work with its Legislative and Public Affairs unit to update its systems of records. Without this update, the agency cannot refer debts to Treasury for offset. The National Finance Center currently sends delinquent debts to Treasury for administrative offset for APHIS.

Current Fiscal Year Performance: This is a new initiative.

Program Evaluation(s): This is a new initiative.

Key Performance Goal(s):

<u>APHIS improves financial/business operations</u>	
Convert APHIS accounting records to the new USDA Foundation Financial System (FFIS) by the end of FY 2001	
Target:	NA
Actual:	NA

Trend Data: This goal is short-term in nature and does not lend itself to trend data.

1999 Data: The success of this goal cannot be measured until APHIS implements the new accounting system in FY 2001. APHIS continues to work with the Project Management Office to configure FFIS and conduct other tasks related to implementation.

Analysis of Results: The success of this goal cannot be measured until APHIS implements the new accounting system in FY 2001. APHIS will confirm the conversion of its records to FFIS through the certification process with the Office of the Inspector General, which will confirm our account balances, and the Project Management Office, which will confirm our configuration and conversion process. APHIS will

begin the conversion process in FY 2000, and anticipates that all APHIS records will be converted to their new FFIS accounting system by December 21, 2000.

Current Fiscal Year Performance: APHIS continues to work with the Project Management Office to configure FFIS and conduct other tasks related to implementation. This conversion is contingent on the modification that the USDA Project Management Office must make to the FFIS Accounts Receivable module to accommodate APHIS' billing and collection process, which currently accounts for nearly one-third of the Agency's funding.

Program Evaluation(s): None conducted in FY 1999.

ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE

DISCONTINUED PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Goal 1: Safeguard U.S. plant and animal resources against introductions of foreign pests and diseases, while meeting international trade obligations.

Objective 1.4: Fruit-Fly Exclusion and Detection - To control and eradicate fruit flies, primarily the Mediterranean fruit fly and Mexican fruit fly, in foreign countries where they may pose a serious threat to U.S. agriculture and to conduct detection and prevention activities in the U.S.

Discontinued Performance Measure(s)

<u>Minimize Fruit Fly outbreaks in Mexico and Guatemala</u> Mexican Fruit Fly detections Baja California Norte and Sonora free zone Medfly detections (fruit fly) in Mexico (other) and Belize free zone
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Explanation: Program is focused on Mediterranean Fruit Flies in the emergency zones of Mexico and Guatemala.

Objective 1.5: Import/Export - To further the export of U.S. animals and animal products, ensure that imported animals and animal products present minimal risk of introducing damaging exotic animal diseases into the U.S. livestock and poultry population, and promote timely and efficient health certification processes for U.S. imports and exports. **Sanitary/Phytosanitary Management (SPS)** - Protect and expand U.S. access to foreign markets that may be threatened or constrained by unjustified barriers related to animal or plant health issues. Increase the capacity and use of global and regional animal and plant health standards.

Discontinued Performance Measure(s)

<u>Increase the number and value of agricultural products exported from the U.S.</u> Number of complaints at the WTO against the U.S. Phytosanitary export certificates issued in thousands (Agricultural Quarantine Inspection)
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Explanation: APHIS analysis concluded that these indicators did not prove to be useful in measuring overall program effectiveness. The second indicator is primarily a workload indicator.

Goal 2: Quickly detect and respond to introductions of foreign agricultural pests and diseases or other emerging agricultural health threats, to minimize production losses and export market disruptions.

Objective 2.2: Pest Surveillance and Detection - To use the best pest survey information available to make risk based decisions on the presence, absence, and/or prevalence of plant pests and diseases of phytosanitary concern to the United States.

Discontinued Performance Measure(s)

<u>Use the best information to make risk based decisions on presence/absence/prevalence of diseases of phytosanitary concern (Pest Surveillance and Detection)</u> Number of the 42 producing States where Karnal Bunt is not known to exist

Explanation: This indicator does not prove to be useful in measuring program effectiveness.

Objective 2.3: Animal and Plant Health Regulatory Enforcement - To encourage and support compliance of APHIS programs, laws and regulations by providing effective investigations and technical enforcement services.

Discontinued Performance Measure(s)

<p>Increase rates of compliance with Agency regulations (Investigative and Enforcement Services)</p> <p>Percentage of cases submitted to requesting program official within the negotiated time frame</p> <p>Customer feedback ratings of cases</p>

Explanation: The investigation process was redesigned to meet negotiated time frames by providing continuous communication on the investigation progress. Thus, making retroactive reviews of the timeliness of investigations was less useful than originally anticipated.

Customer response rate, which was collected using a formal survey technique, was sporadic and too infrequent to make feedback meaningful. Currently, frequent communication with program officials allows for informal, 'real time', feedback from customers.

Goal 3: To effectively manage certain plant and animal pests and diseases and wildlife damage which pose risks to agriculture, natural resources, or public health.

Objective 3.1: Wildlife Services - To provide Federal leadership in managing problems caused by wildlife. To reduce damage caused by wildlife to lowest possible levels while, at the same time, reducing wildlife mortality.

Discontinued Performance Measure(s)

<p>Protect livestock, aquatic animals, crops, property, natural resources and endangered or threatened species from wildlife damage</p> <p>Direct savings per rice planting in selected LA parishes: \$2.87 million</p> <p>Number (in millions) of livestock protected (sheep, cattle, goats)</p>

Explanation: The model used to develop the data for "direct savings per rice planting in selected LA parishes" was originally based on survey information collected by Wildlife Services with the assistance of the Evangeline Parish Extension Service in 1991. Since then, components of this model have been associated with a high degree of subjective interpretation. More accurate information regarding the actual impact that black bird roosts have had on rice crop yields needs to be collected on a more regular (annual or bi-annual) basis. Program experts agree it is inappropriate to extrapolate rice loss information from earlier years to current years, due to the high variability of some of the model components. They also believe that information taken from selected farms in a few selected parishes does not adequately represent the aggregate impacts of the WS program's work in this area. Until better models are developed to calculate additional rice losses prevented from WS efforts, this measure will not be reported.

The indicator about "number (in millions) of livestock protected" was traditionally an estimate of numbers of livestock which were owned by clients of Wildlife Services who had signed agreements with the Wildlife Services program to protect their livestock from being killed by wildlife. Unfortunately, continuing to gather information on these inventories has proven to be costly and the data has been variable enough, from year to year, to cause the agency to realize that the numbers of livestock owned by ranchers in this country is not directly attributable to the work of the Wildlife Services program. The program has also realized that providing numbers of livestock under protection is not really an adequate indicator of how "well" the program is protecting that livestock. Wildlife Services will instead provide a measure of the satisfaction of its livestock customers and will give estimates of the percent of livestock inventories that these customers feel are being saved due to Wildlife Services' intervention and assistance. The program will continue to seek ways to gather data which can, in the future, supplement and help provide more of a scientific basis for current estimates of animals saved. In addition, under Goal 5, Wildlife Services will also report on the new and improved methods which are under research at the National Wildlife Research Center and hold promise for helping to reduce wildlife predation on valuable resources.

Objective 3.2: Aquaculture - To assist the aquaculture industry in improving the health of aquatic livestock, and to facilitate the movement of aquatic animals in international commerce.

Discontinued Performance Measure(s)

<u>Facilitate the movement of aquatic animals in international commerce</u> Number of voluntary certification programs established for aquaculture

Explanation: This workload indicator, while still of interest internally, does not accurately reflect the outcomes of the programs.

Objective 3.6: Golden Nematode - To maintain a risk based management system to prevent the spread of golden nematode and new infestations in potatoes, and to facilitate international and interstate agricultural shipments.

Discontinued Performance Measure(s)

<u>Slow progress of pest or disease</u> New States infested with Golden Nematode New counties in NY infested with Golden Nematode Percent fields in regulated area with Golden Nematode populations below spread level (where the only Golden Nematode cysts found were non-viable)
--

Explanation: These workload indicators, while still of interest internally, do not accurately reflect the outcomes of this performance measure.

Objective 3.7: Gypsy Moth - To manage the risk of artificial spread of the European Gypsy Moth into uninfested areas of the U.S.

Discontinued Performance Measure(s)

<u>Slow progress of pest or disease</u> Number of isolated infestations of Gypsy Moth on 640 acres

Explanation: This workload indicator, while still of interest internally, does not accurately reflect the outcome of this performance measure.

Objective 3.8: Emerging Plant Pests - To maintain infrastructure flexibility to deal with a range of plant pest infestations not otherwise covered as an individual budget line item.

Discontinued Performance Measure(s)

<u>Slow progress of pest or disease</u> New Counties infested with Pine Shoot Beetle (Emerging Plant Pests) Japanese Beetle infestations that occur within the protected States as a result of aircraft movement (Emerging Plant Pests) Percent flights arriving in protected States that are in compliance with APHIS Japanese Beetle regulations (Emerging Plant Pests)
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Explanation: These workload indicators, while still of interest internally, do not accurately reflect the outcome of this performance measure.

Objective 3.9: Noxious Weeds - To detect and delimit incipient infestations of exotic weed species, and to support weed management initiatives for those species which may damage agriculture and native habitats.

Discontinued Performance Measure(s)Technology Transfers

New instances of technology transfer per year (Noxious Weeds)

Explanation: This performance measure does not prove to be useful in measuring program effectiveness.

Objective 3.10: Pink Bollworm - To prevent infestations in the San Joaquin Valley of California, and provide risk-based, area-wide management of Pink Bollworm cooperatively with industry.

Discontinued Performance Measure(s)Slow progress of pest or disease

Area-wide trapping programs initiated in the Trans Pecos / El Paso area of Texas (Pink Bollworm)

Explanation: This workload indicator, while still of interest internally, does not accurately reflect the outcome of this performance measure.

Objective 3.14: Witchweed - To eradicate Witchweed from the U.S. and to maintain survey activities to substantiate that eradication has been accomplished.

Discontinued Performance Measure(s)Eradicate pest or diseaseWitchweed acres released from quarantine at end of season
Cumulative acres terminated from the project (Witchweed)

Explanation: These workload indicators, while still of interest internally, do not accurately reflect the outcomes of this performance measure.

Goal 4: Animal Care - Ensure the humane care and treatment of animals covered under the Animal Welfare Act and the Horse Protection Act.

Objective 4.1: To ensure high levels of compliance with the humane care and treatment standards for all warm-blooded animals covered by the Animal Welfare Act and used for research and exhibition purposes, sold as pets, or transported in commerce.

Discontinued Performance Measure(s)Maintaining the percentage of customers satisfied with the programs

Percent of regulated firms satisfied with services

Explanation: This measure is of interest internally to the Animal Care Management Team, but is not among the vital few that can be offered for GPRA purposes at this time. A customer satisfaction survey was conducted in February, 1997 and a baseline established. However, the amount of analytic resources needed to repeat it annually exceeds those available. Before repeating the survey of regulated parties, a survey of animal welfare organizations is planned. However, survey clearance has not yet been obtained.

Goal 5: Facilitate the development of safe and effective veterinary biologics, biotechnology derived products, and other scientific methods for the benefit of agricultural producers and consumers and to protect the health of American agriculture and the environment.

Objective 5.2: Biotechnology - To facilitate the development of significant biotechnology-derived products for the benefit of agricultural producers and consumers.

Discontinued Performance Measure(s)

<u>Facilitate development of biotechnology-derived products</u> Percent of corn crops genetically engineered Percent of soybean crops genetically engineered Percent of cotton crops genetically engineered Compliance with good laboratory practices at NMRAL - Gulfport

Explanation: These workload indicators, while still of interest internally, do not accurately reflect the outcomes of this performance measure.

Objective 5.3: Integrated Systems Acquisition Project - To obtain, implement, and facilitate the use of the necessary information technology infrastructure that will advance the accomplishments of APHIS' goals.

Discontinued Performance Measure(s)

<u>Expanded Agency Network (Integrated Systems)</u> AQI sites implemented Large offices implemented Small offices implemented
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Explanation: This performance goal and these program specific indicators are being discontinued in favor of Agency wide information technology measures which are reported under Management Initiative 1.

Objective 5.4: Plant Methods Development laboratories - To develop and transfer biologically sound plant pest exclusion, detection, suppression, and control technologies and systems for APHIS and its stakeholders.

Discontinued Performance Measure(s)

<u>Develop useful, appropriate methods</u> Number of new technologies transferred that have significantly impacted the control of pests detrimental to agriculture (Plant Methods) New/improved regulatory treatments developed for commodities of trade significance (Plant Methods)

Explanation: APHIS analysis concluded that these indicators do not prove to be useful in measuring overall program effectiveness.

Objective 5.5: Veterinary Biologics - To protect animal health by ensuring the purity, potency, safety, and efficacy of veterinary biological products.

Discontinued Performance Measure(s)

<u>Ensure that veterinary biologics are pure, safe, potent, and effective</u> Serials released (after review and testing when appropriate)

Explanation: This workload indicator, while still of interest internally, does not accurately reflect the outcomes of the program.